In this paper I propose that the neural basis of language can best be understood by the concept of \textit{neural multifunctionality}. Current research on the neurobiology of language calls for the incorporation of nonlinguistic functions into language models of the intact brain, reflecting a multifunctional perspective whereby a \textit{constant and dynamic interaction} exists among neural networks subserving cognitive, affective, and praxic functions with neural networks specialized for lexical retrieval, sentence comprehension, and discourse processing, giving rise to language as we know it. By way of example, this paper will consider the effects of executive system functions on aspects of semantic processing. The argument in this paper relates not only to the role of neural plasticity within the intact brain but also to inter-individual variability, and, in particular, to the realm of language recovery from aphasia and the influence of nonlinguistic factors in reshaping neural circuitry for aphasia rehabilitation.

[Note: The concept of Neural Multifunctionality is being developed in collaboration with Professor Dalia Cahana-Amitay.]
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