

What is language?

It is a communication structure made up of symbols and rules that combine them. It can also be nonverbal.

There is debate over what constitutes a language.

3000-8000 languages.

European languages make up 3% of languages.

The most common languages are Chinese, Spanish and English.

sound symbolism - what we name something is determined by its appearance - not arbitrary

Communication

Communication relays information from one organism to another. This includes encoding, transmission, and decoding.

Communication can be verbal and nonverbal.

Hockett (1960)

16 design features to distinguish a language:

1. Semanticity - express meaning
2. Arbitrariness - no relationship between words and meaning
3. displacement -



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