

<<语言引论>>

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前言

“西方语言学原版影印系列丛书”是北京大学出版社外语编辑部建立以来的一个新产品，具有重大意义。

随着国内高等教育的发展，这几年来本科生、硕士生和博士生的招生名额都扩大了，教材建设再次提上了日程。

除组织国内老师自行编写外，从国外直接引进仍不失为一个有效途径。

语言学是一门领先科学，因此本丛书的有些内容对其他专业的老师和学生、研究者，甚至业余学习者也有很高参考价值。

例如，像有关语料库、认知语言学的著作除外语老师外，计算科学、统计学、认知科学、词典编辑等专业的研究人员和师生也有一读之必要。

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内容概要

本书是适合所有层次学生的理想教材，包含语言教学的诸多领域，诸如语言学、英语、教育、外国语言、心理学、人类学、社会学以及英语作为第二语言的教学。

第八版继承作者始终如一的写作与出版理念，努力做到最前沿、最完整、内容最丰富，除保留面向学生的亲和风格之外，新增了近年来神经语言学的新发展和语言自主性的相关研究，更新了心理语言学的最新发现和计算语言学的有关议题等，反映了语言学领域内最新的研究成果。

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章节摘录

BRAIN PLASTICITY AND LATERALIZATION IN EARLY LIFE : It takes only one hemisphere to have a mind. A.W. Wilson. 1944 Lateralization of language to the left hemisphere is a process that begins early in life. Wernicke's area is visibly distinctive in the left hemisphere of the fetus by the twenty-sixth gestational week. Infants as young as one week old show a greater electrical response in the left hemisphere to language and in the right hemisphere to music. Recent work with deaf and hearing babies between the ages of five and twelve months shows that there is left hemisphere dominance for babbling, an early linguistic function. Whereas the left hemisphere is innately predisposed to specialize for language, there is also evidence of considerable plasticity (i.e., flexibility) in the system during the early stages of language development. This means that under certain circumstances, the right hemisphere can take over many of the language functions that would normally reside in the left hemisphere. An impressive illustration of plasticity is provided by children who have undergone a procedure known as hemispherectomy, in which a hemisphere of the brain is surgically removed. This procedure is used to treat otherwise intractable cases of epilepsy. In cases of left hemispherectomy after language acquisition has begun, children experience an initial period of aphasia and then reacquire a linguistic system that is virtually indistinguishable from that of normal children. They also show many of the development patterns of normal language acquisition. UCLA professor Susan Curtiss and colleagues have studied many of these children. They hypothesize that the latent linguistic ability of the right hemisphere is "freed" by the removal of the diseased left hemisphere, which may have had a strong inhibitory effect before the surgery. In adults, however, surgical removal of the left hemisphere inevitably results in severe loss of the language function (and so is done only in life-threatening circumstances), whereas adults (and children) who have had their right hemisphere removed retain their language abilities, although other cognitive losses may result, such as those typically lateralized to the right hemisphere. The plasticity of the brain decreases with age and with the increasing specialization of the different hemispheres and regions of the brain. Despite strong evidence that the left hemisphere is predetermined to be the language hemisphere in most humans, some evidence suggests that the right hemisphere plays a role at the earliest stages of language acquisition. Children with prenatal, perinatal, or childhood brain lesions in the right hemisphere can show delays and impairments in babbling and vocabulary learning, whereas children with early left hemisphere lesions demonstrate impairments in their ability to form phrases and sentences. Also, many children who undergo right hemispherectomy do not develop language, even though they still have a left hemisphere. Various findings converge to show that the human brain is essentially designed to specialize for language in the left hemisphere but that the right hemisphere is involved in early language development. They also show that, under the right circumstances, the brain is remarkably resilient and that if brain damage or surgery occurs early in life, normal left hemisphere functions can be taken over by the right hemisphere.

SPLIT BRAINS Persons suffering from intractable epilepsy may be treated by severing communication between their two hemispheres. Surgeons cut through the corpus callosum (see Figure 2.1), the fibrous network that connects the two halves. When this pathway is severed, there is no communication between the "two brains." Such split-brain patients also provide evidence for language lateralization and for understanding contralateral brain functions. The psychologist Michael Gazzaniga states:

With the corpus callosum intact, the two halves of the body have no secrets from one another. With it sectioned, the two halves become two different conscious mental spheres, each with its own experience base and control system for behavioral operation..... Unbelievable as this may seem, this is the flavor of a long series of experimental studies first carried out in the cat and monkey.

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最全面的语言学导论，已经成为我的案头书。
——约翰·奥森， 英国伦敦法律语言研究所所长

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