unacceptibility of well-formed sentences or due to limitations in performance such as fatigue or boredom.

However, in the vast majority of cases the distinction between sentences which are pragmatically ,semantically ,and syntactically odd is relatively straightforward, as shown in 2:

2.
(i) John killed the stone (pragmatically anomalous)
(ii)John killed Mary; but she did not die. (semantically ill-formed)
(iii)Killed Mary John. (syntactically ill-formed)

The fourth basic concept is related to the "creativity of language" ,which is "the speaker's ability to produce new sentences that are immediately understood by other speakers".(Chomsky, *Topics* (1966),p.11) Chomsky illustrates this in his book *Syntactic Structures* with the following pairs of nonsense sentences in 3:

3.
(i) Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.
(ii) Furiously sleep ideas green colorless.

When Chomsky first made up these sentences, it is safe to assume that neither had ever occurred in the history of the English language. Both sentences are new and meaningless ;but every speaker of English knows that the first sentence is grammatical in English even though it is meaningless. As for the second sentence , it is not grammatical.

This belief in the "creativity of language" raises the question of how many well-formed sentences there are in a given language. This leads us to the sixth basic conception of tranformational grammar, in which Chomsky argues that the set of well-formed sentences in any natural language is *infinite*. This follows from the