

The Miracles of Human Language

Dr. Aditi Goyal, Geetika Sood, Dr. Monika Negi

Assistant Professor Chandigarh University
Research Scholar (English) Chandigarh University, Mohali, Punjab
Associate Professor University Institute of Legal Studies Panjab University Regional Centre Hoshiarpur

ABSTRACT

Language plays a significant role in one's life. Everyone uses language everywhere and one cannot imagine society without language. The present paper has been compiled with regard to overview the three properties of language: Discrete infinity, Displacement and joint attention. The miracles of human language have many facets which has astonished humans since the threshold of the civilization. Adopting the Linguistics framework, the different case studies enlighten and unfold the miracles of human language in diverse fields in the context of phonological and morphological structures. Human language has a beauty to think and communicate about future, universe or any abstract notion. The question is not about how the human language has developed, but the question is about how human species have potential of using this language other than animal species. The exploratory paper is based on different case studies used as a tool for analysis which highlights the need and issues in Language. A case is used for a clear understanding about how to best proceed in addressing the problems in language. In addition to this, how music plays a significant role coupled with human language has also been studied and analysed with a different perspective.

KEYWORDS: Language, Miracles, Human, Brain, Education, Learning, Teaching.

INTRODUCTION

The human language is one of the most beautiful gifts endowed to human species by the Almighty that has been developed over the time. Linguistics ability is what makes humans different from other species. Today, the question is not about how the human language has developed, but the question is about how human species have potential of using this language other than animal species. Thus, this burgeoning phenomenon has given birth to an astounding system of communication which has created miracles in the world. Human language has made prodigious advancement in the expression of thoughts which can be explicit in an indefinite number of connotations. For instance, humans can talk about present, past and future. However, animals can exhibit only the present or past situation. The same view has been beautifully quoted by Ray Jakendoff in his article "How Did the Language Begin", "Every human language has a vocabulary of tens of thousands of words, built up from several dozen speech sounds...."

Thus, language is a dynamic cultural phenomenon which changes step by step after an ephemeral period of time due to certain reasons. In the beginning, it was difficult to trace the evidence of spoken language as it doesn't leave any clue to tell us the functioning of human brains which is possible now with the help of science and technology. With the progress in science and technology, it has become quite easy to find out the reason for how two languages coded in one brain now. George Yule and Elizabethan Alhsen delve into the connection between the brain and language such as localism and Associationism, there are diversified views regarding this conception. There are differing opinions on the relationship between the brain and language that George Yule and Elizabethan Alhsen explore through concepts like localism and associationism. They both go over and define where the various languages are located in the brain. On the other hand, associationism describes how the brain relates language with concepts. Furthermore, the Holistic theory explores how language is manipulated by regions of the brain that are inclusive in nature. Evolutionary theories intermediate on the parallel relationship between language and the brain that advances across a range of animals, how they develop in children, and how language functions in the brain of adults. So, to sum up, we can state that these different theories define the place of the functioning of language in the brain. An incident mentioned by Yule in his book the Study of Language: An Introduction to the Language.

Thus, it has been apparently stated that the position of the language in the brain is not at the front part. The location of language functions in the brain has been determined by means of empirical investigations and brain autopsies of individuals with various language disorders. The individual will undoubtedly experience language impairments if that specific area is compromised. Thus, neurosurgeons were able to find out the location of language skills in the brain in both healthy individuals and individuals with language impairments. In terms of linguistic capacities, the brain is essentially divided into three primary areas:

A. BROCA'S AREA

Broca's area is a region of the brain located in the left hemisphere, specifically in the frontal lobe, typically in the posterior part of the inferior frontal gyrus. It was named after French physician and anatomist Paul Broca, who first identified its importance in language production in the mid-19th century.

Broca's area is primarily associated with the production of speech and language processing. It plays a crucial role in the planning, coordination, and execution of speech movements, as well as in the grammatical aspects of language production, such as syntax and morphology. Damage or lesions to Broca's area can result in a condition known as Broca's aphasia or expressive aphasia. Individuals with Broca's aphasia typically have difficulty producing coherent speech, despite largely preserved comprehension of language. Their speech may be slow, effortful, and telegraphic, with short phrases and limited grammatical structure. Beyond language production, Broca's area also plays a role in various non-linguistic functions, such as motor planning, working memory, and social cognition. Its interconnectedness with other brain regions, particularly those involved in language comprehension (such as Wernicke's area) and motor control, underscores its importance in the broader network of brain functions related to communication and cognition.

