



HUMAN AND ANIMAL COMMUNICATION

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DEFINITION OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

- ✓ **Psycholinguistics is sometimes defined as the study of language and the mind (Aitchison, 1989:1).**
- ✓ **The common aim of psycholinguists is to find out about the structures and processes which underlie a human's ability to speak and understand language.**



THE TOPICS COVERED IN PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

✓ **Three topics discussed by the psycholinguists:**

- (1) the acquisition problem,**
- (2) the link between language knowledge and language use**
- (3) producing and comprehending speech.**

✓ **The topics are considered by four types of evidence:**

- (1) animal communication,**
- (2) child language,**
- (3) the language of normal adults**
- (4) the speech of dysphasic (people with speech disturbances).**



HUMAN AND ANIMAL COMMUNICATION

- 1. What are the differences and similarities between human and animal communication?**
- 2. Do human alone have the power of speech?**
- 3. Are humans biologically singled out as articulate mammal or not?**



HUMAN COMMUNICATION

- Jay (2002:2) says that human language is a structured system for combining words that makes it possible for us to communicate to others, to think about our immediate environment, or to imagine. Language is not just speaking. language has six properties:

- (1) Language is communicative**
- (2) Language is arbitrary**
- (3) Language is structured**
- (4) Language is multilayered**
- (5) Language is productive**
- (6) Language is evolutionary**



ANIMAL COMMUNICATION

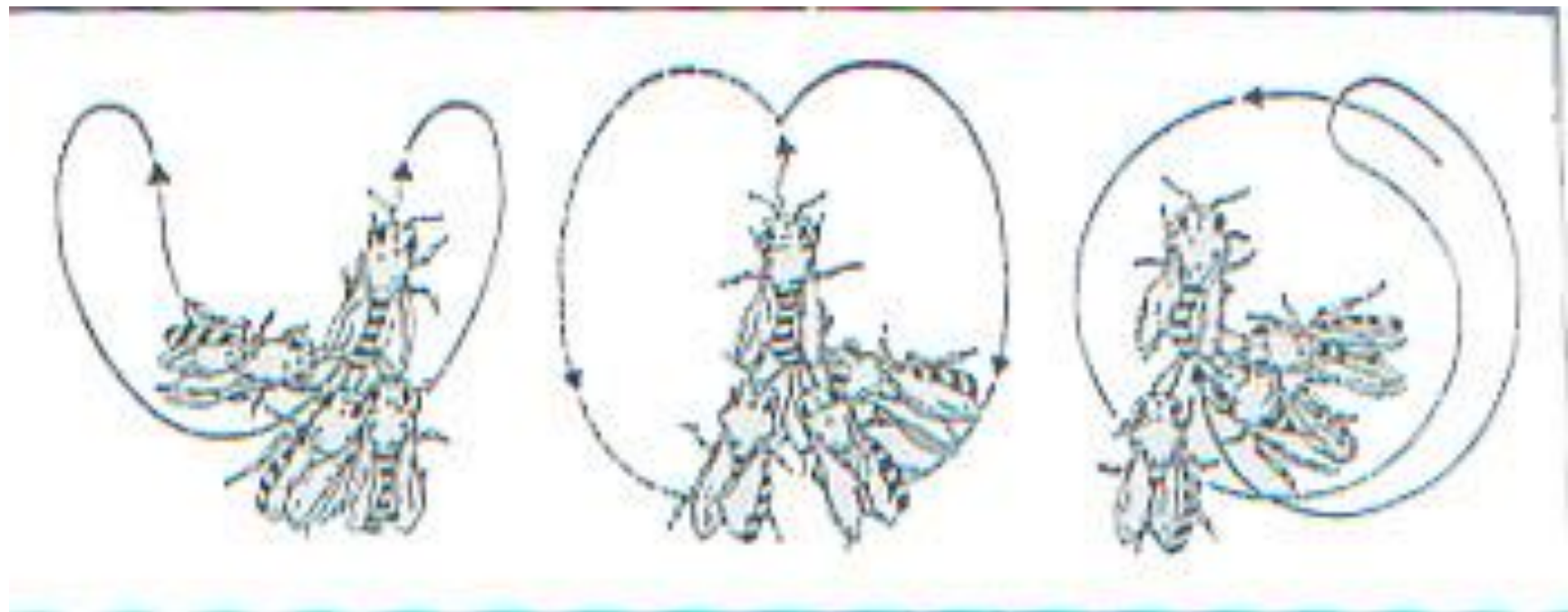
- ✓ **Unlike humans, the communications of animals are simple (Mulyana, 2007:47-8) as it is marked by their action or measure reflexively.**
- ✓ **Animals are unable to interpret their actions toward others as they do not share any signs or symbols as well as unable to modify such measure or actions, unless they belong to the same kind of creature.**

