

Stephen van Vlack
Sookmyung Women's University
Department of TESOL
Introduction to Corpus Linguistics
Winter Reading - Spring 2026

Winter Reading - Assignment 1

This Winter Reading functions as Assignment 1 for this course.

For the winter reading project for this class I have chosen a really fun little book about the mental lexicon. The idea is that the book provides some basic and easily digestible background the systematic nature of vocabulary.

Aitchison, J. (2012). *Words in the mind: An introduction to the mental lexicon* (4th Edition). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Any edition of the book is acceptable. Students do **not** need to get the fourth edition, but a pdf of the 4th edition will be made available to the students.

This is the updated and final edition of my favorite book as a graduate student. It provides a fun to read introduction to vocabulary from the viewpoint of the mental lexicon. That is, it looks at vocabulary as comprising a system in the mind. From this book students should develop a sense of the nature and scope of vocabulary and from there deduce its role in language. This introduction does not relate to teaching in any way but rather provides a well-written and accessible introduction to vocabulary as seen from the perspective of the mental lexicon. Students will hopefully enjoy the book as much as I did.

The basic idea is to skim through the book (think about the strategies you use to read it). There is no need to read it all super thoroughly, but how you read it is up to you. The assignment is to find one thing that was presented in the book which was interesting or surprising to you. Having identified your central idea write up a short reaction paper of approximately 1000 words (A4, Times New Roman, 1.5 spaced). Focus on the one idea unpacking and explaining its importance to you as a language teacher and learner. **Do not summarize the text.** Focus on the one idea you have selected and explain. The writing can be more personal and less academic than the other assignments this semester, but make sure it is and coherent/clear and cohesive.

This is due the first week of class on March 9th.

As with all projects to be handed in for marks you should follow APA regarding, specifically, citations, quotes and references.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns....