

Could the Origin of Language Have Evolved?

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Introduction

My purpose in this paper is not to prove or disprove the possibility of language having originally evolved in human beings. Rather I am going to examine a small segment of the literature and the current arguments, and then make a reasonable assumption about the origin of human language.

The Creation Position

I will begin with a short, brief look at the Judeo-Christian position on the origin of language, that is what the creation position states. Of course, it does not actually state anywhere in Holy Scripture how God put language into human beings. God created Adam, and then Eve and others to follow, as presumably adults (As a baby created out of the dust of the earth, God would have had to raise Adam and teach him everything, including language). We are not told what this language was that Adam spoke, but we know that he and God communicated. Adam was made the superintendent of the garden. God brought the created animals before Adam, and Adam gave them names. It is reasonably assumed that Adam named them as species and not as personal friends. Lions became lions, and not as Louie the lion and Beth the lioness. Adam the first created human being came ready set as an adult with a language system already built in. Otherwise he would not have been able to understand or communicate with God. Tore Janson, includes the story of God and Adam on page three and following of his book, *The History of Languages*. Janson believes it to be myth, but he notes it as remarkable because language was regarded by the author of Genesis as already existing. In fact, the first utterance was by God in the first chapter, third verse of Genesis; “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light (The New International Version, Genesis 1:3). It is stated, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (The New International Version, Genesis 1:1). His creative activity was done by speaking it into existence. The Judea-Christian position is that language already existed in God as he created us in his image, along with everything else.

Of course, even before Darwin this was being challenged by the New Enlightenment period of humanity. But, until this 'new' enlightenment, the Judeo-Christian position was long established and made so much sense that few openly challenged it. Johann Herder in 1772 was one of the enlightened ones who did challenge it, before Darwin arose.

At this point I would like to point out that I am looking at the origin of language as having evolved or not, and not at the commonly referred to terminology, 'the evolution of language.' It is naturally recognized that language evolves constantly over the ages. I like to think of it as the growth of languages with changes and adaptations and even adoptions to meet the needs of its users. But, we are interested in the original origin of language. Could it have evolved the way the material human is said to have evolved? Did language occur with the evolution of the brain? What about the evolution of thought, which is not physical at all. How did that happen?

What is Language?

Before determining if language could have originally evolved we need to look at what it is that constitutes language. For this paper we will use language proper as the topic of discussion and not the term linguistics, even though linguistics is the field of study of languages. Aitchison writes, "All languages are surprisingly similar in their basic structure..." (Aitchison p. 3). So can we list some common properties of language the world over? Wherever there are people, there is language. Linguistically, even the most primitive languages are quite complex. There has never been found in the world, 'a primitive language,' or first language. I'll talk about 'proto-language' later in this paper. In language, sounds and meanings of language elements are arbitrary, but are always fixed by the rules and conventions of the particular language. Every language has a unique grammatical structure which describes the rules for constructing words and sentences. In this sense language has very common properties, giving rise to the idea of an original language that arose in some person/s. Human languages are able to convey an unlimited number of meanings and contents. While languages could be considered 'fixed' in the sense of grammatical rules and structures, it is possible to utter a sentence never before heard by anyone, and yet be understood by the listener. This is in contrast to 'animal' languages.

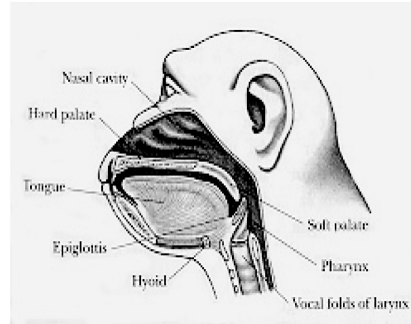
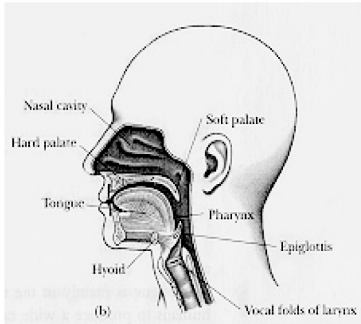
Noam Chomsky defines language as this, "Henceforth, I will understand language to comprise a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each of which is finite in length and consists of a finite set of elements" (2 Gitt p. 210). The basics of language I think we all understand. However, to answer the original question of this paper, we will have to delve even deeper and look at the ideas of purpose, intent, volition and action as part of language development. Even deeper yet are the codes and information that enable one to fulfill purpose, intent, volition and action in language. Simply put, language would not have evolved originally just so that someone could hear himself talk.

