

Propositions

for the thesis

The Role of the Motor System in Language Comprehension

Lawrence J. Taylor

1. Motor representations are activated as people understand language about action.
2. Motor representations are activated as people observe objects that they perceive as graspable.
3. These motor representations may not be necessary for language understanding, but make a substantive contribution to the comprehension process.
4. Semantic knowledge relies on basic systems for perception and action.
5. Our ability to rely on several subsystems for perception and action for semantic representation result in fault tolerant representations.
6. Cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide.
7. Evolution through natural selection has resulted in most of the biodiversity we can observe in nature today.
8. In the history of life on Earth, there have been several mass extinctions; we are currently in the middle of one.
9. Light travels at approximately 300,000 kilometers per second; the closest star to our solar system is four light years away; all we ever see of stars are their old photographs.
10. Since 1945, the nuclear powers have conducted over 2000 nuclear test explosions.
11. What the nuclear weapon has done for war, the internet has done for the mind.

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