

Linguistics as cognitive neuroscience

- Why should the brain sciences care about linguistics?
 - Examples of neurolinguistics **with** and **without** linguistics.
- Why should linguistics care about the brain sciences?
 - The obvious answer: Given that language is housed in the head the ultimate goal of linguistics has to be to state a theory of language in terms of the brain.
 - State of the art: We are *very* far from this goal. Today, the vocabularies of linguistics and the brain sciences are entirely different (cf. Embick & Poeppel discussion on the “gradularity problem”).
 - Less obvious: There are certain *representational* questions that traditional theoretical linguistics methodology hasn't been particularly successful in answering and that brain measurements might be better suited for. Two examples that I'll discuss:
 - Representation of polysemy
 - Semantic non-compositionality

Two ways to do neurolinguistics

- Neurolinguistics as psycholinguistics.
 - Localization doesn't really matter. Neural activity is used like behavioral reaction times.
 - Correlational reasoning. Time course of processes.
- Neurolinguistics as neurobiology.
 - Goal is to articulate a theory of language in terms of the brain. Where and how questions just as important as when questions.