

Language Learning and the Brain

Every person who encounters or learns another language is faced with the challenge of processing many new words in a short period of time. What are the conditions under which a learner can acquire those words successfully and process them to long-term memory? How do language and memory faculties interact? What role do the senses play in this process? Are factors such as age or individual backgrounds of learners to be considered? Taking the reader on a fascinating journey through the brain to demonstrate how language is processed, Ulf Schütze explains the dynamic environment involved in recording and producing words. The book also discusses how to use information technology, such as apps, to make the learning of words entertaining and efficient.

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Language Learning and the Brain

Lexical Processing in Second Language Acquisition

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Für Anne und Albrecht

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Preface

Every person learning another language is faced with the challenging task of learning many new words in a short period of time. Much of the success of learning another language depends on what our brain can handle at a time, also known as the cognitive load. The question is, under what conditions a learner can indeed acquire those words, remember and use them when speaking another language. For example, how do language and memory faculties interact? What role do the senses play in this process? Are factors such as age or individual backgrounds of learners to be considered? Taking the reader on a journey through the brain from a psycholinguistic point of view, this book focuses on explaining the dynamics of creating a record of a word using synapses, the hippocampus, the phonological loop, and other areas of the brain. Particular attention is given to spacing techniques and their development and improvement by using information technology, in order that the next app on a smartphone will make the learning of words entertaining and efficient.