

Psych56L/ Ling51

Fall 2008

Review Questions: Language & Cognition

(1) Terms/concepts to know: linguistic determinism, linguistic relativism, cross-linguistic color name variation, language as a category-maker, language as a lens, language as a toolkit, spatial frame of reference, motion events, spatial categorization, Neo-Whorfian, the influence of language on navigation, spatial language, verbal shadowing, rhythm shadowing, theory of mind, false belief task, autistic children's theory of mind, sentential complement, non-human primates' performance on false belief tasks

(2) What is one of the main differences in the way English speakers and Berinmo speakers divide up the color spectrum?

(3) Why is color another area of cognition (besides speech perception) that is reasonable to test language's ability as a category-maker?

(4) Is there any evidence to indicate that people's spatial cognition – spatial frames of reference, motion events, or spatial categorization – is influenced by the language they speak?

(5) What is one major difference between the navigation abilities of adult humans and that of younger children (and rats)?

(6) What are the two core number systems humans and other animals seem to have?

(7) What kinds of numbers does language allow us to comprehend and manipulate? Explain why these numbers cannot be dealt with by the two core number systems.

(8) What are two examples in language of confronting multiple perspectives simultaneously? Give an explicit example of each one. What aspect of cognition is the ability to confront multiple perspectives simultaneously helpful for?