WERNICKE'S AREA

Wernicke's area is another crucial region of the brain associated with language processing, particularly in understanding and comprehending language. It is typically located in the left hemisphere of the brain, in the posterior part of the superior temporal gyrus, which is near the auditory cortex. This area was named after the German neurologist Carl Wernicke, who identified its significance in language comprehension during the late 19th century.

The main function of Wernicke's area is to interpret and assign meaning to auditory information, including spoken language. It integrates auditory input with stored language knowledge, allowing individuals to understand words, sentences, and the overall meaning of spoken language.

Damage or lesions to Wernicke's area can result in a condition known as Wernicke's aphasia or receptive aphasia. Individuals with Wernicke's aphasia typically exhibit fluent but nonsensical speech, characterized by word substitutions, neologisms (invented words), and impaired comprehension of language. They may speak in long, grammatically correct sentences that lack coherence or relevance to the conversation.

Wernicke's area is interconnected with other regions of the brain involved in language processing, such as Broca's area for speech production, and various association areas responsible for semantic processing, memory, and attention. This interconnected network facilitates the complex processes involved in language comprehension and production.

So, Wernicke's area is a critical brain region for language comprehension, playing a key role in understanding spoken language and assigning meaning to auditory information. Its function is essential for fluent communication and effective interaction with the surrounding environment.

C. SUPPLEMENTING MOTOR AREA

The "supplementary motor area" (SMA) is a region of the brain's cerebral cortex that is involved in the planning and coordination of movements, particularly complex or sequential movements. It is located in the

frontal lobe, near the primary motor cortex.

Here are some key points about the supplementary motor area (SMA):

Motor Planning: The SMA is primarily responsible for planning and organizing complex motor sequences, such as those involved in skilled movements or coordinated actions. It helps coordinate the timing and sequencing of muscle contractions necessary for executing movements.

Bilateral Representation: Unlike the primary motor cortex, which primarily controls movements on the opposite side of the body, the SMA often has bilateral representations. This means that it can influence movements on both sides of the body, particularly for complex or coordinated actions involving both limbs.

Motor Learning: The SMA is also involved in motor learning processes, such as acquiring new motor skills or refining existing ones. It plays a role in the formation of motor memories and the consolidation of motor skills through practice and repetition.

Cognitive Functions: Beyond its role in motor control, the SMA is also implicated in various cognitive functions, including decision-making, attention, and working memory. It is interconnected with other brain regions involved in higher-order cognitive processes, suggesting a role in integrating motor actions with cognitive demands.

Connection with Other Brain Regions: The SMA is interconnected with several other brain regions involved in motor control and cognition, including the primary motor cortex, prefrontal cortex, basal ganglia, and cerebellum. These connections facilitate the coordination of motor actions and the integration of motor and cognitive processes.

Clinical Implications: Dysfunction or damage to the SMA can lead to motor impairments, particularly in the planning and execution of complex movements. Conditions such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, or neurodegenerative diseases may affect the SMA, resulting in difficulties with motor coordination and sequencing.

Overall, the supplementary motor area plays a crucial role in the planning and coordination of complex movements, integrating motor actions with cognitive processes to facilitate skilled and coordinated behavior.

Functional Specialization within the SMA: The SMA can be further divided into two distinct subregions: the pre-SMA and the SMA proper. The pre-SMA is thought to be more involved in higher-level motor planning and decision-making, while the SMA proper is more engaged in the execution and control of movements.

Role in Voluntary Movements: The SMA is particularly important for the initiation and execution of self-generated, voluntary movements. It is involved in the internal generation and preparation of movements, as opposed to the primary motor cortex, which is more engaged in the execution of movements in response to external stimuli or cues.

Involvement in Speech and Language: In addition to its role in motor control, the SMA has also been implicated in speech and language processing, particularly in the planning and sequencing of speech-related movements. Damage to the SMA can lead to speech and language disorders, such as speech apraxia.

Neuroimaging Findings: Neuroimaging studies, such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and positron emission tomography (PET), have consistently shown increased activity in the SMA during the planning and execution of complex, self-paced movements, as well as during the acquisition and performance of new motor skills.

Therapeutic Implications: Understanding the role of the SMA in motor control and learning has important implications for the rehabilitation of patients with motor disorders, such as those resulting from stroke, Parkinson's disease, or traumatic brain injury. Targeted interventions, such as motor skill training or

transcranial magnetic stimulation, may help to modulate SMA function and improve motor outcomes in these patients.

Overall, the supplementary motor area is a crucial component of the brain's motor control and coordination system, playing a central role in the planning, execution, and learning of complex movements. Its functional specialization, connections with other brain regions, and involvement in various cognitive and language-related processes underscore the importance of this brain region in the integration of motor and higher-order cognitive functions.

Languages in the World

There are approximately 7,000 languages spoken in the world today, although this number can vary depending on how languages and dialects are classified. These languages belong to different language families, with some of the most prominent families including:

- Indo-European (includes languages like English, Spanish, Hindi, Russian, French, German, Italian, etc.)
- Sino-Tibetan (includes languages like Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese, Tibetan, etc.)
- Afro-Asiatic (includes languages like Arabic, Hebrew, Amharic, Hausa, etc.)
- Niger-Congo (includes languages like Swahili, Yoruba, Zulu, Igbo, etc.)
- Austronesian (includes languages like Malay, Indonesian, Tagalog, Hawaiian, etc.)
- Dravidian (includes languages like Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, etc.)
- Altaic (includes languages like Turkish, Mongolian, Uzbek, etc.)
- Austroasiatic (includes languages like Vietnamese, Khmer, etc.)
- Uralic (includes languages like Finnish, Hungarian, Estonian, etc.)
- Afroasiatic (includes languages like Arabic, Hebrew, Hausa, etc.)
- Kartvelian (includes languages like Georgian, Mingrelian, Svan, etc.)
- Tai-Kadai (includes languages like Thai, Lao, Zhuang, etc.)
- Turkic (includes languages like Turkish, Azerbaijani, Uzbek, etc.)
- Papuan (includes languages spoken in New Guinea and neighboring islands)
- Caucasian (includes languages like Chechen, Ingush, Georgian, etc.)

These language families encompass a vast array of languages spoken by people all around the world, each with its own unique characteristics, history, and cultural significance. Presently it is the most extensive area of research in the field of linguistics but might convey an awry regarding the notion of how many languages there are in the world. However, it has been found that there has been only a tentative count with reference to human languages. The reason behind this is that many parts of the world have yet to be explored and therefore one finds it difficult with the approach to figure out the count of languages. Ray Jakendoff iterates, “Speakers can build an unlimited number of phrases and sentences out of words plus a smallish collection of prefixes and suffixes, and the meanings of sentences are built from the meanings of the individual words...”

Even Stephen R. Anderson advocates the same view in his book, “How many languages there are in the world”

The object of inquiry in linguistics is human language, in particular the extent and limits of diversity in the world’s languages. One might suppose, therefore, that linguists would have a clear and precise notion of how many languages there are in the world. It turns out, however, there is no such definite count-or at least, no such count that has any status as a scientific finding of modern linguistics. The reason for this lack is not (just) is that parts of the world such as highland New Guinea or the forest of the Amazon have not been explored in enough detail to ascertain the range of people who live there. Rather, the problem is that the very notion of enumerating languages is a lot more complicated than it might seem. (Anderson 1)

Languages are not evenly distributed around the world and thus according to the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) ethnologue, there are 6909 languages in the world and out of which 230 are spoken in

Europe and the rest 2197 are spoken in Asia. The same has been mentioned by Stephen R Anderson, “Out of Ethnologue 6909, for instance, only 230 are spoken in Europe while 2,197 are spoken in Asia.” (Anderson 2)

Objectives

To Study the effectiveness of Language in the field of Music in terms of displacement

To Study the importance of discrete infinity in building human relationship

To Study the significance of joint attention

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Adopting the framework of case studies, this exploratory research focuses on three properties of language: discrete infinity, displacement and joint attention. The study is based upon speech act theory underlying locutionary act and combativeness. The paper is based on different case studies used as a tool for future and exploratory research which highlights the need for further research regarding the issues in Language. All the case studies are based and analysed from the real-life experiences.