What is Speech?

Isn't speech the oral element of language? It is, but what makes speech possible? The physical anatomical structures in the human body are necessary for speech. The shape of the L-shaped

vocal tract and a larynx positioned low in the neck are necessary prerequisites for many of the sounds humans make, especially vowel sounds (wikipedia.org) (home.clear.net.nz).

Here are two illustrations, a human on the left and a chimpanzee on the right (home.clear.net.nz).



Note that both carry all the speech anatomy parts necessary. However, the human tongue is curved while the chimp's tongue is flat. The human head is 90° vertical to the body for the human. For the chimp, the head is less than 90° to the body. The human has a low epiglottis and larynx while the chimp has a high epiglottis and larynx. The human has precise muscle control of the active articulators and the breathing, while chimpanzees have yet to make human speech with their very little control of active articulators and breathing. But, is this the only reason why chimpanzees do not have human speech? One thing seems reasonable to me is that human speech and non-human speech in humans versus animals probably can't be used to argue for or against the origin of language. It is simply too complex a subject, and so little is known about the time of the origin of the first human speaker. However, if origin of language did evolve, it leaves serious questions about why all the other primates got so far left behind. I'll discuss more later in *Animal language / human language*.

Written Language

Is there anything in human written language which can shed light on our topic? Janson writes, "We can be absolutely certain that human languages have existed for at least 5,000 years, since this is the approximate age of the first surviving written texts." The Egyptian and Sumerian languages have nearly the same general properties as those spoken today. It is assumed that spoken language existed before written language. But, how long it existed before 3,000 BC is very difficult to speculate about. In my reading of the literature, I've encountered 30,000 years ago to 100,000 years ago. Several have suggested 2.3 million years ago with the advent of *Homo habilis*. There is however no certainty of this, and in my opinion it is just pure guesswork. 30,000 years ago has been suggested because of the dating of inscribed tools, paintings, art, sculpture and engravings. But, the link is tenuous at best, because it is assumed that in order to be artful, the hominids at that time ought to have been able to think and talk about it. But, if there was written

language at that time, it has been lost to us. We only know that intelligent writing is about 5,000 years old. As far as I know there have not been found any written words written on cave walls that date before 3,000 BC. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but even a caption would help us in our quest to find how language originally evolved.

