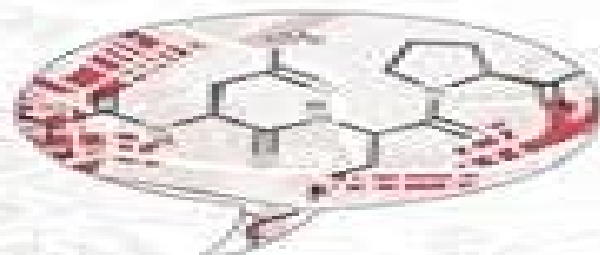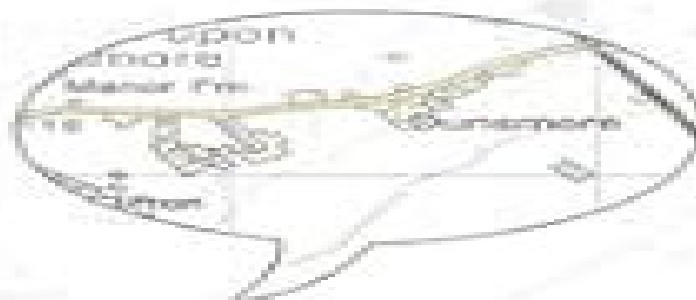# THE ORIGINS OF LANGUAGE

A slim guide

JAMES R. HURFORD

[Origins Of Language A Slim Guide Oxford Linguistics](#)

Wen Xu,John R. Taylor

Origins Of Language A Slim Guide Oxford Linguistics:

   Origins of Language James R. Hurford,2014-03 This book offers an accessible overview of what is known about the evolution of the human capacity for language and what sets human language apart from the simple communication systems used by non human animals It draws on a wide range of disciplines including philosophy neuroscience genetics and animal behaviour   **An Introduction to Language 10e** Victoria Fromkin,Robert Rodman,Nina Hyams,Mengistu Amberber,Felicity Cox,2021-08-19 An Introduction to Language introduces students to the fascinating study of human language Engagingly and clearly written it provides an overview of the key areas of linguistics from an Australian perspective Unique to this text the International Phonetic Alphabet is represented by both HCE and MD versions allowing lecturers to use whichever IPA system they prefer Premium online teaching and learning tools are available on the MindTap platform Learn more about the online tools au cengage com mindtap   Language History, Language Change, and Language Relationship Hans Henrich Hock,Brian D. Joseph,2019-09-02 Why does language change Why can we speak to and understand our parents but have trouble reading Shakespeare Why is Chaucer s English of the fourteenth century so different from Modern English of the late twentieth century that the two are essentially different languages Why are Americans and English one people divided by a common language And how can the language of Chaucer and Modern English or Modern British and American English still be called the same language The present book provides answers to questions like these in a straightforward way aimed at the non specialist with ample illustrations from both familiar and more exotic languages Most chapters in this new edition have been reworked with some difficult passages removed other passages thoroughly rewritten and several new sections added e g on the regularity of sound change and its importance for general historical comparative linguistics Further the chapter notes and bibliography have all been updated The content is engaging focusing on topics and issues that spark student interest Its goals are broadly pedagogical and the level and presentation are appropriate for interested beginners with little or no background in linguistics The language coverage for examples goes well beyond what is usual for books of this kind with a considerable amount of data from various languages of India   The Routledge Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics Wen Xu,John R. Taylor,2021-06-03 The Routledge Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics provides a comprehensive introduction and essential reference work to cognitive linguistics It encompasses a wide range of perspectives and approaches covering all the key areas of cognitive linguistics and drawing on interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research in pragmatics discourse analysis biolinguistics ecolinguistics evolutionary linguistics neuroscience language pedagogy and translation studies The forty three chapters written by international specialists in the field cover four major areas Basic theories and hypotheses including cognitive semantics cognitive grammar construction grammar frame semantics natural semantic metalanguage and word grammar Central topics including embodiment image schemas categorization metaphor and metonymy construal iconicity motivation constructionalization intersubjectivity

