

---

**From:** Noam Chomsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2015 2:42 AM  
**To:** jeffrey E.  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Re:

Valeria's not here right now, so will have to check with her about late September. Really intriguing possibilities, and a delightful offer.

On Yang, I read his work quite differently. He does make use of word frequencies and probability distributions, but as far as I am aware in pretty straightforward and innocuous ways. And he's quite sophisticated about these matters. Smart and interesting guy. You might want to contact him directly.

I don't recall his using Zipf's "laws," but it wouldn't matter much. Mandelbrot showed back in the '50s that they were a statistical artifact, near meaningless. I was, incidentally, surprised to see how he dealt with this result in his autobiography. I think he called it his "Keplerian moment," or something like that.

Noam

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com]  
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2015 12:10 PM  
To: Noam Chomsky  
Subject: Re: Re:

I think you might try to plan on late september , taking my apt and spending a few days with valeria in the city, As it is the opening of the UN general assembly , as well as the Clinton global initiative New york is rife with people with at least influence, if not new ideas. . I , we. can organize many fun interactions. my house becomes a respite for the select few, to take off their ties , and talk openly. You would be welcome to join as many create or participate as you prefer. yang's work deals with language as signals . his reliance on Zipf like distributions is a good example of naive probabilities. . empirically zipf appears. but cannot be derived from any of his or anyones elses to date. so somewhat misleading to suggest the "probability of word , x appearing, " it is the mistake of frequency vs probability, and careless common usage.

On Sat, Jun 20, 2015 at 11:44 AM, Noam Chomsky [REDACTED] > wrote:

Sounds like a most interesting person. And someone it would be very interesting to talk to. I presume he spends time in NY. Hope we can work it out.

Would be interested in learning more about your critique of the use of probability in language work, mostly by computational cognitive scientists, as far as I know. I've written critiques of it too, but on different grounds: failure to account for what they are trying to show, or even to understand the issue. There are, I think, some notable exceptions, like the recent work of Charles Yang, one of Bob Berwick's students.

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com> ]  
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2015 8:22 AM  
To: Noam Chomsky  
Subject: Re:

He is the head of the human rights court in strasbourg. / former prime minister of norway. . . He would be happy to have a dinner with us. . subj. drones. solitary confinement , death penalty ( europe does not have one , so if killing terrorists is to be under an act of war, argument , then they, as enemies ,have war rights. ). tribalism, mafia, syria, ukraine, saudi, egypt. libya, . We have a great friendship. - I give him his financial ABC's class. he gives me my pragmatic politics lessons. fyi great similarity now as the old political guard seem to reflect the patterns of the old long term investors, ( skills of . planning. executing . etc ) now confronted by media . and pressured to make quick decisions. ie behaving like inexperienced short term traders. fyi I have read a great number of language papers. many if not most, misuse the concept of probability . making naive, erroneous uses of the word , hence forming nonsensical conclusions. ( like the silly , life on other planets " calculation". probability needs repetition and symmetry, historical events do not have either ! )

On Sat, Jun 20, 2015 at 1:08 AM, Noam Chomsky [REDACTED] > wrote:

Glad it worked. Hope that the speech was of some interest.

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com> ]  
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 6:38 PM  
To: Noam Chomsky  
Subject:

you would have been proud my friend the sec gen of the council of europe thjorborn jagland had to give as speech on terrorism to the security counsel. Last night I presented your arguments, re hypocrisy, he was shocked but loved it.

--

please note

The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged, may constitute inside information, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of JEE

Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to [jeevacation@gmail.com](mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com) <<mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com>> , and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. copyright -all rights reserved

--

please note

The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged, may constitute inside information, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of JEE

Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to [jeevacation@gmail.com](mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com) <<mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com>> , and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. copyright -all rights reserved

--

please note

The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged, may constitute inside information, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of JEE Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to [jeevacation@gmail.com](mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com) <<mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com>> , and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. copyright -all rights reserved