Evolution's Position of Language Development

In *How stuff works* we are told that the secret to how language evolved is still not known (howstuffworks.com/). They believe absolutely that language evolved originally, but they do not know how it happened. There are many theories, but in general they can be divided into two camps. The first is through natural selection using evolutionary adaptation. They like the idea of humans undergoing a process over time in order to better survive. In language this was accomplished through the need to communicate with each other in order to hunt, farm, defend themselves, talk about where to lay a fire, etc. The second part was that humans needed to develop language for social interaction (“Hey babe, how about coming to my cave tonight for a little interaction,” as opposed to just dragging her by the hair). The problem with this theory is that it doesn't explain how language originated, or how the ‘lucky humans’ evolved their language while their less evolved cousins still ended up with a language that helps them to hunt, defend themselves, and grab a mate when the time is ripe. The long stories about how the ‘lucky humans’ managed it are basically fiction stories for children. There is no explanation about how grunts and growls turned into words. Biologically, we can't just turn on new genes to help us to grow a language. Evolutionists suggest a mutation that took and held, thereby enabling the possibility for growth of language. But again, when and where this happened, not to mention how, is unknown. Mutations with a very rare positive result always disappear after another generation or two has been born. One would need to recognize a positive mutation immediately and enable it gene-wise to remain and grow throughout the group. However, evolution is not designed-oriented in this manner. Empirical evidence is lacking. In fact many scholars regard the whole topic as unsuitable for serious study (Wikipedia). In 1866, the Linguistic society of Paris banned all debates on how language originally evolved. There is a second theory developed about how language originally evolved. This was posed by Noam Chomsky and Stephen Jay Gould based mainly on Darwin's work, but Huxley and others as well. Essentially, language evolved as a result of other evolutionary processes, making language a byproduct of evolution, and not as a specific adaptation. Language and many other human behaviors are due to the result of spandrels. These spandrels came about through a process Darwin called ‘pre-adaptation.’ This process is now called exaptation (Wikipedia). This idea is that a species uses an adaptation for a purpose other than what it was original meant for. Birds developed feathers to keep warm in the winter and discovered they could fly with them. The physical structure of the human brain increased, thus eventually enabling language to evolve. But, does this help us to understand how language originally evolved? Actually birds' mechanisms for flight are far more complex and linked than just growing feathers. In fact, the whole flight system of any bird has to be in place in order for even a practice takeoff to happen. And how did the brain size and capacity start to increase? If we are to

believe that selection and adaption and even mutation could launch such complex systems, we need more evidence in this area.

Darwin

Very little is laid out about the origin of language in Darwin's first book, *On The Origin of Species*. I've touched on natural selection above and its weaknesses. The opponents to Darwin and his theories focused heavily on the notion of language, mind and thought as being non-material and therefore outside the realm of evolution. The Catholic position was that while the body could evolve (and God used this method for the body, so they say), the soul and mind could not evolve (Fitch). So Darwin worked on his theories in *The Descent of Man*. He put into it a 10 page chapter titled, *Language*. He also wrote another chapter, *Comparison of the mental powers of man and the lower animals*, that is useful for our discussion. He brought out the similarities in the emotions, memory traits, perception skills of humans with animals, particularly primates. I will delve into this later in the paper. Darwin made a distinction between the evolution of the language faculty and the evolution of a particular language (Fitch). He felt that the first step in language evolution was the increase in intelligence of beings who started to walk upright. Darwin feels the first proto-language was musical. In the chapter titled 'Language' he laid out a three-stage theory. To understand it, "we need to consider the non-intuitive notion that the generative aspect of phonology might have emerged before it was put to any meaningful use" (Fitch p. 471). Could animal language calls have developed into articulate human speech? It seems to me that the physical apparatus in one advanced evolutionary group had to have already developed for human speech, as they were listening to their primate brethren who were still grunting and barking. This seems far-fetched. Darwin's most impressive thought is expressed, "It is not the mere power of articulation that distinguishes man from other animals, for as everyone knows, parrots can talk; but it is his large power of connecting definite sounds with definite ideas, and this obviously depends on the development of the mental faculties" (p. 54). Darwin is referring to the development of the brain and not the vocal tract. Having it occurred over eons of time, does not give me any confidence that this explains the origin of the human language. The first stage involves the greater development of proto-human cognition in the more cognitively advanced hominids. This is a huge jump from the surrounding cousins whose cognition ability has kept them from ever developing human language. The second stage is the evolution of vocal imitation used mainly in singing, that is the musical proto-language. Darwin speaks of sexual selection as being critical in this stage of language evolution. Then with this, the onset of signs and gestures, articulate language developed. This led to expressive imitations and even to development of words. Fitch writes, "lexical protolanguage could provide a scaffolding for complex syntax, derived from pre-existing conceptual primitives, and we saw how gesturally supported protolanguage could provide one route to open-ended reference via iconic, intentional pantomime" (Fitch p. 466). Fitch does admit that these models have major difficulties explaining human phonological competence.