grounding multimodality cognitive pragmatics cognitive poetics humor and linguistic synaesthesia among others Interfaces between cognitive linguistics and other areas of linguistic study including cultural linguistics linguistic typology figurative language signed languages gesture language acquisition and pedagogy translation studies and digital lexicography New directions in cognitive linguistics demonstrating the relevance of the approach to social diachronic neuroscientific biological ecological multimodal and quantitative studies The Routledge Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics is an indispensable resource for undergraduate and postgraduate students and for all researchers working in this area **Essays on Linguistic Realism** Christina Behme,Martin Neef,2018-07-26 This book contains new articles by leading philosophers and linguists discussing a promising philosophical framework distinct from currently dominant ones Linguistic Realism As opposed to Nominalism and Chomskyian Conceptualism this approach distinguishes between use of language knowledge of language and language as such The latter is conceived as part of the realm of abstract objects The authors show how adopting Linguistic Realism overcomes entrenched problems with other frameworks and suggest that Linguistic Realism will best serve those interested in formal linguistics the cognitive dimension of natural language and linguistic philosophy The essays offer different perspectives on Linguistic Realism either supporting this paradigm or taking it as a starting point for developing modified conceptions of linguistics and for further tying linguistics to the kind of formal theories of sensory cognition that were pioneered in visual perception by David Marr whose work is predicated on exactly the object knowledge distinction made by Linguistic Realists **Origins of language** ,1996 **Competition in Language Change** Eva Zehentner,2019-06-17 This book addresses one of the most pervasive questions in historical linguistics why variation becomes stable rather than being eliminated by revisiting the so far neglected history of the English dative alternation The alternation between a nominal and a prepositional ditransitive pattern John gave Mary a book vs John gave a book to Mary emerged in Middle English and is closely connected to broader changes at that time Accordingly the main quantitative investigation focuses on ditransitive patterns in the Penn Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Middle English in addition the book employs an Evolutionary Game Theory model The results are approached from an evolutionary construction grammar perspective combining evolutionary thinking with diachronic constructionist notions and the alternation s emergence is interpreted as a story of constructional innovation competition cooperation and co evolution The book not only provides a thorough and detailed analysis of the history of one of the most discussed syntactic phenomena in English but by fusing two frameworks and employing two different methodologies also presents a highly innovative approach to a problem of relevance to historical linguistics in general *Study Skills for Linguistics* Jeanette Sakel,2015-03-27 Study Skills for Linguistics is the essential companion for students embarking on a degree in linguistics Covering all the core skills that students of linguistics will require during the early part of their degree this book gives the reader a basic understanding of the field as well as confidence in how to find out more and how to prepare for their future career The key features covered include subject

specific skills including basic linguistic tools and terminology such as word classes and grammatical terminology essential study skills such as how to perform well in the degree how to search for and reference literature and how to write an essay guides for a future with a linguistics degree including how to write a CV and prepare for a range of graduate destinations An accessible guide to essential skills in the field of linguistics Study Skills for Linguistics is a must read for students contemplating studying this topic and provides a guide that will take them through their degree and beyond *The Origins of Meaning: Language in the Light of Evolution* James R. Hurford,2007-08-30 In this the first of two ground breaking volumes on the nature of language in the light of the way it evolved James Hurford looks at how the world first came to have a meaning in the minds of animals and how in humans this meaning eventually came to be expressed as language He reviews a mass of evidence to show how close some animals especially primates and more especially apes are to the brink of human language Apes may not talk to us but they construct rich cognitive representations of the world around them and here he shows are the evolutionary seeds of abstract thought the means of referring to objects the memory of events even elements of the propositional thinking philosophers have hitherto reserved for humans What then he asks is the evolutionary path between the non speaking minds of apes and our own speaking minds Why don t apes communicate the richness of their thoughts to each other Why do humans alone have a unique disposition to reveal their thoughts in complex detail Professor Hurford searches a wide range of evidence for the answers to these central questions including degrees of trust the role of hormones the ability to read minds and the willingness to cooperate Expressing himself congenially in consistently colloquial language the author builds up a vivid picture of how mind language and meaning evolved over millions of years His book is a landmark contribution to the understanding of linguistic and thinking processes and the fullest account yet published of the evolution of language and communication A wonderful read lucid informative and entertaining while at the same time never talking down to the reader by sacrificing argumentation for the sake of simplicity Likely to be heralded as the major publication dealing with language evolution to date Frederick J Newmeyer University of Washington **Language Policy** Florian Coulmas,2025-02-20 This book offers an accessible introduction to the main issues in language policy today and to the origins and conceptual foundations of the relationship between language and the state Florian Coulmas draws on specific examples from around the world to explore how countries make decisions about which language and which variety or form of that language should be used for key functions such as primary education government administration and the law The book provides historical background to shed light on present day policy disputes concerning language and looks at how the resulting decisions are implemented in schools and other institutions A common thread that runs through the chapters is the question of whether the involvement of the government in language regulation is a necessity a blessing or a curse Written in a concise and engaging style Language Policy A Slim Guide is suitable for readers from all backgrounds who are interested in the interaction between language and politics **The Origins of Complex Language** Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy,1999

