

PREFACE

The present book contains selected contributions from the international conference "Basic Mechanisms of Language and Language Disorders". This conference was held in Leipzig in September 1999, and was organized by the Department of Psychology at the University of Leipzig in collaboration with the Max-Planck-Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, and the Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. It was held to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the foundation of the world's first institute of experimental psychology by Wilhelm Wundt in Leipzig.

This edition examines new results from different fields of psychology and neuropsychology of language, reading, and reading disability. The presented book focuses on the following main topics:

- BASIC FUNCTIONS OF LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION
- BASIC FUNCTIONS OF READING
- BASIC FUNCTIONS OF READING DISABILITY

The title "Basic Functions of Language, Reading and Reading disability" expresses the interdisciplinary character of the book. It aims not only at bringing together different theoretical approaches, but also at connecting these approaches with applied work. Since it is necessary to understand basic functions of language and reading in order to understand reading disability, the present book strives to foster a scientific exchange, and to promote the emergence of synergy effects between the different fields.

The editors wish to warmly thank Katja Brendler from the University of Leipzig for the strenuous task of formatting the chapters, as well as for her organizational help in editing this volume. Many thanks are also owed to the anonymous reviewers committed by Kluwer Academic Publishers for their constructive remarks to the chapters.

Evelin Witruk

Angela D. Friederici

Thomas Lachmann

Leipzig, January 2002