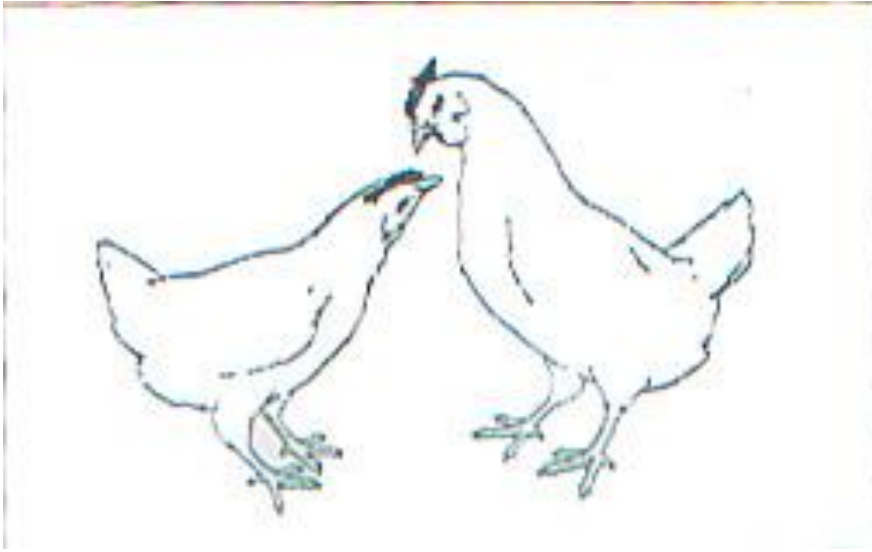


EXAMPLE:

- Dog responds other dogs by barking and moving its tails.
- **Communication among insects, especially bees is basically biological mechanism which is marked by its simple relation between the bees; structural biology of the insect which determines the communication act.**







The position of pecking comes from a range of individual fighting against and among chicks within the established community. This picture shows two Red Island chickens or hens fighting to decide “who’s in charge” later in the new community

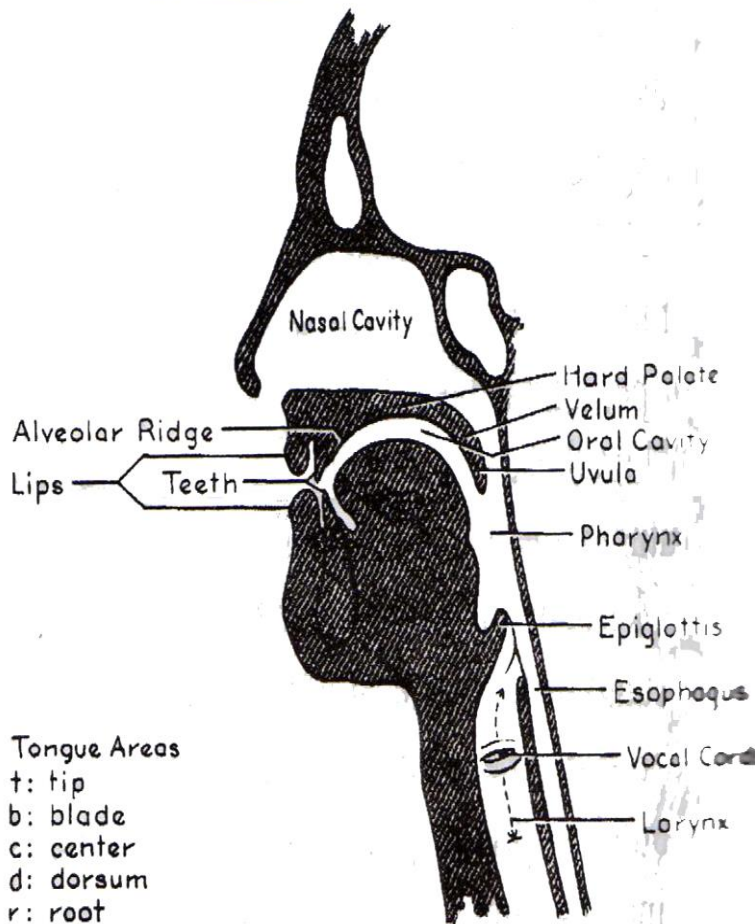


ANIMAL COMMUNICATION (CONT)

