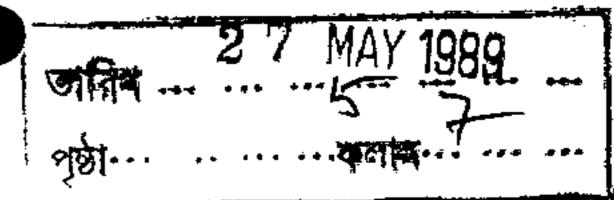
C38







English grammar

With the solemn promise innovative introducing approaches to the study of English language and its grammar, a number of textbooks on English grammar has come into our market. But if perused with a critical eye it will transpire that most of them in the name of moder. nisation of English Grammar have begotten a big mess of it by confounding the traditional and modern approaches. Some; days ago through these columns of your esteemeddaily, we presented before our learned readers the inadequacy. deficiency and misleading. information that abound in a text-book of English Grammar entitled "Basic English Language" a publication of the University of Dhaka. This time in the following paragraphs we would like to focus on the inconsistent and misleading aspects of another modern text-bnok English Grammar entitled "Practical English" by Dr Serajul Islam Chowdhury and M S Hoque.

Item 1.1 in the book bears the heading 'Recognizing Sentences" and under it the sentences are exclamatory and imperative septences. But in chapter XXI the sentences have again been classified in five categories, this time, of course, by inclusion of the leftout category of optative sentences. What necessitates this distinction in classification of sentences? Whatever explanation may be behind this, there is no denying that the readers become confused to ascertain the precise number of categories of sentences (simple). as a result of such arbitrary differentiation. 4.

In chapter II words are grouped under two categories, viz. content words and structure words. The content words are then subgrouped under nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs; and the structure words under Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections, determiners, question words, and pronouns (though according to the arrangement in the

_book_the readers are not supposed to have acquaintance with these grammatical litems wunder the subgroup at this stage). However, next to this, in item 2.3.1 under traditional classification of words as parts of speech nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are bracketed together as content words. while prepositions, conjunctions, interjections and pronouns as structure words. It's! to be noted that in brackeling the traditional parts of speech into these two categories, a ' mention is however made of auxiliaries, acticles with alike and question determiners words which just as well form the class of words of verbs, adjectives, and adverbs respectively according to the traditional classification of words as parts of speech.

Item 2.3 of chapter II is a glaring example of illogical? arrangement of grammatical items in the book. This item rather manoeuvres to acquaint the readers with the classification of words by their position. in sentences. That is the same word may be a noun in one position, but an adjective in some other position in a sentence. Similarly items 2.4 attempts to classify words by their different forms, viz singular, plural, possessive forms of nonns; base, s/cs, ing, past and past participle forms of verbs, simple, comparative and superlative forms of adjectives etc; though the readers have been kept quite in dark about all these gran natical items till then. And the readers are supposed to have a comprehensive idea about these grammatical items only after going through the chapters IV to XIV of the book.

ABUL FAIZ Majbirbasti, Rangamati.