Answers

1. **(00:00-00:50)** What are the physical stages which are taking place in order for Lera Boroditsky to transmit complicated thoughts to us?
   - **Lera makes sound with her mouth which create vibrations in the air**
   - **The air vibrations are travelling to the listener**
   - **They are hitting listeners' eardrums**
   - **Listeners' brains take the vibrations from the eardrums and transform vibrations them into thoughts.**

2. **(00:50-01:23)** What idea has does Lera Boroditsky put into our minds, and what adjective does she use to describe the idea?
   A jellyfish waltzing in a library while thinking about quantum mechanics. She describes this idea as 'bizarre', which means very strange or unusual.

3. **(01:23-02:14)** What point is the presenter trying to make when she gives quotes from Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne and writer William Shakespeare?
   She gives two quotations. The Emperor Charlemagne quotation suggests that language 'crafts' (influences) reality, and the Shakespeare quotation suggests that language does not craft reality. These differing quotations suggest that people have been speculating for a long time as to whether language influences reality.

4. **(02:14-03:13)** What is an interesting feature of the Kuuk Thaayorre language?
   The Kuuk Thaaayorre language expresses left and right in terms of north, east, south and west. When they say 'hello', they say 'which way are you going?'

5. **(03:13-03:31)** What is the advantage for people who speak languages with this feature?
   These people stay oriented very well.

6. **(03:31-03:53)** What was one common misconception about humans?
   The misconception was that humans were not as well-oriented as other creatures. However, if your language and culture trains you, then you can stay oriented really well.

7. **(04:38-05:33)** How did speakers of Kuuk Thaayorre arrange photos of Lera Boroditsky's grandfather?
   They arranged photos of her grandfather from youngest to oldest, and they arranged them from east to west.

8. **(05:33-05:51)** Why is time "chasing" Lera Boroditsky, and what adjective does she use to comment on this?
   It is chasing her because she perceives time as moving from left to right regardless of which direction she is facing. She says that it is very egocentric to make time chase her every time she moves her body.

Answers

9. **(06:20-06:51)** What adjectives are German speakers more likely to use to describe bridges, what adjectives are Spanish speakers more likely to use to describe bridges and why?
   Germans are more likely to describe bridges as 'beautiful' and 'elegant', whereas Spanish speakers are more likely to describe bridges as 'strong' and 'long'. This is because 'bridge' is a feminine noun in German and a masculine noun in Spanish.

10. **(08:59-09:41)** How do English and Spanish differ in the way that they describe accidents?
    In English, you are more likely to express the argument from the perspective that someone did it: *"He broke the vase".* In Spanish, on the other hand, you wouldn't say that someone did it if it was an accident. (This is also true of the way I have written the sentences above in English).

11. **(09:49-10:55)** What are English speakers and Spanish speakers more likely to remember about an accident, and what consequences could this have?
    English speakers are more likely to remember who did it, whereas Spanish speakers are more likely to remember simply that it was an accident. This has potential consequences for eyewitness testimonies when a crime has been committed. It can also mean that English speakers may be more likely to attribute blame or punish someone harder for an accident.

BONUS QUESTION: (12:28-12:54) What are the exact words that Lera Boroditsky uses in these 26 seconds?
[see page 5 for a mini transcript and accent guide]

12. **(12:54-13:35)** What 2 pieces of bad news does the presenter give at the end of the presentation?
    1. **We are losing on average 1 language per week, which means that by some estimates, half of the world's languages will be gone in the next hundred years.**
    2. **Almost everything we know about the human mind is based on studies from usually American English-speaking undergraduates at universities, meaning that what we know about the human mind is actually incredibly narrow and biased.**

Answer to Bonus Question and Guide to Some Features of a Standard US English Accent

Transcript of the video (12:28-12:54)

Key - Some features of a Standard American English accent:

Red text	**'Flapping': 't' sounds sound like a 'd' sound when they are between a stressed and unstressed vowel** This is a classic feature of US accents. Between a stressed and unstressed vowel, the tongue lightly taps the top of the mouth where a 't' sound is made. This produces a very quick 'd' sound. One classic example is 'water = waader'.
Bold Text	**All 'r' sounds are pronounced fully in US English** Unlike many other forms of English, US English is known as a 'rhotic' accent, which means all 'r's are pronounced in all positions. This is one of the clearest differences between US English and most other forms of British English, Australian English and New Zealand English. This can potentially make US English seem slightly clearer than many other English accents.
Small text	'filler' words such as 'are / to / a / can / of / for / from' are sometimes reduced to very quick sounds which are hard to hear. Each of these words contains some form of 'schwa' sound, which is a kind of lazy 'uh' sound. This occurs in all accents, including US accents. This general reduction of smaller words is also used in formal and professional settings, and it is in fact essential in maintaining the natural rhythm of the English language.
Grey text	The real transcript of the video

Now, $_{the}$ beau**d**y $_{v}$ linguistic di**v**er**s**i**d**y is that...it reveals to us just how ingenious and how flexible $_{the}$
Now, the beauty of linguistic diversity is that...it reveals to us just how ingenious and how flexible the

human mind is. Human minds $_{ev}$ invented not one cogni**d**ive unive**r**se, but seven thousand...
human mind is. Human minds have invented not one cognitive universe, but seven thousand...

seven thousand languages spoken around $_{the}$ wo**r**ld. An we $_{cn}$ create many mo**re** -- languages $_{v}$
seven thousand languages spoken around the world. And we can create many more -- languages, of

cou**r**se, a**re** living things, things $_{tht}$ we $_{cn}$ hone $_{n}$ change $_{te}$ sui**d** ou**r** needs.
course, are living things, things that we can hone and change to suit our needs.