II: Chapter Two : The Different Theories of the study of Language

A. Radford (1989) says that Chomsky in his book *Language and Mind* (1972a) says that "the most fundamental reason for studying language is that language is a mirror of the mind". (A.Radford, 1989:1) In other words ,Chomsky believes that by detailed study of language ,we might hope to reach a better understanding of how the human mind produces and processes language ; consequently , there are three inter-related theories which any detailed study of language seeks to develop:

(i) Theory of Language Structure
(ii) Theory of Language Acquisition
(iii) Theory of Language Use

The Theory of Language Structure will concern itself with what are the defining structural properties of natural (i.e. human) languages. The Theory of Language Acquisition with the question of how children acquire their native language(s). The Theory of Language Use concerns itself with the question of how linguistic and nonlinguistic knowledge interact in speech comprehension and production. Of the three ,the task (i) of developing a Theory of Language Structure is logically prior to the other two ,since only if we first know what "language" is can we develop theories about how it is acquired and used.