



The introduction

- **Motivates one to read the paper**
 - Why is this topic important?
 - Why would anyone ask this question?
 - You mean I don't know all about it already?
- **Prepares for the rest of the paper (optional)**
 - Your hypothesis (embedded definitions optional)
 - The general structure you will follow

In debating whether human language is really unique among animal communication systems, it is easy to overlook the fact that humans have a non-linguistic "animal communication system" too ...

The body paragraph

- **Supplies one more argument for the hypothesis**
 - Introduces the topic by showing its relevance, and/or linking to previous discussion
 - Gives multiple reasons/facts supporting this point
 - Explains away apparent counter-examples/arguments
 - Tells the reader what you've just proven, preferably one answer to the question

| | |
|---|---|
| <p> Hypothesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¶ Introduction ¶ Point in favor ¶ Point in favor ¶ Point in favor ¶ Apparent counter-argument ¶ Conclusion | <p> Point in favor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Topic sentence § Reason for this point § Reason for this point § Supporting fact § Apparent counter-example § Conclusion |
|---|---|

The natural unit of thought

- in an essay is the paragraph
- in a paragraph is the sentence

They form natural deadlines for

- signalling transitions
- confirming relevance

The conclusion

- **Leaves reader convinced, with a sense of closure**
 - States full stand with qualifiers, key arguments
 - Gives a 'tipping argument' (optional)
- **Provides a point of departure (optional)**
 - Links to the big picture
 - Suggests an alternative perspective

... Those who doubt the importance of interplay between non-linguistic affective messages and language should look to the difficulties of aphasia patients, who, due to brain damage, are rendered unable to construct sentences or detect and use prosody (Fitch 2010: 178). Deprived of one or the other of these methods, they have an extraordinarily difficult time communicating with those around them.

Citations

- **Facts** need citations. Generalizations don't if properly supported.
- **Lecture notes:** Avoid if possible. If necessary cite exact date › <Fact> (Anderson 2010, Sep 28)
- **Books:** Cite page number › <Fact> (Fitch 2010: 13-15) but <fact> (Pinker & Bloom 1990)
- **Secondhand citations:** Not ideal for final paper › <Fact> (Hockett 1960, cited by Anderson 2004: 21)
- **Format:** Doesn't matter, but be consistent
 - › Unified style sheet for linguistics: <http://www.lsadc.org/info/style-sheet.cfm>
 - › *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*: Bass Reference or SML Starr BF76.7 .P83X 2010

Assignment 1

Communication among humans involves both language in the strict sense, and modalities that we share with other species such as paralanguage, exclamatory vocalization and gesture (excluding signing for those whose language is in the visual modality).

- Briefly characterize the most essential differences between language on the one hand and these non-linguistic forms of communication on the other.
- When they become intertwined with each other in speaking, are different aspects of the message conveyed being carried by each?

Questions to ask

- **Does it work in a specific example?**
 - Does it work in all important areas?
- **Can anyone disagree with me?**
 - *Except for <small well-defined class> ...*
- **Can I make it clearer?**
 - More accurate? More concise?
 - Does it flow (logically, stylistically)?
 - Which points need grouping/splitting?
- **Is it an enjoyable read?**
 - Am I repeating myself (ideas, words, constructions)?

Today's starting point

In debating whether human language is really unique among animal communication systems, it is easy to overlook the fact that humans have a non-linguistic “animal communication system” too ...

... Non-linguistic communication (NLC) ...

- *Language can communicate more concepts ...*
- *Discrete elements versus continuous scale*

References

- American Psychological Association. 2010. *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Anderson, Stephen R. 2004. *Doctor Dolittle's Delusion*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Anderson, Stephen R. 2010. Evolution of Language. Class lectures, Fall 2010. Yale University.
- Fitch, W. Tecumseh. 2010. *The Evolution of Language*. Cambridge, UK; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Hockett, Charles F. 1960. Logical considerations in the study of animal communication. In *Animal Sounds and Animal Communication*, ed. W. E. Lanyon & W. N. Tavolga, pp. 392-430. Washington, DC: American Institute of Biological Sciences.
- Joseph, Brian, Keren Rice & Joseph Salmons. 2007. Unified style sheet for linguistics. <http://www.lsadc.org/info/style-sheet.cfm>, accessed Sep 26, 2010.
- Pinker, Steven & Paul Bloom. 1990. Natural language and natural selection. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 13: 707-784.