Psychology of Language (PSY1B.4)

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1. **THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE (0)**
2. **ANIMALS (0)**
3. **COMPREHENSION (0)**
4. **SPEAKING (2)**
5. **CONCEPTS (3)**

QUESTIONS
- Is it uniquely human?
- Is it unlike any other means of communication?
- Does it help us think as well as communicate?
- What do we have in our minds that allow us to use language?

1. THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE
Phonemes - the smallest significant sounds in language
Syntax - (grammar) the rules for combining words
Semantics - the meaning of words and sentences
Morphemes - smallest unit of means

2. ANIMALS
- Dogs can learn objects
- Some primates learn 100's of symbols
- Repetitive and uncreative, can't refer to abstract ideas

3. COMPREHENSION
How is the mental dictionary organised?
- people respond faster to high frequency words
- What your looking at roughly indicates what you talking about
- Meaning (semantic priming), sound (yea aswell innit)

4. SPEAKING
How do people retrieve and produce words?
Mental lexicon - speakers have a mental lexicon of words (17,000 root words for college grads)

4.0) SPEECH ERRORS

Type of Error	Intended Utterance	Error
1. Word anticipation	bury me right with him	bury him right with him
2. Sound anticipation	the lush list	the lust list
3. Word perseveration	evidence brought to bear on representational theories	evidence brought to bear on representational evidence
4. Sound perseveration	President Bush's budget	President Bush's boodget
5. Word exchange	the head of a pin	the pin of a head
6. Sound exchange	occipital activity	accipital octivity
7. Stranding exchange	the dome doesn't have any windows	the window doesn't have any domes
8. Phrase exchange	the death of his son from leukaemia	the death of leukaemia from his son
9. Semantically related word-substitution	I like berries with my cereal	I like berries with my fruit
10. Phonologically related word-substitution	part of a community	part of a committee
11. Sound substitution	the disparity	the disparigy
12. Word blend	it really stood/stuck out	it really stook out
13. Phrase blend	at large/on the loose	at the loose

4.1) TIP OF THE TOUNGE
- People can access meaning not sound
- People can often guess the first word correctly

Picture word interference task - name objects as quickly as possible, experimenter measures time
- Phenomenological priming decreases response time (dot -> dog)
- Semantic distractor increases response time (cat -> dog)

5. CONCEPTS (0)

? *How do we accuratly define and categorise concepts?*
- **Defining atributes** vs **characteristic attributes**
- Superordinate, basic, subordinate
- **Prototype/archetype** theory

5.1) LANGUAGE & THOUGHT

? Can thinking take place without thought?
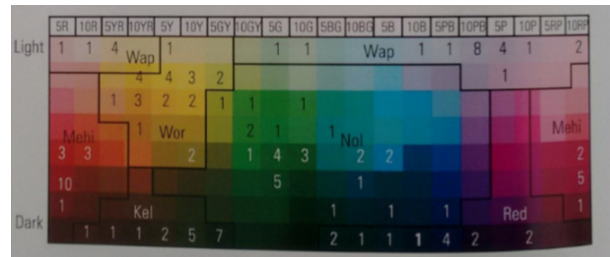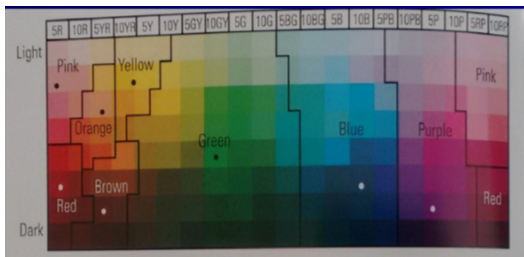? Does language affect the way we think?
Linguistic determinism - language determines thought
- (strong) If you can't express somthing in words you cant think about it
- (weak) only changes how you think in specific cases where it matters

5.2) COLOUR

- across languages there is a common hierarchy ([black, white], [red], [green, yellow], [blue...])
- Number of colours ranges from 2 (dani, Iranian jaya) to 12 (Russian)
⭐ - Same 'focal' best colours despite different category bounderies

English vs Berinmo colour space:

- people better at discriminating across categories than within

5.3) LANGUAGE AND SPACE

Manner (how you do an action) vs path (trajectory) languages
- Pathers' mention manner when couldnt be inferred