

Human language vs. communication of the bees In honour of the Austrian Nobel prize winner (1973) Karl von Frisch, who detected bee communication

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The paper will start with Karl von Frisch, his discovery of bee communication, its nature and his later experimental investigations of bee communication. This is followed by a brief summary of the development of studies on animal communication and types of animal communication. The main part is on what is common vs. different between the semiosis of animal communication and of human oral language, degrees of creativity and self-organisation, less on communication of, and with, encultured apes. Noam Chomsky and his nativist followers are criticised for certain of their statements, incl. poverty of stimuli. The paper will show how early child language lies often in between animal communication and adult human language in its properties. This implies support for Ernst Haeckel's biogenetic principle of 1866, that ontogenesis recapitulates phylogenesis. Animals are feeling beings, like humans, and therefore should be protected as legal subjects by law. The paper will end, as it began, with Karl von Frisch.