Chapter 1

1. Psychologists who study mental processes, neural processes, and behaviors associated with language are called

a. linguists

b. anthropologists

c. biologists

d. psycholinguists

2. Which of the following is not one of Hockett's design features?

a. plausibility

b. semanticity

c. arbitrariness

d. duality of patterning

3. Which of Hockett's design features refers to the ability to combine symbols in new ways to express new meanings?

a. arbitrariness

b. generativity

c. duality of patterning

d. semanticity

4. Which of Hockett's design features refers to the ability to talk about events that are removed in time and space from a given act of speaking?

a. duality of patterning

b. semanticity

c. plurality

d. displacement

5. Which of Hockett's design features refers to the fact that languages consist of a limited number of symbols?

a. specificity

b. duality of patterning

c. discreteness

d. generativity

6. Which of Hockett's design features is most closely related to the word "meaning"?

a. specificity

b. duality of patterning

c. semanticity

d. arbitrariness

7. What would happen if onomatopoeia were a dominant characteristic of language?

a. Speakers would not be able to refer to events that occurred in the past.

b. Most words referring to large objects would use the deep end of the speech register.

c. Most nouns would refer to concrete objects.

d. Languages would have a limited number of symbols.

8. Which of the following statements about language is false?

a. Languages that have more phonemes are better able to convey meaning than languages that have fewer phonemes.

b. Languages with widely different phoneme inventories are equally good at conveying meaning.

c. Languages have limited numbers of symbols.

d. Some languages have more phonemes than others.

9. Which of the following statements about language is false?

a. Different languages use different ways to signal when an event occurred. Some languages use suffixes on verbs. Some languages use adverbs.

b. All natural languages are capable of displacement.

c. All natural languages are capable of generating completely novel expressions.

d. Languages that lack tense markers on verbs are incapable of referring to past events.

10. Which of the following characteristics do non-human communication systems share with human language?

a. Semanticity.

b. Arbitrariness.

c. Grammar.

d. a and b.

11. Which of the following terms is used to describe the naturally occurring set of rules or principles that governs the way a language can combine symbols to make expressions?

a. lexicon

b. prescriptive grammar

c. descriptive grammar

d. functionality

12. The kind of grammar that is taught in junior high school English class in the United States is

a. lexical-functional grammar

b. prescriptive grammar

c. head-driven phrase structure grammar

d. descriptive grammar

13. If you want to sound like a well-educated, upper class, literate speaker of your native language, which grammar should you use?

a. lexical-functional grammar

b. prescriptive grammar

c. head-driven phrase structure grammar

d. descriptive grammar

14. The kind of grammar that most language scientists are interested in most of the time is

a. lexical-functional grammar

d. prescriptive grammar

c. head-driven phrase structure grammar

d. descriptive grammar

15. The grammatical rule that says "adjectives and nouns must agree in number and gender in Spanish" belongs to which type of grammar?

a. lexical-functional grammar

d. prescriptive grammar

c. head-driven phrase structure grammar

d. descriptive grammar

16. Which of the following is a theory of the mental representation of language?

a. grammar

b. onomatopoeia

c. phonemes

d. alarm calls

17. Language characteristics like number agreement and adjective position are determined by

a. personal preference

b. prescriptive grammar

c. descriptive grammar

d. chance

18. Which characteristic of language allows you to place a component inside another component of the same type?

a. recursion

b. displacement

c. reference

d. recession

19. Which language characteristic is associated with discrete infinity?

a. number agreement

b. recursion

c. displacement

d. reference

20. According to Everett, which language characteristic does Pirahã lack?

a. number agreement

b. recursion

c. displacement

d. reference

21. Which of the following proposes the closest connection between human and non-human language abilities.

a. the discontinuity hypothesis

b. the precursor hypothesis

c. the theory of evolution by natural selection

d. the continuity hypothesis

22. Which of the following proposes that human language abilities represent a clean break from other communication systems?

a. the discontinuity hypothesis

b. the precursor hypothesis

c. the theory of evolution by natural selection

d. the continuity hypothesis

23. If a Diana monkey hears a recording of a predator alarm call, and then sees the predator itself, how does the monkey react?

