



## Essays in Linguistics: Studies in Phonology, Syntax & Sociolinguistics

By Shyamal Das

Akansa Publishing House, 2009. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Ever since the emergence of the concept of universal grammar (or UG) researches are going on in unraveling the mystery behind the way human Mind Works through a rule-governed system called Language to ensure successful communication with other members of the same speech community. Language is thus both an individual as well as collective phenomenon. Generative Linguistics aims at ascertaining the properties of UG in terms of rules or, of late, constraints. It is claimed that the UG rules are fixed and finite; and language variation is the result of variable combination and permutation of these rules or constraints. While for the rule-based approach language typology emerges in consequence of variable selection of principles and parameters, for the non-derivatve approach like optimality theory (or OT), typological differences are the result of variable ranking of a Finite set of UG well-formedness conditions called constraints. The relative advantage and/or disadvantage of the two approaches within generative Enterprise is a matter of subtle theoretical dispute. From a utilitarian point of view, both the mechanisms can be utilized for promoting a better understanding among people about the underlying ?sameness? of LANGUAGE as a human phenomenon lying...



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