

Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.0 About This Research	1
1.1 The Psycholinguistic Perspective	1
1.2 The Application Dimension of This Research	6
2. Medical Language and Lexicon	
2.0 Introduction	13
2.1 A Definition of Medical Language	14
2.2 The Role of Linguistic Levels of Analysis in the Characterization of Written Medical Language	23
2.3 The Intralinguistic Definition of the Medical English Lex- icon	27
2.4 Operational Definition of Medical Terms	32
2.5 Summary and Conclusions	33
3. A Reading Comprehension Model	35
3.0 Introduction	35
3.1 Reading and Psycholinguistics	36
3.2 A Partial-Parallel Reading Comprehension Model	38
3.3 From the Visual System to the Script Recognizer	40
3.4 The Text and Sentence Parser	44
3.5 Syntactic Analysis	57
3.6 Conceptual Analysis	60
3.7 Lexical Analysis	62
3.8 The Mental Lexicon vs. the Conceptual System in Lexical Analysis	64
3.9 Interaction of Lexical Analysis and Conceptual Analysis	69
3.10 Summary and Conclusions	70

4. Reading Comprehension of Medical terms vs. Common-Language Synonyms of Medical Terms	73
4.0 Introduction	73
4.1 Hypotheses	75
4.2 Subjects and Material	77
4.3 Rewriting	77
4.4 Design and Procedure	82
4.5 Results	84
4.6 Discussion	94
4.7 Medical Terms vs. Other Lexical Items	97
4.8 Summary and Conclusions	104
5. The Comprehension of Cognate Medical Terms	107
5.0 Introduction	107
5.1 Cross-linguistic Differences and Similarities between Dutch- and English-language Medical Terms	107
5.2 L1-L2 Transfer of Medical Terms	111
5.3 L1-L2 Lexical Transfer and the Comprehension of L2 Medical Terms	124
6. The Dutch Preference for Cognate Medical Terms	133
6.0 Introduction	133
6.1 Cross-linguistic Alternatives for Medical Term Formation	134
6.2 Subjects, Materials and Procedure	137
6.3 Results	140
6.4 Conclusion	149
7. Conclusion	151
7.0 Research Questions	151
7.1 The Psycholinguistic Dimension	152
7.2 The Application Dimension of This Research	158

Appendices	161
A. Text of Experiment 1	161
B. Tests A and B (Experiment 1)	165
C. Test Experiment 3	179
References	185