Other Theories

Wired Science suggests that language has evolved along varied, complicated paths, guided less by neurological settings than cultural circumstance (wiredscience). That is, the mind is simply not a computer with a language processor plugged in. It is shaped by culture and society, etc. This gives room for Darwin's theory of the development of language faculty. There must still be the basic origin of something hard-wired in the brain, that enables language to develop, and develop rapidly. Otherwise, I feel all we would have would be great silverback gorillas singing their lungs out and their mates gesturing approval.

There are continuity theories put forth by professional linguists determined to get more concrete about the original evolution of language. The theories, "are based on the idea that language is so complex that one cannot imagine it simply appearing from nothing in its final form" (Wikipedia). Somehow language must have evolved from earlier pre-linguistic systems among our primate ancestors. But, that connection has yet to be made scientifically. Chimpanzees have a very close DNA to ours and a near physical apparatus to ours. There should be found intermediary primates who can be taught to speak. That would be proof. But, there have not been found to date any intermediaries to suggest such theories for language have validity.

Discontinuity theories claim that language is so unique a trait that it can't be compared to non-humans. This suggests that language appeared very suddenly during the course of evolution. This gets rid of the need for intermediary primates who are part-way to human communication. But it is just a theory, that even the Pre-Cambrian explosion of life all of a sudden in the fossil record, can't support.

There are some linguists like Ulbaek who hold that language did not evolve in the usual gradual way from primate communication, but evolved from primate cognition. Primates do have quite complex brains and thinking capacity (Wikipedia). There is the suggestion of gestural language on their part instead of vocal. Then as humans evolved their physical make-up which enabled them to sing, vocal language developed as a way of getting beyond just gestures and animal sounds. This is certainly Darwinian. However, the realistic evolutionists admit that the emergence of language is so far back in human prehistory, that relevant developments have left no traces, nor can any comparable processes be found today (Wikipedia).

Genetics

Perhaps there is something in the genetic codes. There is something called FOXP2, a possible language relevant gene which if found in extinct humans could provide us with some information. As far as I could discover it hasn't been done yet. No doubt decoding the human genome will take considerably more time, and language genes are probably at the bottom of the pecking order. In time however, further information may be gained. But, in order to be useful, this gene will have to be traced back in as many extinct groups as possible. Plus, it will need to be shown that the genes for language are the dominant reasons language exists (in other words, the mind, the human spirit and non-genetic material are of little relevance to the origin of language in human beings, until after a gene mutation had occurred). Chomsky, in favor of the discontinuity theory

argued such a mutation may have occurred about a 100,000 years ago. This triggered an “instantaneous emergence of the language faculty (a component of the mind-brain) in ‘perfect’ or ‘nearperfect’ form” (Wikipedia). So this means the human mind was already pre-set just waiting for time and change to catch up. Then when early humans were able to cognitively construct and process data effectively, they were able to utter meaningful speech. It is put like this: “The picture then, by loose analogy, is that the formation of the language faculty in humans is akin to the formation of a crystal; discrete infinity was the seed crystal in a super-saturated primate brain, on the verge of blossoming into the human mind, by physical law, once a small, but crucial key stone was added by evolution” (Wikipedia).

I can envision an auditorium full of people jumping to their feet and cheering wildly once this statement had been emphatically and emotionally expressed by Chomsky. While I am not fit to tie Chomsky’s linguistic shoelaces, I’d still raise my hand to ask questions about the reality and possibility of such a scenario. It sounds great as long as one doesn’t delve into it too deeply.

Proto Languages

Linguistic monogenesis is the hypothesis that there was a single proto-language, from which all other vocal languages spoken by humans descended. The opposite is the multi-regional hypothesis which states that modern language evolved independently on the main continents of the world. This last hypothesis is very implausible according to modern linguistic research, as the rules of language while they vary, all exhibit common traits. However, proto-language by itself supports the idea that the very language God spoke with Adam would be considered the original language. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the term protolanguage was used mostly about the origins of the modern languages (e.g. The Germanic languages developed from Germanic substratum etc.). So a distinction could be made from proto-language to pre-language in original development. Hence a Pre-proto-language would be the most original and likely source of all languages. This then would be what evolved into the proto-language leading to the modern languages. However such a language has never been found or proven to have existed. The attempt to investigate the languages of the most pre-historic tribes from Papua New Guinea and the Amazon basin, has shown not simplicity but remarkable complexity in their languages. There is nothing protoish about the languages of the most primitive peoples on earth.

