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THE HUMAN LANGUAGE AS A TOOL OF LIE

The paper considers the process of formation of the human language, its necessity and its evolution.

The problem of language is analyzed in the context of the evolution theory as a whole. The paper deals with such questions as: “Why has man developed a sophisticated language?”, “What a living creature could use best endeavors to form a thing, which was to be used in thousands of years?” No universal answers have been given to these questions till now.

The problem of human language is studied in the context of the definition “civilization” on the basis of Darwin’s theory. The author defines civilization as “*survival of the unfit*”. Some arguments of J. Bronowski, A.M.S. McMahon, A. Leroi-Gourhan and others are analyzed.

The author supposes that language was invented by the men to describe their heroic deeds for the women in order to be selected by them for reproduction. And as civilization is survival of the weak, language was invented for the weak men to describe their fictitious “heroic” deeds. In other words, language became a selection criterion together with beauty and presents.

So through the language the male lied to point out himself as a hero. But every new lie had to be expressed by something old and well-known. So the process of unconscious creation of language was: more lies – a more sophisticated language; more sophisticated language – more lies.

Yet what was the first picture from which the above process started? What did the male have to describe to the woman? Only his body presented first picture. In all languages the greatest part of phrases we use to mark the inanimate objects are taken from the names of the human body.

The real entropy of a well-developed language increases in the course of time but its maximum entropy increases faster by capturing new words. Further, in the course of time, language will move away more and more from death. Yet the language cannot increase forever, in other words, the language’s entropy decreases. In a particular moment it will reach of the smallest entropy and from there the entropy will increase until it exceeds a ultimate level and the death; so the destruction will come. At the moment of the smallest entropy language will disappear and new languages will be created, and the circumrotation will go on. This is valid for every “living” phenomenon. Every living phenomenon “dives” in entropy increasing its entropy. These “divings” constitute the evolution (see fig.1).

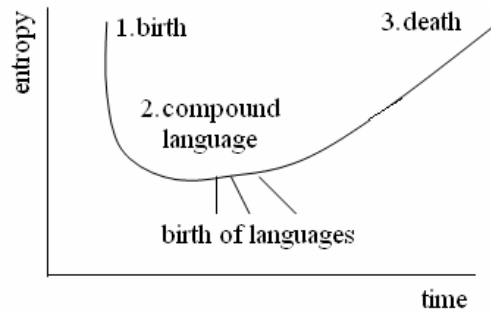


Figure 1. The process of the language evolution

The language evolution (fig.1) is:

Point 1: Birth of the language.

The language was born from the song when it reached the point of its smallest entropy.

Line 1 – 2: Life of the language.

During the life the language entropy decreases, i.e. the complexity and the language organization, the grammar and the syntax increase.

Point 2: The birth of other languages.

In this point the language has reached its smallest possible entropy. This is the point where the language by splitting gives birth to other languages.

Line 2-3: Ageing of the language.

In the process of ageing the language entropy increases, that is the language becomes simpler as a structure and system.

Point 3: Death of the language.

The language reaches the point of the greatest entropy that is to the full disorganization and disappears inevitably.

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I quote the response of EVOLANG 8

Dear Constantinos Maritsas, NO

We regret to inform you that your paper entitled "THE HUMAN LANGUAGE AS A TOOL OF LIE" has not been accepted for presentation at the Evolang 8 Conference. We received many good submissions, but due to space requirements, we are unable to accept all those we might like to have.

Please find below the referees' reports on your submission, which we hope you will find useful.

Thank you for your submission to, and interest in Evolang 8.

Evolang 8 programme committee.

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Reviewer: 1

Recommendation : Strong Reject

Summary: The author mentions sexual selection, lying and entropy in relation to language evolution.

Details: The author's English is so poor as to be often incomprehensible. An example is his opening question: "What a living creature could use best endeavors to form a thing, which was to be used in thousands of years?"

The idea that courtship, i.e. sexual selection, is at the root of language evolution is not implausible but it is also not new: see Geoffrey Miller *The Mating Mind*, which the author does not cite.

Also, the ease with which language can be used for lying, and the consequent paradox (what selective advantage is there in a vehicle that lends itself to untrustworthy signalling?) has

been much discussed, especially by Chris Knight and Camilla Power. The idea of 'Machiavellian intelligence' in other primates (A. Byrne and R.W. Whiten) is also relevant. However, the author mentions none of this work. I cannot understand the author's remarks about 'entropy' and 'the death of language'. Is he suggesting that, in a speech community whose language is 'dying', everyone eventually becomes mute? If not, what does he mean?

My answer:

I did not mention sexual selection! The meaning of entropy is taught in high school. About 'the death of language': Ancient Greek and Latin language die, but we still talk. And I explain this fact.

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Reviewer: 2

Recommendation : Strong Reject

Summary: Language was invented by weak civilized men to tell lies to women about their fictitious 'heroic' deeds.

Details: This paper consists entirely of speculation, without any empirical data. It shows no awareness of current debates or recent theoretical developments. There is no proper referencing. The argument proceeds exclusively through assertion. The argument is not convincing. A paper of this kind would not contribute usefully to the conference.

My answer:

"This paper consists entirely of speculation..." This is not paper, this is only an abstract!

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Reviewer: 3

Recommendation : Reject

Summary: This line of argument may add an interesting insight for the study of language evolution.

Details: The problem of the paper is the basic argument supporting the author's claim is too weak, and vague. In this regard, abstract may be too short.

I do not deny the potential value of the author's theory. However, unless some experiments (e.g., computer simulations) are given, the argument is all too speculative.

My answer:

Thanks. I tried in the abstract to mention only the results of my thoughts. In the paper I would present the entire analysis. But... Why "Reject"?

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Reviewer: 4

Recommendation : Reject

Summary: This submission reads as just another "just so" story of language origins. The hypothesis that language arose in order for males to lie about their abilities in order to attract females is similar in some respects to sexual selection theory. However, that theory is not mentioned. Nor is any logical or scientific argument given that would support this idea to the exclusion of the numerous other "just so" stories that have been proposed. It is difficult to see what other conference participants which actually learn from this presentation.

Details:

My answer:

I did not mention sexual selection! To lie is not sexual selection. To lie is the basis of the civilization!