Contents

Foreword	by Noam	Chomsky	ix
Preface	xi		
Acknowle	edgments	xiii	

Introduction 1

Language as a Uniquely Human Trait 1
Language as a Specific Cognitive System 3
Language as a Brain System 5

Part I 13

4	Language	Eunstians	in the	Drain	Erom	Auditon	Innut to	Cambanas	Campushansian	10
	Language	runctions	in the	Diam.	LIOIL	Auditory	Indut to	Sentence	Comprehension	11.5

- 1.1 A Cognitive Model of Auditory Language Comprehension 15
- 1.2 Acoustic-Phonological Processes 20
- 1.3 From Word Form to Syntactic and Lexical-Semantic Information 27
- 1.4 Initial Phrase Structure Building 32
- 1.5 Syntactic Relations during Sentence Processing 43
- 1.6 Processing Semantic Relations 56
- 1.7 Thematic Role Assignment: Semantic and Syntactic Features 62
- 1.8 Processing Prosodic Information 71
- 1.9 Functional Neuroanatomy of Language Comprehension 82

2 Excursions 85

- 2.1 Language Comprehension and Production: A Common Knowledge Base of Language 85
- 2.2 Language Comprehension and Communication: Beyond the Core LanguageSystem 95

Part II 101

3 The Structural Language Network 103

- 3.1 The Neuroanatomical Pathways of Language 103
- 3.2 Pathways in the Right Hemisphere and Cross-Hemispheric Pathways 112
- 3.3 The Neuroanatomical Pathway Model of Language: Syntactic and Semantic Networks 115

4	The Functional Language Network 121							
	4.1	The Neuroreceptorarchitectonic Basis of the Language Network	121					
	4.2	Functional Connectivity and Cortical Oscillations 125						
	4.3	The Neural Language Circuit 134						
Par	t III	143						
5	The	Brain's Critical Period for Language Acquisition 145						

- 5.1 Neurophysiology of Second Language Learning 146
- 5.2 Critical and Sensitive Periods of Learning: Facts and Speculations 155
- 5.3 Universality of the Neural Language Network 157

Ontogeny of the Neural Language Network 163

- Language in the First Three Years of Life 165
- 6.2 Language beyond Age 3 183
- 6.3 Structural and Functional Connectivity during Development 191
- 6.4 The Ontogeny of the Language Network: A Model 196

Part IV 201

Evolution of Language 203

- 7.1 Theories of Language Evolution 203
- 7.2 Processing Structured Sequences in Songbirds 205
- 7.3 Comparing Monkeys and Humans 207
- 7.4 Paleoanthropological Considerations of Brain Development 219

The Neural Basis of Language 221

- 8.1 An Integrative View of the Language Network 223
- 8.2 Epilogue: Homo Loquens—More than Just Words 231

Glossary 233 Notes 241 References 245 Index 281