

Part I: Introduction

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The Miracle of Language

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- In everyday language, however, we never think about the efficiency of the language system that allows us to produce and understand complex sentences in milliseconds. We just use it.
- Within a very short time frame we process the sound of language, the meaning of words, and the syntactic structure of an utterance.

Psycholinguistic models

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- During language comprehension this means that once the acoustic information is perceived, the different subprocesses dealing with phonological, syntactic, and semantic information have to be performed.

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- Comprehension during interpersonal communication, however, may also involve situational and emotional aspects that are not considered part of the core language system since these, as we will see, can act independently of language.

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- An excursion (chapter 2) has two purposes. It will discuss a common knowledge base of syntactic rules and words for language comprehension and language production. Moreover, it will briefly touch upon aspects of communication that go beyond the core language system.