

Psychology of Language – Exam 1 Review Questions

What is a morpheme? Give an example.

Key hallmarks of language are that it is generally arbitrary, that it is productive, that it is interchangeable, and that it has duality of patterning. Define each of these terms.

How did Nicaraguan Sign Language emerge?

What is a phoneme? Give an example.

What are the three dimensions along which consonants vary?

What is an allophone? Give an example of allophonic variation in English.

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What are the two hallmarks of categorical perception? How does it differ from continuous perception?

Why does the “yanny” / “laurel” illusion emerge?

What is the lack of invariance problem?

Give two examples of how context can guide our interpretation of ambiguous speech sounds.

What is the motor theory of speech perception, and how might it address the lack of invariance problem?

Give two reasons why spoken word recognition should be a challenging process.

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What is semantic priming?

“Gat” is a relatively good prime for the word *dog*, but “wat” is not as good of a prime. Why might this be?

What are the hallmarks of the cohort model of spoken word recognition?

Some words have multiple meanings. How does sentence context influence which meaning is activated and when?

What is a taxonomic relation, and what is a thematic relation? Give an example of each.

What is meant by a sensorimotor theory of semantic memory? Do such theories predict taxonomic relations or thematic relations?

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What evidence is there that cognition is embodied?

What principles underlie Latent Semantic Analysis?

What is syntax?

What are the hallmarks of minimal attachment?

What is the interactive view of language processing?

What evidence do visual world studies give us for predictive processing in language?