

## Eskimo words for snow

- Boas (1911): 4
- Whorf (1940): 7
- Polysynthetic language family

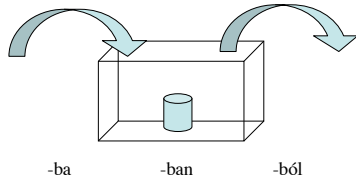
Pullum, G. K. (1991). *The Great Eskimo Vocabulary Hoax and Other Irreverent Essays on the Study of Language*. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL

## Language and mind

- Two extremes:
  - Language: pure form for pre-existing content
  - Language: pre-existing form that determines content
- Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
  - Strong: Linguistic determinism
  - Weak: Linguistic relativism

## Language and space

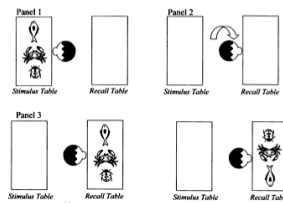
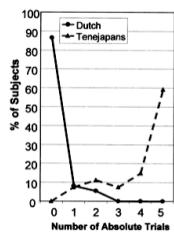
- Different languages use different systems to describe spatial relations



## Language and space

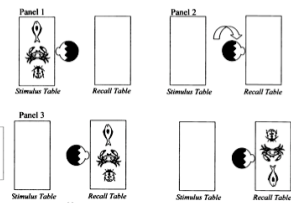
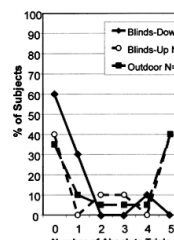
- Different languages use different systems to describe spatial relations
  - Egocentric: left, away from me
  - Allocentric: at the bus stop, north

- Instruction: position the animals "in the same way as before"



Brown & Levinson, 1993

- Instruction: position the animals "in the same way as before"



Li & Gleitman, 2002