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**From:** jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 4:06 AM  
**To:** Noam Chomsky  
**Subject:** Re: Re:

1. dont you have any questions about money,=. ? ? finance. . ? I owe you som= knowledge .

2 .to say the shape can be" =A0 decribed " by language is redundant. =

the "shape" is the metaphor for an n-dimenti=nal object , it stands outside of time. as do grammars , but sentences do =ot, they require time. the shape is somewh=t like a fitness landscape? contrasted with communicati=n which also requires a time dimension and biology that need= and uses energy . I suggest the mammal Ug is a subcategory of=C2 all UG.s . and that as biology prefers redundancy . the other =odules, ie vision are small distortions of it.

3. =A0 during that UN period I often give a " money 101 to world le=ders who have in many case.. little knowledge of a subject to which=they give many speeches and policy directives , as they only have =A0 experinces such as that of a general , a politicitain= in some instances a disk jockey, before having to run their =ountry. I would love to consider some of what you thought was " fair " . with regard. allocations. if y=u were running the show.

On Sun, Jun 21, 2015 at 11:13 PM, Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> > wrote:

I follow up to the point where you wr=te "the organizing principle of the shape is language... =80 No doubt it can (partially) be described in language, but that =99s not what you mean.

Zipf's law is a rank-frequenc= distribution. And also meaningless, as Mandelbrot showed 60 years a=o. I hope Yang is clear about this. He surely knows.=/u>

Noam

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2015 2:48 PM  
To: Noam Chomsky  
Subject: Re: Re:

it is my failing not =ours. the old math requires numbers . too li=iting. ( we can put a metric overlay on later in the chain) i=agine a shape in real space. it is readily apparent if a line=either fits on the shape or not . how do you know. ?=A0 you compare the line with the shape. your visual system all=ws the mental shape to either map onto or not onto the shape in a co=erent manner. the shape is not an input device ,it is an objec=. the organizing principle of the shape is language, the shape is =A0 a collection of grammars. lines on the shape are either coherent =r not. coherent ones are legitimate sentences .

yang is flexible in his use of the term probability.=. for example he in a number of papers refers to zipf as a probabiltiy dis=ribution. i have checked a number of his papers after your last rema=k, I think it is a mistake. he means that after empirical measurement . for ex word frequency, =A0 . if ten times out of 100 the corpus has the word x. =hen he describes the probabllity of finding the word as 10 percent=C2 . this is not correct. it is only the probabllity of find=ng the word in the frequency list . but he is very accomplished at mathema=ical models.

On Sun, Jun 21, 2015 at 1:03 PM, Noam Chomsky

> > =rote:

Interesting image, but I don'= see what it tells us about language.

The problem looks to me like this, ro=ghly.

Take, say, the human visual system.=C2 There's a genetic component that determines that humans will=have a mammalian and not an insect visual system, and much else. Same wit= other subsystems of the organism – “organs,” =80 modules.” Language in particular. The technical name fo= this component, whatever it turns out to be, is UG. UG therefore de=ermines that certain systems are possible I-languages for humans, others are not. =I presume that is what the “biological organizing principle =9D for language is. It's plainly not an input system, though=it determines possible input systems for human languages. I don =80 t see how we improve understanding by looking at it from this perspective.</=pan>

A minor technical problem, not serious, has to do with distinguishing digit=l infinity from continuity, like continuous lines on the surface of a hemi=phere.

I think you'll find Yang inte=esting.

Noam

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:[jeevacation@gmail.com](mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com)]  
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2015 10:52 PM  
To: Noam Chomsky  
Subject: Re: Re:

1. I will wait on vale=ia. we can craft a fun few days

2, try this on but only if you get a moment , i know you =re busy

it appear to me that ""language" can be defined as the=C2 biological organizing principle that creates a shape spa=e. "coherent sentences " are defined as those that f=t on the shape. The projections on the sensory motors, allows commun=cation. . There are an infinite digital number of sentences.that do fit on the shape , but=orders of magnitude more, that do not fit.- to attempt a naive=representation, imagine a hemisphere, ( symmetric), =A0 any continuous line drawn on its surface , is a sentence. =C2 there are infinite numbers of lines that can be drawn. however , try=ng to connect two points , directly without traversing the hemishpere =A0 is also infinitely possible but most solutions need to leav= the surface. The principle that organizes the shape is NOT an input device. one can map inputs onto the shap= but it is not THE shape , ex, a hemisphere bowl in 3 =pace, analogy, one can put marbles in the bowl and they will map a p=th to the bottom. but the shape of the bowl . determines how f=st they move, and in which direction, . the shape of the bowl is the language= there is a shape for vision as well. = it exists without input, certain paths are more probable etc.

3. I will contact Yang

On Sat, Jun 20, 2015 at 10:41 PM, Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]

>=wrote:

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

On Yang, I read his work quite differ=ntly. He does make use of word frequencies and probability distribut=ons, but as far as I am aware in pretty straightforward and innocuous ways. =A0 And he's quite sophisticated about these matters. Smart and int=esting guy. You might want to contact him directly.

I don't recall his using Zipf=E2 s "laws," but it wouldn't matter much. =A0 Mandelbrot showed back in the '50s that they were a statistical artifact, near meaningless. =A0 I was, incidentally, surprised to see how he dealt with this result in =is autobiography. I think he called it his "Keplerian moment=" or something like that.

Noam

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:[jeevacation@gmail.com](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 , ta=ing my apt and spending a few days with valeria in the city, A= it is the opening of the UN general assembly , as well as the Clinton global initiative New york is rife with people with a= least influence, if not new ideas. . I , we. can organize man= fun interactions. my house becomes a respite for the select f=w, to take off their ties , and talk openly. You would be welcome to join as many create or participate as you prefer. =A0 yangs work deals with language as signals . his relia=ce on Zipf like distributions is a good example of naive probabilities . =C2 empirically zipf appears. but cannot be derived from any of his or anyones elses to date. so somewhat misleading to suggest the&=uot; probility of word , x appearing, " it is the =istake of frequency vs probablity, and careless common usage.=u>

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 presum= he spends time in NY. Hope we can work it out.

Would be interested in learning more =bout your critique of the use of probability in language work, mostly by computational cognitive scientists, as far as I know. I =80 ve written critiques of it too, but on different grounds: failure to =ccount for what they are trying to show, or even to understand the issue.=C2 There are, I think, some notable exceptions, like the recent work of Charles Yang, one of Bob Berwick's student=.

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.c=m]  
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. =C2 drones. solitary confinement , death penalty ( europe does not have one , so if killing terrorist= is to be under an act of war, argument , then they, as enemies ,hav= war rights. ). tribalism, mafia, syria, ukraine, saudi, egypt. =A0 libya, . We have a great friendship. - I give him his financial ABC's class. he gives me my pragmatic =olitics lessons. fyi great similarity now as the old political=guard seem toreflect the patterns of the old long term=C2 investors, ( skills of . planning. executing . =A0 etc ) now confronted by media . and pressured to make quick decisions. ie behaving =A0 like inexperienced short term traders. fyi I h=ve read a great number of language papers. many if not most, m=suse the concept of probability . making naive, erroneous uses of th= word , hence forming nonsensical conclusions. ( like the silly , life on =ther planets " calculation". probability needs repetition =nd symmetry, historical events do not have either ! )<=p>

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 secretary 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.

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