a. it shows signs of extreme fear

b. it attacks

c. it appears agitated

d. it shows little or no response

24. Diana monkey alarm calls are most closely related to which human language characteristic?

a. recursion

b. displacement

c. semanticity

d. generativity

25. Which characteristic of language is most closely associated with animal alarm calls?

a. compositionality

b. duality of patterning

c. generativity

d. replacement

26. Why aren't chimps good at making speech sounds?

a. they're not very intelligent

b. they are uncooperative

c. the wrong kind of training methods are used

d. they have the wrong kind of vocal tract

27. When apes produce sequences of gestures, such as "M&M grape" and "water bird," this could be an instance of

a. generativity

b. recursion

c. replacement

d. all of the above

28. When the chimp Washoe combines two gestures, one of which is the gesture indicating "more," he is more likely to produce "more (gesture X)" than "(gesture X) more". This may indicate that

a. Washoe has a rudimentary rule of grammar specifying gesture order.

b. Washoe has mastered ASL grammar.

c. Washoe is responding randomly.

d. None of the above.

29. According to Sue Savage-Rumbaugh's three-factor account of language, what determines the level of language ability that a given individual has?

a. evolution, an individual's own level of development, and culture or experience

b. chance mutation, operant conditioning, and culture

c. opportunity to learn, personal motivation, and chance

d. personality, genetics, and culture

30. Differences in language ability that are observed across species, when teaching methods and developmental stage are held constant are likely to result from:

a. ontogeny

b. phylogeny

c. chance

d. maturation

31. Bonobos raised in an enriched language environment have acquired receptive vocabularies of about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ signs.

a. ten

b. fifty

c. a hundred

d. several hundred

32. Which training method led to the most spontaneous use of gestures in non-human primates.

a. classical conditioning

b. operant conditioning

c. punishment

d. observational learning

33. Which of the following statements is false?

a. Apes are more variable than humans in their ability to learn and use linguistic symbols.

b. Operant learning techniques work better than observational learning techniques in teaching apes to use signs.

c. Apes have smaller receptive vocabularies than humans.

d. Apes apply syntactic rules less consistently than humans.

34. What happens when apes' utterances lengthen?

a. The syntactic structures of the utterances get more complex.

b. The ideas that are being expressed get more complex.

c. Longer utterances are less likely to be about food.

d. The same gestures are often repeated.

35. Why do apes produce gestures, normally?

a. To express complex propositions.

b. To comment on objects in the environment.

c. To draw others' attention to something.

d. To get something.

36. Who applies grammatical rules consistently?

a. apes

b. humans

c. apes and humans

d. neither apes nor humans

37. What happens when humans and apes gesture to one another?

a. apes apply grammatical rules consistently to produce multi-gesture utterances

b. apes interrupt humans a lot

c. humans interrupt apes a lot

d. apes invent new signs and teach them to humans

38. Which of the following provides evidence that speech is an adaptation resulting from natural selection?

a. Speech requires a descended larynx, which increases the risk of choking to death.

b. Speech is a complex behavior.

c. Aspects of spoken language are culturally transmitted.

d. Humans, but not other animals, have speech.

39. When did modern human language emerge?

a. Five million years ago.

b. 200,000 years ago.

c. 50,000 years ago.

d. Nobody knows for sure.

40. Which of the following provides evidence that species that are closely related to modern humans, such as *Neanderthal* and *homo erectus*, could not speak?

a. Neanderthal heads are much smaller than humans.

b. The nerve tracts leading from the brain to the throat and upper body are much smaller in Neanderthal and homo erectus than in modern humans.

c. Neanderthal and homo erectus had smaller mouths than modern humans.

d. None of the above.

41. What's the difference between a pidgin and a full-blown language?

a. Pidgins have fewer phonemes than full-blown languages.

b. Pidgins have more complex grammars than full-blown languages.

c. Pidgins have more symbols referring to abstract concepts.

d. Pidgins have a simpler grammar than full-blown languages.

42. When do creoles emerge?

a. When adult speakers of different languages interact.

b. When children grow up listening to a pidgin.

c. Creoles emerge spontaneously in homogeneous populations due to "language drift."

d. Creoles emerge in sub-cultures because sub-cultures have specialized vocabularies.

43. What is the relationship between the FOXP2 gene and the KE family?

a. All of the family have an abnormal version of the FOXP2 gene, but normal language abilities.

b. The 1/2 of the KE family that have an abnormal version of the FOXP2 gene also have abnormal language abilities.

c. All of the KE family have an abnormal version of the FOXP2 gene, but only half of them have abnormal language abilities.

d. None of the above.

