GL/PSYC 3640
Psychological Studies of Language

Review for Midterm Exam

Lecture 1
- Nature of language studies in history
- Characteristics of studies in animal language
- Components of language

Lecture 2
- Methods and problems of testing infant’s speech perception
- Relations between speech perception and components of language
- Major research findings in infant speech perception (Mehler and DeCasper)
- Why is speech perception so important?
- Development of categorical perception
- Categorical perception and innateness
- Findings in recent speech perception (Vouloumanos & Werker, 2007)

Lecture 3
- Development of word learning
- Difference between reception and expression
- Factors affecting development of word learning
- Pretend play
- Assumptions of word meaning
- Acquisition of nouns and verbs
- Syllable and phoneme perception: methods and problems

Lecture 4
- Organization of mental lexicon
- Methods in studying mental lexicon
- Access vs. Activation
- Acoustic mismatch
- Swinney’s findings in lexical organization
- Tentative conclusion in how lexical entries are activated/accessed
- Factors affecting the process of activating/accessing lexical entries

Lecture 5
- Function of grammar in sentence processing
- Characteristics of case-marking languages, such as German
- Solutions to disentangle ambiguities in sentences and associated problems
- Prosody in sentence processing
- Sources of ambiguity in sentence processing