This book proposes a new theory of the origins of human language ability and presents an original account of the early evolution of language It explains why humans are the only language using animals challenges the assumption that language is a consequence of intelligence and offers a new perspective on human uniqueness Brilliantly executed this book draws on evidence from archaeology linguistics cognitive science and evolutionary biology   New Perspectives on the Origins of Language Claire Lefebvre,Bernard Comrie,Henri Cohen,2013-11-15 The question of how language emerged is one of the most fascinating and difficult problems in science In recent years a strong resurgence of interest in the emergence of language from an evolutionary perspective has been helped by the convergence of approaches methods and ideas from several disciplines The selection of contributions in this volume highlight scenarios of language origin and the prerequisites for a faculty of language based on biological historical social cultural and paleontological forays into the conditions that brought forth and favored language emergence augmented by insights from sister disciplines The chapters all reflect new speculation discoveries and more refined research methods leading to a more focused understanding of the range of possibilities and how we might choose among them There is much that we do not yet know but the outlines of the path ahead are ever clearer   The Origins of Grammar James R. Hurford,2011-09-22 This is the second of the two closely linked but self contained volumes that comprise James Hurford s acclaimed exploration of the biological evolution of language In the first book he looked at the evolutionary origins of meaning ending as our distant ancestors were about to step over the brink to modern language He now considers how that step might have been taken and the consequences it undoubtedly had The capacity for language lets human beings formulate and express an unlimited range of propositions about real or fictitious worlds It allows them to communicate these propositions often overlaid with layers of nuance and irony to other humans who can then interpret and respond to them These processes take place at breakneck speed Using a language means learning a vast number of arbitrary connections between forms and meanings and rules on how to manipulate them both of which a normal human child can do in its first few years of life James Hurford looks at how this miracle came about The book is divided into three parts In the first the author surveys the syntactic structures evident in the communicative behaviour of animals such as birds and whales and discusses how vocabularies of learned symbols could have evolved and the effects this had on human thought In the second he considers how far the evolution of grammar depended on biological or cultural factors In the third and final part he describes the probable route by which the human language faculty and languages evolved from simple beginnings to their present complex state   TESOL Newsletter Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages,1987   **Writer's Directory** Saint Martins Press Inc,1994   Guide to Microforms in Print ,1990   The Social Origins of Language Daniel Dor,Chris Knight,Jerome Lewis,2014-06-27 This book offers an exciting new perspective on the origins of language Language is conceptualized as a collective invention on the model of writing or the wheel and the book places social and cultural dynamics at the centre of its evolution language emerged and further developed in human

communities already suffused with meaning and communication mimesis ritual song and dance alloparenting new divisions of labour and revolutionary changes in social relations The book thus challenges assumptions about the causal relations between genes capacities social communication and innovation the biological capacities are taken to evolve incrementally on the basis of cognitive plasticity in a process that recruits previous adaptations and fine tunes them to serve novel communicative ends Topics include the ability brought about by language to tell lies that must have confronted our ancestors with new problems of public trust the dynamics of social cognitive co evolution the role of gesture and mimesis in linguistic communication studies of how monkeys and apes express their feelings or thoughts play laughter dance song ritual and other social displays among extant hunter gatherers the social nature of language acquisition and innovation normativity and the emergence of linguistic norms the interaction of language and emotions and novel perspectives on the time frame for language evolution The contributors are leading international scholars from linguistics anthropology palaeontology primatology psychology evolutionary biology artificial intelligence archaeology and cognitive science   *The Origin of Language* Merritt Ruhlen,1994 But more than simply describing his and his colleague s theories Dr Ruhlen invites you to share in the joys of discovery He arms you with the linguist s basic tool kit and lets you work through the evidence for yourself and draw your own conclusions You ll classify languages and language families trace language family trees and even reconstruct some of the basic vocabulary used by our most distant ancestors   **The Nature and Origin of Language** Denis Bouchard,2013-10 Denis Bouchard looks at how the human brain got the capacity for language and how language evolved He argues that language is a system of signs and considers how these elements first came together in the brain His account of language origins offers insights into language and to constructions that have defied decades of linguistic analysis   **Language Origins** Maggie Tallerman,2023 Tallerman addresses central questions in the evolution of language where it came from how and why it evolved how it came to be culturally transmitted and how languages diversified She does so from the perspective of the latest work in linguistics neuroscience psychology and computer science

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