As discussed earlier, Darwin opted for a musical proto-language or pre-language which could have developed into modern language. But again this is hard to trace without any actual evidence. If singing and gesturing can develop into speech with the primates, then the work with sign language and such needs to continue for thousands of years with gorillas and chimpanzees. If it proves fruitful over the long haul, then the theory of the original evolution of language would have support.

Unique Examples of Language Acquisition

Can the examples of language acquisition by some unique individuals provide any clues as to the origin of languages? In 1828, a shoemaker in Germany encountered a young German man

waddling like a duck, and saying, “I want to be a horseman like my father” (Fitch p. 73). It turns out this young man, Kaspar Hauser, had been confined in a dark dungeon in a windowless room with absolutely no social contact. Eventually, he was released toward town, and the tenders vanished. A scholar in the town Georg Daumer taught Kaspar the basics of language. Kaspar could not speak any language (apparently he parroted the only phrase he knew), and could not feed or dress himself. However Kaspar was intelligent, perceptive and a fast learner. This was how his story came out later. His language ability never rivaled that of other Germans of the same age. Other ‘wild children’ include Genie and John Ssebunya. Genie was also isolated and even beaten if she said anything. She was unable even to get to Kaspar’s low level of linguistic competence. John Ssebunya ran away as a three-year old in Uganda after seeing his mother murdered and lived with vervet monkeys for three years. He was adept at imitating monkey calls of alarm and imitating bird calls, but neither cried nor spoke any language. Eventually he learned to speak fluent Hutu and French.

So what do these stories illustrate? What clues about human language acquisition can we gather from these tragic stories? Most importantly, it seems that language does not spontaneously develop in humans. It would seem we are born with a biological capacity to acquire language, but need external input to a considerable degree in order to develop it. Linguists, feel all these examples of children and adults who were cut off from any opportunity to develop language acquisition reveal a much larger capacity in children to learn a language, than there is in adults. Cut-off adults progressed very little in acquiring a language. “Unlike many instinctual behaviors among animals, the human instinct to acquire language is necessary but not sufficient: without the input of a spoken or signed language, a human child will not invent its own language” (Fitch p. 74). As adults the ability to create a language lessens. It is obvious social input is necessary. It is the same in the mammal, animal world. The young will not develop a language on their own. There are many examples. But it seems humans are the most unique and unusual among the primates. So, could a group have developed independent of others, with the larger cognitive capacities already developed, physical speech tools embedded, and with a capacity to input their own language to each other, on an entirely new level? Could all of these have developed at the same time, not realizing they needed to be developed and ready to go? Plus, they also needed to have intelligent input from necessary outside sources. Is it possible in sub-human species or proto-human species? The great Evolutionary mantra is, ‘with enough time anything is possible.’ However in my opinion, it is extremely unlikely to ever have happened by evolution. And I believe it is impossible that having once happened by chance, that it could have sustained itself long enough to have developed into the language we have today.

Against Original Evolution of Language

One of the prime arguments against the original evolution of language, is that language is non-material. That is, it is not made up of physical properties. This is a short paper and so we can’t pursue this avenue of thought. But, it is an entirely separate area of ‘evolutionary’ development that must be addressed if we are to discover how language came about. Thought, self-

awareness, the human spirit, the soul, intuition, feelings, and knowledge are necessary in a discussion of how language originally developed.