Anthropological Linguistics: The research also incorporates an anthropological linguistics perspective by examining how language is used and understood within specific cultural and social contexts. This involves analyzing the relationship between language, culture, and cognition, and how language shapes and is shaped by the lived experiences of speakers.

Sociolinguistics: The study further explores the sociolinguistic aspects of language, investigating how language use and variation are influenced by social factors such as age, gender, class, ethnicity, and social networks. This includes understanding the role of language in the construction and negotiation of social identities and power dynamics.

Cognitive Linguistics: The research also draws upon the field of cognitive linguistics, which examines the relationship between language and cognition. This includes investigating how language is processed and represented in the mind, and how cognitive processes such as categorization, metaphor, and conceptual blending shape and are shaped by linguistic structures and patterns.

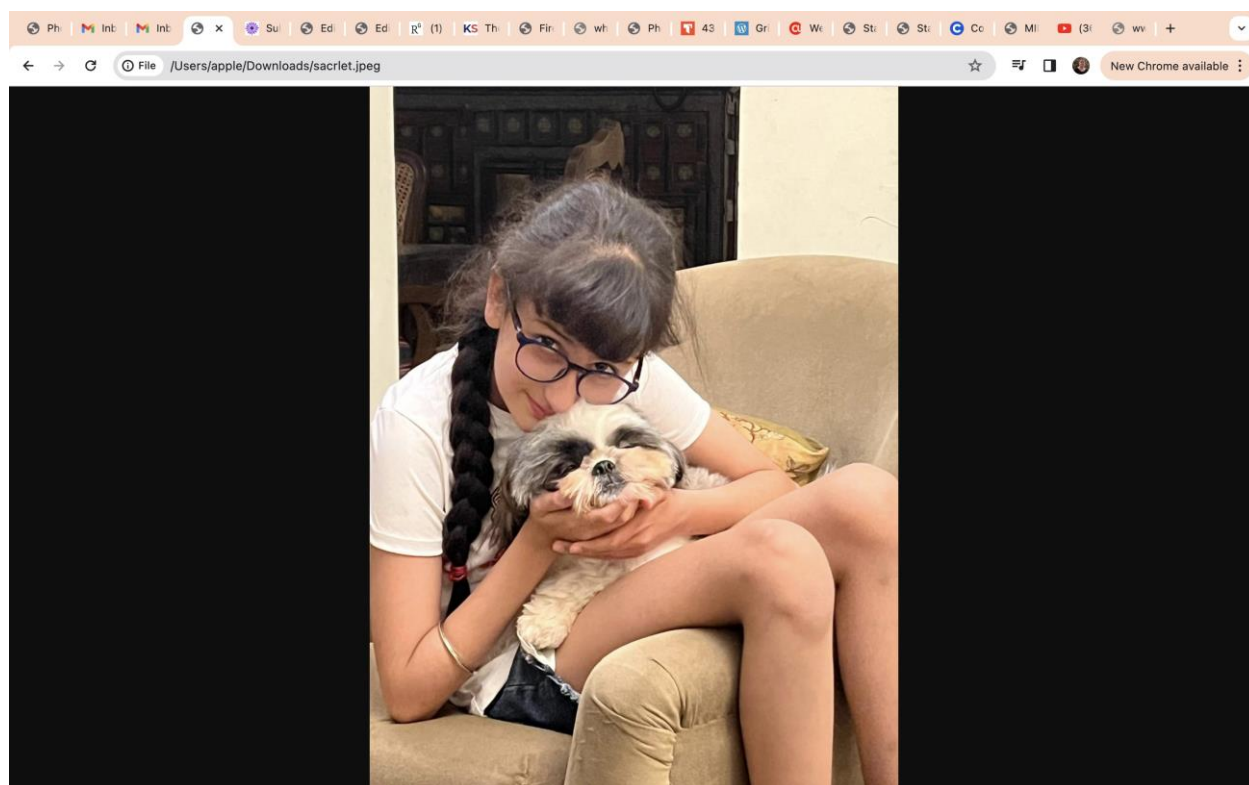
The study concludes that a language per se is a panacea for improving not only diversified issues in one's life but also abstract notions. It further appertains to different case studies how an innocent child brings a life into plants and trees with the help of her communicating behaviour through her language. This interdisciplinary approach, combining case studies with insights from anthropological linguistics, sociolinguistics, and cognitive linguistics, aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities of language and its role in human experience and social interactions.

