

Video matching article 2



Movie: sounds&Pics/051_06wugtest.mpg

Mental lexicon - overview

- Gaining access to words we know is critical for fluent speech.
- Many clinical conditions involve poor or different lexical access.
 - Aphasias
 - Developmental word-finding disorders
 - Specific language impairment
 - Stuttering

Mental lexicon - overview

- Different disorders may result in different errors
 - Accessing the wrong word (boat instead of submarine) vs. mispronouncing (subrine)
- Understanding & treating these requires knowledge of different stages of lexical access.

Information in the mental lexicon

- Sound pattern of the word or pronunciation (phonology, stress, # of syllables)
- Meaning of the word
- Syntactic class of the word
- Morphological knowledge

See book, p. 167-170

Syntactic knowledge

- Open-class words or content words
- Closed-class words or function words

- There are some aphasias where people have trouble with closed-class words but not open-class, or vice versa

Syntactic knowledge, cont.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| • NOUNS | • VERBS |
| – Longer | – Shorter |
| – SW stress | – WS stress |
- People are aware of these biases and use them.

Boy, that man sure can cavell!

Or

Yesterday I saw a really old cavell at the zoo!

Morphological knowledge

- Free morphemes
- Bound morphemes
 - Inflectional morphemes
 - Ex: plural, past tense
 - Derivational morphemes
 - Ex: -ness turns good (an adjective) into goodness (a noun)
 - Ex: -ion turns decide into decision
- When a word has both derivational & inflectional morphemes, derivational come first.
 - Ex: neighborhoods

What items get stored in the lexicon?

- Words that are a single morpheme must be stored.
- What about inflectional morphemes?
- What about derivational morphemes?
- The brain must try and strike a balance between storing & stripping.

How do words relate to one another?

- Synonymy (*big – large*)
- Antonymy (*big – small*)
- Part-whole relationships (*chair – seat; table – legs*)
- Functional relationships (*chair – sitting; bed – sleeping*)
- Taxonomic relationships (*chair – rocker – furniture*)
- Attributes (*chair – wood; comfortable*)
- Coordinates (*chair – table; cat – dog*)
