Yet the language rules and grammar children use in their speech often exceed the input to which they are exposed. What accounts for this discrepancy? That is where the theory of universal grammar comes in. This theory posits that all languages have the same basic structural foundation. While children are not genetically ‘hard-wired’ to speak a particular language like Dutch or Japanese, universal grammar lets them learn the rules and patterns of these languages—including those they were never explicitly taught.

Childhood may be a critical period for mastering certain aspects of language such as proper pronunciation. What factors account for the different language learning capabilities of adults and children? Index Terms—language theory, grammar translation method, audio-lingual method, communicative approach. It’s universally acknowledged that any new language teaching theory cannot come into being without the break in linguistic theory first. And any generation of linguistic theory has brought about new language teaching theory as well. Until now, the theories of linguistics have mainly experienced three stages: traditional grammar, structuralism and functionalism. They are closely related to each other and generated the change of language teaching theories. I. TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR. A. Definition