Displacement

This section is about a case study of a girl who hails from the UK and shifted to Chandigarh, a UT in India. There was one small plant in front of her house and it had not been growing for a long time. When the girl came to her home, she started sitting near that plant. She used to recite a poem sitting beside the plant, and the magic happened. After an ephemeral period, that plant started growing into a tree. This could have happened with the poem recitation through the language.

Another incident of the miracles of human language can be seen when she used to play the piano, and her birds used to sing at the same time. The synchronization between the girl's piano playing and the birds' singing demonstrates the remarkable way in which language, in this case, music, can transcend the boundaries between humans and nature. The birds' response to the girl's piano playing suggests an inherent understanding and appreciation of the language of music, highlighting the interconnectedness between human and animal communication. In addition to this, there is another incident about a family from Chandigarh. They have pets named Scarlet and Amber. The family decided to celebrate the first birthday of

Scarlet. Here The scarlet represents the epitome of calmness and patience through her behaviour. As she knows that the family is celebrating its birthday and noticing everything calmly and patiently. There is a tendency seen in dogs' behaviour that they hardly sit with patience on such occasion but the girl holding the dog named Scarlet in her arms and it seems to be sitting very calmly and patiently as she knows that her birthday is being celebrated by the family. She really enjoyed getting gifts and her snacks and was very happy to receive all these things. Thus, the case study reflects the referential, aesthetic and conceptual meaning which can be well observed through the picture with respect to the bond of love given to these animals in with regard language and behaviour. Hence the picture illustrates the speech acts theory underlying locutionary acts and commissiveness which can be clearly seen in the picture mentioned below in figure no.1. Thus, the researcher concludes in the context of three objectives mentioned above. With reference to the first objective, it can be concluded that birds and animals are not only intelligent but they can also express their feelings and emotions like humans through non-verbal language. In the context of discrete infinity, a language has a limited number of consonants and vowels, but with these limited numbers, humans can create an indefinite number of words and sentences. The same morphology and syntax can be used in diversified ways, showcasing the incredible versatility and expressive power of language. In the light of the third objective, i.e., joint attention, it can be concluded that with language, the mind plays a major role in bringing peace and joy to one's life. Peace and joy are the need of the hour, and language, with its ability to foster understanding, empathy, and connection, can be a powerful tool in achieving this. The case study of the girl and her interactions with the plant and the birds suggest that language, in its various forms, has the potential to create a harmonious bond between humans and the natural world, transcending the boundaries of species and cultures.



Discrete infinity

“Human language is based on an elementary property that also seems to be biologically isolated: the property of discrete infinity.” (Chomsky 3) Discrete infinity of a language means that it has a definite number of consonants and vowels which can be put together in an indefinite number of combinations with regard to words and sentences. Every human being has been endowed with linguistic ability. Human and language both are interlinked with each other. Both the aspects are complementary to each other. All human beings have language in one form or another. There are many questions which come to one's mind specifically in terms of language. For example, people really get confused between the difference between