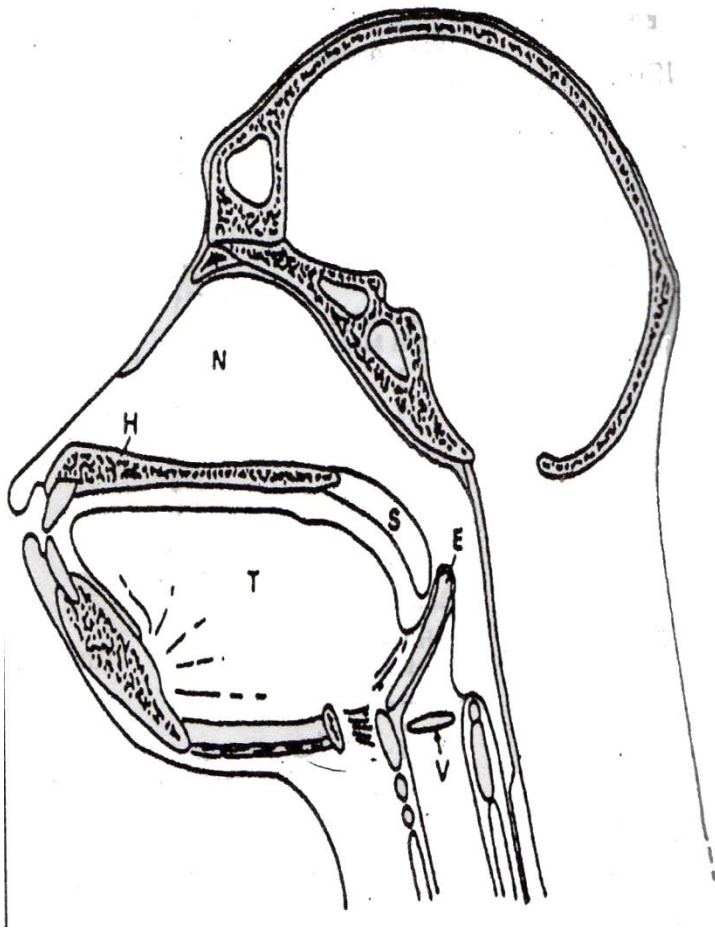
- ✓ **The communicative act between the animals is gained or acquired through the natural learning process.**
- ✓ **Even though, both insect and chicken are isolated from birth, later when they grow up, they are still be able to communicate with others belong the same colony or community. It means that, from the insect to chicken, both of them communicate by using gesture language.**



IS ANIMAL COMMUNICATION REGARDED AS LANGUAGE? (BIOLOGICAL ASPECT)



- ✓ The structure of organ of speech possessed by human is different from animals'.
- ✓ Propositionally, the mouth of human is smaller compared to primate.
- ✓ this size is easy for human to arrange or organize the speech organ in order to produce sound, words, clauses, phrases, and sentences.



- ✓ For non-human primate, especially chimps, they have long and thin tongue, and they are all within the oral cavity. This kind of organ is only appropriate to lick, swallow, and to feel/taste food.
- ✓ Comparatively, the ratio of the tongue produces inadequate space to move its tongue to and fro. Henceforth, its ability to modify or produce the air stream is limited, as a matter of fact that the sound produced is also distinctive.

CONCLUSION

- **Noam Chomsky assumes that a kind of language organ within the mind is part of the genetic make-up of humans.**
- **A system which makes it possible from a limited set of rules to construct an unlimited number of sentences is not found in any other species.**
- **Chomsky believes that it is an investigation of this uniqueness that is important and the likeness between human languages and other communication system.**



- ✓ There are many experiments conducted to prove whether animals have language and can learn language as humans. It seems obvious that animal communication has been the precursors (preceding/ beginning) of human speech.
- ✓ The fact that chimpanzees are able to learn a human sign language indicates that our common ancestor must have had a capacity of this kind of communication and that nature has built up signed and spoken language on these ancient foundations.

