

Contents

Part I Evolution

1 The Human Lineage	3
1.1 An Overview	3
1.2 Fossil Evidence	5
References	13
2 Protomusic and Speech	15
2.1 The Role of Protomusic	15
2.2 Evolutionary Milestones	17
References	23
3 Genetic Foundations	25
3.1 Language-Related Genes	25
3.2 The Role of the Basal Ganglia	27
References	32
4 The Rise of Cognition	35
4.1 Comparative Studies	35
4.2 Proto-Cognition	51
References	59

Part II Paradigms

5 The Human Language System	67
5.1 Biological Disposition	67
5.2 Linguistic Wiring	70
References	73

6 Semantics and Syntax	75
6.1 Sentence Structures	75
6.2 Neural Nets	82
References	86
7 Lexical Concepts	89
7.1 Constructions	89
7.2 Mental Space	94
References	96
8 Figurative Language	99
8.1 Lexical Dark Matters	99
8.2 Idioms and Metaphors	100
References	106
 Part III Circuits	
9 Generating Sentences	109
9.1 Structural Complexity	109
9.2 The Role of Working Memory	117
References	123
10 Accessing Word Meanings	127
10.1 Lexical Concepts	127
10.2 Figures of Speech	134
References	149
11 Atypical Language	157
11.1 Aphasia	157
11.2 Communicative Disorders	163
References	170
12 Language Acquisition	179
12.1 The Genetic Program	179
12.2 The Multilingual Brain	181
References	189
Prospects	193
Index	195

The Nature of Language

Evolution, Paradigms and Circuits

Hillert, D.

2014, XV, 201 p. 89 illus., 55 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4939-0608-6