Information

A relatively new field developed to help understand this other side of humanity and even the sciences, is Informatics, or Information. In the field of information scientists are concerned with laws of nature, laws of physics, and such. Areas like Math are obviously made up of information. Biology, chemistry and the physical sciences are all made up of information. Out of these, laws of information can be made about the respective areas of humanity and science. Information underlies models, theories, hypotheses, paradigms and speculations. Even fiction is made up of information. Jean Cocteau once wrote, "The greatest literary work of art is basically nothing but a scrambled alphabet" (Gitt ITB p. 51). It is information that makes a work of literary art, a classic example of humanity. Information is what also distinguishes our language from an incomprehensible pile of babble. Information is not a physical entity. But, it is used to describe physical properties of material. It also describes the mental properties operating in the world. Speakers of languages are generally unaware of all the rules that guide the use of their language (information). But, even without this knowledge, speakers are very fluent and generally accurate in their language usage.

At the present time there are some 5,100 languages and dialects being spoken in the world today. How many languages have already become extinct in just the last 7,000 years? (Gitt ITB) Only about 100 languages are spoken by at least one million or more people each. Two-thirds of the present world population use only five languages: Mandarin Chinese, Hindustani, English, Spanish and Russian. Considering the complexity and information of all these languages, I can't see discounting an original designer and creator of all these languages and ideas.

Animal Language/Human Language

If we regard language as a system whereby certain sounds, gestures and movements convey particular meanings, then the animal kingdom does indeed have a language. The birds and the bees, wolves, dolphins, cicadas and primates all can effectively communicate with their own kind.

Creativity

As far as I am aware of, animals have never been able to communicate with other animals. In fact, even by using sign language I have heard that one chimpanzee cannot sign information about another chimpanzee's wants and wishes to a human being. (Crichton) The creativity that is inherent in human beings' language and thought has never crossed over into animals. So it begs the question, how did it cross over from animals to humans in the first place so long ago? The communication skills of animals are fixed and limited. But, humans can use ideas and thoughts expressed into words to convey any meaning they wish.

Voluntary conventions

Humans not only can learn other languages, but can arbitrarily create new words and sentences, concepts, etc., in their own language to convey meaning. The word ‘facebook’ would have been incomprehensible twenty years ago. But, now most people in the world are aware of its meaning and the mental images it brings up when they hear the word. If I wanted to create a brand new word that expressed the feeling and idea of how difficult it is to type with just four fingers, I could. The word ‘typonitus’ would suffice as long as people around me would voluntarily agree to the meaning, and Merriam-Webster might even confirm it one day in their dictionary. In the animal kingdom meanings must be fixed. They cannot use a bark that means come home, to suddenly mean its time to head for the coast. It would be fascinating to see how an animal language evolves. It would be impossible it seems to me to create barks, grunts and woof-woofs to create new concepts and commands.

Comprehensiveness

The number of thoughts that can be expressed by a human being is unlimited. New words and phrases can be coined or borrowed from another language to convey meaning. Human language even with all its rules can be very flexible. Animal language by necessity must be fixed by what has been passed down and learned. They might be able to create a new concept once in a while to meet the demands of something new (e.g. humans moving into their territory), but essentially it is a set language, and quite small. If we think along the lines of transmission, animals probably use stimuli like, fear, warning, desire to mate, quest for food to set a language, gesture or movement (Gitt ITB). Humans on the other hand can create a whole meaningful language based on basically nothing of importance, but a desire to just communicate and chit-chat.

Some animal languages can be quite elaborate like the bee dance. A bee having discovered a new and plentiful source of food can transmit this information to other bees. The bees use body movement to do this. It is quite complex. The sending bee can adjust motions of gyration slow or fast to indicate distance, direction, and even the kind of flower. Yet, the recipient bees must simply follow directions. I’m sure they can’t ask if it is worth the distance, or if the honey is of better quality over there than over here which is closer, and what about hummingbirds, and is it too near children playing games, etc. Humans absolutely need to do this, and we do it with language.

Wolves use not only howling, barking and yipping, but use their eyes, lips and noses and tails to communicate. Zoologists feel they can convey emotion as well as reactions to stimuli. But, again even if the classifications are in the thousands, they are still limited in what meaning they can offer. It is the same with primates, even when teaching them sign language, the set is limited. But it does seem to be enough for them to get along as a species. And if it is enough for them now, why wasn’t it sufficient for them thousands of years ago, when supposedly one group grunted it was not enough, we need to develop further, besides my brain is growing and I need to express myself.