language and a dialect. Every language has different sounds and shapes which have a limited number of vowels and consonants. There are many words which cannot be defined in a language but are easy to produce in the context of dialect. For instance, clapping, fiddling of fingers, inching, laughing and blinking of eyes etc. such expressions are hardly used in any language in written form. Such expressions can be expressed in a different form with the use of building blocks. Thus, all the languages assimilate and use these building blocks and create some new words. This is one of the properties of a language and all human languages encompass such attributes. All languages combine their vowels and consonants and come up with new words. One might remember the sounds like 'b' for balloon, 'c' for car, 't' for toy but hardly remember the sign language. In such a situation, one can create some building blocks using the finite set of vowels and consonants. This is the beauty of a language which makes human beings different from animals. For instance, animals express their happiness in the same way birds express through their chirping and dog through barking, dance of bees and sounds of monkeys and chimpanzees. However, humans can express the same emotions by using different words, and sentences with varied expressions. Different expressions can be expressed differently without changing the meaning of a sentence. The same view has been expressed by Jakendoff, "What is still more remarkable is that every normal child learns the whole system from hearing others use it. Animal communication systems, in contrast, typically have at most a few dozen distinct calls, and they are used only to communicate immediate issues such as food, danger, threat, or reconciliation...."(Jakendoff 2)

Joint attention

Language plays a significant role in the achievement of our goals and initiates or generates prevalent engrossment with regard to expression of thoughts. In addition to this, the brain performs a vital role as it operates or executes all the actions with the use of language. The selected vocabulary and sentences have the magical powers which can bring peace and happiness in one's life.

Since childhood every child is taught to use three magical words: sorry, please and thank you. The researcher would like to add one more case study of a five years old boy who was being bullied by his school mates. After that he started using abusive language for them. When the incident came in light in front of his mother, she used this property of joint attention which helped get him rid of this frustration to some extent.

She asked her son to use the magic mantra "Jai Shree Ram", when someone teases him or mocks at him. One day in a school bus when his school mates were teasing him, he recited this mantra and everybody started laughing and he also laughed. After this, no one bullied him. Her son applied the same mantra and got relief from this frustration and torture.

The power of language and the use of specific mantras or phrases can have a profound impact on one's emotional state and ability to cope with difficult situations. In this case, the mother recognized the potential of the "Jai Shree Ram" mantra to redirect her son's attention, evoke a positive response from his peers, and ultimately help him overcome the bullying he was facing.

This example highlights the importance of teaching children appropriate language skills and providing them with constructive strategies to handle challenging social situations. By harnessing the inherent power of language, parents and educators can empower children to navigate their emotions and relationships more effectively, fostering a more harmonious and supportive environment for their overall development. In the figure no. 2, the scarlet can be seen playing soccer with the girls and follows every command given to her by the girl. Even she knows every rule of the games which is the amazing part of this case study. Through this act, pragmatism can be seen in terms of interpretive meaning.

CONCLUSION

Thus, all in all, it may be concluded that all the three properties of a language - discrete infinity, displacement, and joint attention - interpret language in a more cultivated and worldly way. Rather, it also

proves that sign language has its own importance and a language is incomplete without it. Instead, it demonstrates the significance of sign language and how a language cannot exist without it. Every communication completes its meaning with the help of sign language.

Acknowledging the fact that a finite set of consonants and vowels can be used to construct an infinite number of sentences, language enables the expression of indefinite concepts, abstract notions, and emotions. This highlights the remarkable expressive power of human language, which sets it apart from other forms of communication, such as machine language, computer programming, and animal language or music language.

However, it is important to recognize that the unique properties of human language, such as discrete infinity, displacement, and joint attention, are not solely responsible for its prestigious position. With the proliferation of scientific technology, artificial intelligence, and computational linguistics, machine languages and computer programming have also gained significant roles in various domains.

Nevertheless, human language remains unparalleled in its ability to understand and convey complex concepts related to time, space, and abstract ideas. This underscores the profound and multifaceted nature of language as a cognitive, social, and cultural phenomenon.

In addition to this, the case studies presented in the research demonstrate how even an innocent child can bring life to plants and trees through their communicative behavior and language use. This further highlights the power of language to shape and reflect our lived experiences, as well as its fundamental role in human development and social interactions.

In conclusion, the research has successfully integrated insights from various disciplines, including anthropological linguistics, sociolinguistics, and cognitive linguistics, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities of language and its significance in human experience. The recognition of sign language as an integral component of language, and the acknowledgment of the expressive power of human language, contribute to a deeper appreciation of the richness and versatility of this uniquely human trait.

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