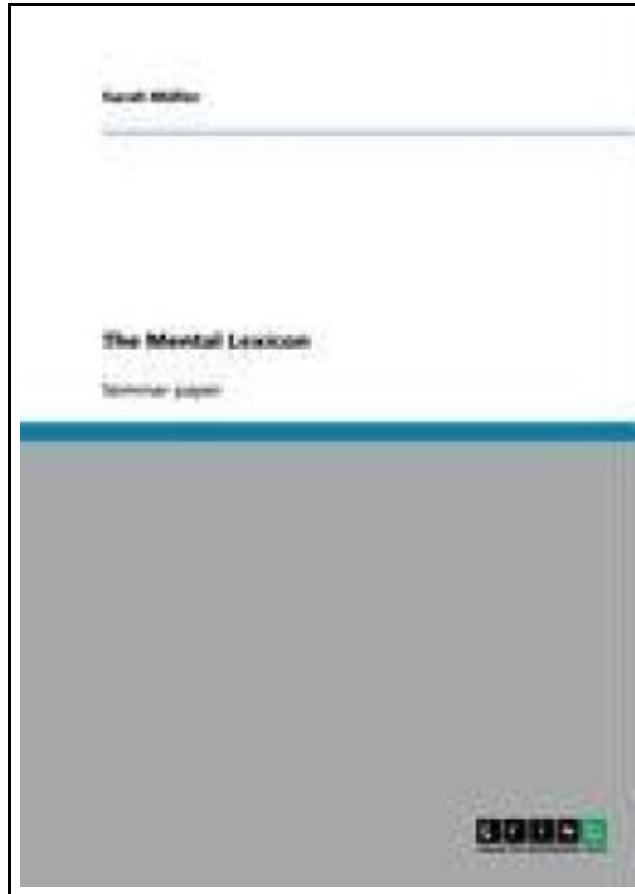


# The Mental Lexicon



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GRIN Verlag Mai 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 208x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, printed single-sided, grade: 2, University of Frankfurt (Main), 11 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Das mentale Lexikon wird in dieser Arbeit mit seinen verschiedenen Aspekten dargestellt. Unterschiedliche Theorieansätze werden vorgestellt, u. a. von Aitchison. 1. Introduction [.] Aitchison (2003:6) refers to a study by Seashore and Eckerson (1940) in which they estimated that an educated adult knows more than 58,000 common 'basic words', 1,700 rare 'basic words' and 96,000 derivatives and compounds. This is an overall total of 150,000 words of which 90% are used actively. Aitchison (2003:6-7) argues that 'this figure is controversial, because of the problems of defining 'word' and the difficulty of finding a reliable procedure for assessing vocabulary knowledge'. Rothweiler (2001:21) refers to Miller (1993) who estimates the vocabulary of an average educated adult at 80,000 words. Rothweiler (2001:21) argues that the mental lexicon is more than a passive memory. She refers to Levelt (1989:181) that the lexicon is a central station between conceptualization on the one hand and the grammatical and phonological coding of language on the other hand. Both the acquisition of words and the usage of words refer to lexical processes. The lexicon seems to be well structured because words can be located in a split second (Aitchison 2003:7). Both Rothweiler and Aitchison refer to confirmed experiments that native speakers can recognize a word of their mother tongue in 200 ms or less from its onset and can reject a non-word sound sequence in about half a second. Production of a word is slightly slower: the lexicon is able to generate up...



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