Parrots are an interesting example of using speech with no intended meaning conveyed except

perhaps a Pavlovian response to get some food. If you teach them to say “good morning,” even teaching them to do it at sunrise, doesn’t mean they are conveying the meaning that goes with it. “My name is Polly,” probably doesn’t mean it wants you to know its name. In fact, they need constant repetition of a human phrase in order to be able to utter it. What a parrot actually thinks is not conveyed by what it says.

Conclusion

In the introduction I said I did not want to prove or disprove the possibility of language having originally evolved, the way humans are thought to have evolved. If I had a 1,000 page book and could really dress out the topic and discuss all the ideas and possibilities, I still could not prove or disprove such a theory. There is simply no way to follow all the threads of all the theories back into human pre-history. There is simply too much we do not know to actually say for certain that language originally evolved. On the other hand, a reasonable assumption can be made.

Evolution to be totally honest does not really have a definitive theory on how language originally evolved. Natural selection using adaptation needs a solid picking ground from which to choose a path that would make human language a possibility. The fact that most scientists firmly believe that humans evolved, means that human language had to have originally evolved. This is adding on a task that is in my opinion, impossible to prove. It is assumed that humans evolved. In fact, many believers in evolution will become combatant if they encounter a creationist position which believes the opposite. But, once one is certain that humans evolved, then any discussion of a topic such as the one in this paper is already decided. We evolved, therefore language evolved, period, end of story. The only task left is to figure out how language originally evolved. So Darwin and Chomsky’s theory of a mutation and sudden cognitive increase in a short span are really appealing. The fun loving, singing group of advanced primates suddenly imbued with language ability, catalog everything mentally, pass it down orally and keep it going through ice-ages and battles with competing primates. The problem is we need undeniable proof. This we can’t produce with evolution or even creationism. However, if there is not proof of evidence, then there should be circumstantial evidence that makes sense to the modern mind.

Evolution assumes humans evolved. This means that all that makes up a human being had to have evolved. It makes sense that humans could go from making stone tools to making tools of iron. The iron has always been present like the stone, and would just need to be developed. Developing fire makes sense, as lightning causes fire. Eventually the ability to make sparks would have to happen. The wheel would be easy enough to make. And so it makes sense down to the present of humankind, that we can evolve things that are present already. Technology makes use of possibilities that at least exist on earth. How we made light waves, sound waves and such into modern conveniences are ingenious, but not impossible. Our mental conscious side can work wonderful miracles by using, adapting and creating. But this consciousness had to have an origin.

But can we assume that what we are as humans materially and spiritually also came from elements that exist on earth? Actually Creationism says that God made Adam out of the dust of

the earth. Throw in lots of water and all the physical elements were present. Evolution agrees with this as well. The theory of human evolution demands that humans evolved from material and chemicals on earth. But, where did the physical material come from originally? And where did all the mental stuff, the spiritual stuff that makes us human, and of which language is a major part, come from?

We need more than just vague theories about how it might have happened. Or at least I need more than just theories.

Our own human history shows that all developments that have come down through modern time have creative activity and design behind them. From written language, ideas of agriculture and social development, to discovery and growth of all sciences, design and creative thoughts and ideas have brought it about. But from where did ideas, and creativity come from? It is not just language that had to evolve, but the idea of language, the possibility of expressing what we see mentally also had to evolve. Could this just all have evolved from material and chemical elements that blasted out of a super cube of immense density?

The French linguists were probably correct when they said, “forget it.” Why worry about the extreme difficulty of tracing the origin of language, when we already speak it. Somehow, and in some way language came about, and so now let’s discuss the intricacies of that language.

Evolutionists will always believe language originally evolved along with everything else in the human. Creationists will always marvel at such a gift of language from a creator, so why quibble about it. But, it has been enjoyable to at least take a brief look at the theories and ideas.

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