
From: jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2016 4:55 PM
To: Noam Chomsky
Subject: Re:

gesturing im hungry, ? does that need a language first with your broad definition?

On Sun, Jan 3, 2016 at 11:51 AM, Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Don't see how it would work. We can't tell stories until language is already available.

There are, of course, speculations about how language might have developed very slowly, first with short sentences, then longer ones, etc. One could interweave speculations about story telling into these. Problem with these tales is the usual one with speculation – one can imagine 1 million possibilities. Dick Lewontin's important paper on evolution of cognition is again relevant. And there is a more formidable problem: the leap to unboundedness is saltational, by definition, so nothing is gained by the speculations, a fact that many of those engaged in these efforts seem not to have grasped.

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Noam Chomsky [REDACTED]
Subject:

how does story telling fit in to the origin of language. ? internal stories? overlay on music . alarms? how important are stories ?

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