

Study Guide:**Chapters 1 in Aitchison and Cairns, and the human information processing system.**

*Please Note: this and all other study guides are merely **guides**. That is, they are not necessarily exhaustive.*

Terms: be able to define or explain with examples the following terms and concepts:

descriptive grammar	prescriptive grammar	psycholinguistics
language acquisition	language comprehension	language production
linguistic competence	linguistic performance	encoding
decoding	phonological representation	semantic representation
Chomsky	Skinner	operant conditioning
Verplanck's experiment	Greenspoon's experiment	
association chain theory	poverty of the stimulus	

common characteristics of human language (a linguistic system):

- creativity
- duality of patterning
- lexicon
- grammar (= 3 rule systems: phonological, morphological, structural/syntactic)
- arbitrariness

Explain duality of patterning with respect to spoken language and with respect to signed language.

What does it mean to “know” a language?

What are Chomsky's two arguments against Skinner's theory of language and language acquisition? (Remember that one of the arguments has two parts).

Human Information Processing System (not in your text – covered in-class only)

sensory store	working memory	storage
processing capacity	chunking	permanent memory
semantic memory	episodic memory	pattern recognition

How do these mental structures get used in language processing?