



This is Maria Noname: Nicaragua Maria Noname has been deaf since birth. She never gained access to language due to a lack of programs for deaf Nicaraguans. She has been working with linguist Judy Key, who also attributes Maria's inability to communicate to not having any access to language during the critical language ready period between birth and age seven. Many deaf Nicaraguans shared Maria's plight until programs developed after the Nicaraguan Revolution in 1990.

Linguists concern themselves with the structure of languages and the rules employed to form these structures. These rules establish a "mental grammar" that is thought to be similar in every language. Noam Chomsky coined the term, "universal grammar" when discussing the acquisition of language in children: he believed children were absorbing language too quickly to be explained by the exposure to language from their environment. He reasoned that with only a few examples, a child could understand the structure of their language. *Creatization* is another example of universals in which human adults form language through a shared vocabulary, though they do not share a language. This is called as pidgin. Children who speak pidgin impose a grammar upon their parents' vocabulary to create a new language called a *creole*.

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Universal Grammar

LANGUAGE TABLE

- top 10 least spoken languages
- Ter Sami - 10 speakers
 - Votic - ≥ 20 speakers
 - Ume Sami - 20 speakers
 - Pite Sami - 20 speakers
 - Livonian - 150 speakers
 - Washo - 200 speakers
 - Ingrian - 300 speakers
 - Skolt Sami - 400 speakers
 - Inari Sami - 400 speakers

CONSIDER THIS:
extinction of languages



Koko the Gorilla can communicate using a vocabulary of 1,000 signs and can understand 2,000 words of spoken English. Language allows cultural traits to be passed within and between generations rapidly. Language allows for more complex social coordination and interaction that define humans as complex beings. The line between language and mimicry in the animal world, given Koko and other communicating animals, is blurry.

DARWIN'S GREAT IDEA!

SHAANNON CLAUDE

of the information

communicated from a source to the recipient

is rather spontaneous but information is not about INFORMATION.

intuitive sense counter our

of evolution that important because

Natural selection was

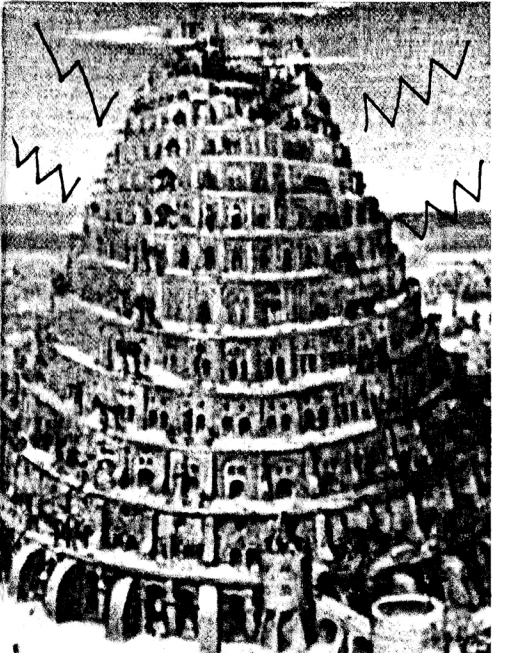
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LANGUAGE TABLE CONT.

- 10 most common/used
- Mandarin - about 875 million speakers
 - English - > 350 million speakers
 - Hindi/Urdu - about 200 million speakers
 - Arabic (all varieties) - 200 million speakers
 - Spanish - 200 million speakers
 - Russian - about 150 million speakers
 - Bengali - about 150 million speakers
 - Portuguese - about 150 million speakers
 - Indonesian - about 100 million speakers
 - German - about 100 million speakers

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LANGUAGE

Glottogony: The origin of language.

The use of language distinguishes *Homo sapiens* from other species. All modern human populations speak languages of comparable complexity. All languages possess rules of grammar and syntax. All humans possess similar linguistic abilities, and no human is born with a biological tendency towards any language. Speech and language are very different: speech involves producing sounds from the voice box. The mimicry of human sounds should also be distinguished: mimicry is very different from the acquisition of syntax. On the other hand, the deaf generally do not use speech but are able to communicate through a language of signs. What this all implies is that the evolution of modern human language required both the development of the abilities of the body as well as the development of the brain.