44. What would happen to you if you were injected with curare?

a. You would lose the ability to move your arms.

b. You would lose the ability to speak.

c. You would lose the ability to think.

d. a and b, but not c.

45. When "Brother John" suffered a major seizure and was unable to talk,

a. He could still do math problems.

b. He could still navigate.

c. He could still remember events.

d. All of the above.

46. Evidence for a distinction between language ability and general cognitive ability includes

a. the results of an experiment in which a volunteer subject was injected with curare.

b. the case study of "Brother John."

c. studies of individuals with Williams Syndrome.

d. All of the above.

47. A person with Williams Syndrome is likely to be good at

a. producing grammatically correct and meaningful sentences.

b. simple arithmetic.

c. problem-solving.

d. a and b.

48. What is the chief claim of *linguistic determinism*

a. ape and human languages are closely related

b. thought is sub-vocal speech

c. the language we speak determines the way we think about and perceive the world

d. none of the above

49. Which language has more words for "snow"?

a. English

b. "Eskimo"

c. French

d. English and Eskimo have about the same number of words for "snow"

50. Who has better ability to detect differences between different kinds of snow?

a. English speakers are better than French speakers.

b. Eskimo speakers are better than English speakers.

c. Eskimo speakers are better than French speakers.

d. There is no credible evidence one way or the other.

51. Studies of emotion perception and categorization suggest that

a. Humans all over the world represent and think about emotions in very similar ways.

b. Some languages have words for complex emotions like "hesitant" but no words for more basic emotions like "anger".

c. All languages have the same inventory of emotion words.

d. None of the above.

52. Chinese-speaking children acquire arithmetic skills more rapidly on average than English-speaking children. According to the Whorffian hypothesis, the most likely explanation for this is

a. Chinese speaking children are more intelligent than English speaking children.

b. Chinese speaking children are more diligent than English speaking children.

c. The Chinese language makes certain number concepts more obvious than English does.

d. None of the above.

53. How does Pirahã differ from English?

a. It lacks number terms.

b. It lacks terms for kinship relations.

c. It has more words for "snake."

d. It has more words for "tree."

54. How do Pirahã speakers differ from English speakers?

a. Pirahã speakers are unable to perceive differences in number between different sets of objects.

b. Pirahã speakers are less able to remember the exact number of a set of objects.

c. Pirahã speakers are more able to remember the location of hidden objects.

d. English speakers have greater ability to perceive different emotions.

55. Which of the following most accurately characterizes Chinese and English speakers?

a. Chinese speakers are better at abstract counterfactual reasoning and math.

b. English speakers are better at abstract counterfactual reasoning and math.

c. English speakers are better at abstract counterfactual reasoning.

d. Chinese speakers are better at perceiving different emotions.

56. How does Russian differ from English?

a. Russian lacks color terms.

b. Russian has less specific color terms.

c. English has more color terms.

d. Russian makes a mandatory distinction between light blue and dark blue shades.

57. How do Russian speakers differ from English speakers?

a. Russians are faster and more accurate at making certain color discrimination decisions.

b. Russians are slower at solving counterfactual reasoning problems.

c. Russians are more reluctant to talk about the past.

d. Russians have greater abilities to discriminate between different negative emotions.

58. What is the most likely explanation for Russians' superior color discrimination performance?

a. They are smarter than English speakers.

b. They have super-human visual perception.

c. They have more practice making color discrimination decisions.

d. They are more cooperative when they are undergoing psychological testing.

59. How do fluent signers differ from English speakers?

a. Fluent signers have superior visuo-spatial abilities.

b. Fluent signers have greater face-recognition abilities.

c. Fluent signers have greater mental rotation abilities.

d. All of the above.

60. Which of the following is not a characteristic of a mental module?

a. computational autonomy

b. distinct neural structure

c. domain specificity

d. interactivity

**Chapter 1**

1. d

2. a

3. b

4. d

5. c

6. c

7. b

8. a

9. d

10. d

11. c

12. b

13. b

14. d

15. d

16. a

17. c

18. a

19. b

20. b

21. d

22. a

23. d

24. c

25. b

26. d

27. a

28. a

29. a

30. b

31. d

32. d

33. b

34. d

35. d

36. b

37. b

38. a

39. d

40. b

41. d

42. b

43. b

44. d

45. d

46. d

47. a

48. c

49. d

50. d

51. a

52. c

53. a

54.b

55. c

56. d

57. a

58. c

59. d

60. d