

# Origins

What are some things that link all languages?

There are about 5,000 languages spoken in the world today  
(a third of them in Africa)



# Descent Of Language

**SB Merriam**



## Descent Of Language:

*The Origin of Language* Merritt Ruhlen, 1994 But more than simply describing his and his colleagues theories Dr Ruhlen invites you to share in the joys of discovery He arms you with the linguists basic tool kit and lets you work through the evidence for yourself and draw your own conclusions You ll classify languages and language families trace language family trees and even reconstruct some of the basic vocabulary used by our most distant ancestors Treatise upon the origin of Language. Translated from the German Johann Gottfried Herder, 1827 *Inquiries Into the Origin of Language* James H. Stam, 1976 Origins of Language Sverker Johansson, 2005-02-17 Sverker Johansson has written an unusual book on language origins with its emphasis on empirical evidence rather than theory building This is a book for the student or researcher who prefers solid data and well supported conclusions over speculative scenarios Much that has been written on the origins of language is characterized by hypothesizing largely unconstrained by evidence But empirical data do exist and the purpose of this book is to integrate and review the available evidence from all relevant disciplines not only linguistics but also e g neurology primatology paleoanthropology and evolutionary biology The evidence is then used to constrain the multitude of scenarios for language origins demonstrating that many popular hypotheses are untenable Among the issues covered 1 Human evolutionary history 2 Anatomical prerequisites for language 3 Animal communication and ape language 4 Mind and language 5 The role of gesture 6 Innateness 7 Selective advantage of language 8 Proto language Origins of Language James R. Hurford, 2014-03-07 *Origins of Language A Slim Guide* offers a concise and accessible overview of what is known about the evolution of the human capacity for language Non human animals communicate in simple ways they may be able to form simple concepts to feel some limited empathy for others to cooperate to some extent and to engage in mind reading Human language however is characterized by its ability to efficiently express a wide range of subtle and complex meanings After the first simple beginnings human language underwent an explosion of complexity leading to the very complicated systems of grammar and pronunciation found in modern languages Jim Hurford looks at the very varied aspects of this evolution covering human prehistory the relation between instinct and learning biology and culture trust altruism and cooperation animal thought human and non human vocal anatomy the meanings and forms of the first words and the growth of complex systems of grammar and pronunciation Written by an internationally recognized expert in the field it draws on a number of disciplines besides linguistics including philosophy neuroscience genetics and animal behaviour and will appeal to a wide range of readers interested in language origins and evolution The Origins of Complex Language Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy, 1999 This book proposes a new theory of the origins of human language ability and presents an original account of the early evolution of language It explains why humans are the only language using animals challenges the assumption that language is a consequence of intelligence and offers a new perspective on human uniqueness Brilliantly executed this book draws on evidence from archaeology linguistics cognitive science and evolutionary biology *The Origin*

*and Diversification of Language* Morris Swadesh, 2017-09-04 Morris Swadesh one of this century's foremost scientific investigators of language dedicated much of his life to the study of the origin and evolution of language This volume left nearly completed at his death and edited posthumously by Joel F Sherzer is his last major study of this difficult subject Swadesh discusses the simple qualities of human speech also present in animal language and establishes distinctively human techniques of expression by comparing the common features that are found in modern and ancient languages He treats the diversification of language not only by isolating root words in different languages but also by dealing with sound systems with forms of composition and with sentence structure In so doing he demonstrates the evidence for the expansion of all language from a single central area Swadesh supports his hypothesis by exhibits that conveniently present the evidence in tabular form Further clarity is provided by the use of a suggestive practical phonetic system intelligible to the student as well as to the professional The book also contains an Appendix in which the distinguished ethnographer of language Dell Hymes gives a valuable account of the prewar linguistic tradition within which Swadesh did some of his most important work

**The Gestural Origin of Language** David F. Armstrong, Sherman Wilcox, 2007 This is a unique view of the origins of language describing what linguistic science would look like if sign language rather than speech was used as the basis for the study of language systems

**On the Origin of Language** Wilhelm Heinrich Immanuel Bleek, 1869 *On the Origin of Language* Wilhelm Heinrich Immanuel Bleek, 1869

**The Social Origins of Language** Robert M. Seyfarth, Dorothy L. Cheney, 2017-12-05 How human language evolved from the need for social communication The origins of human language remain hotly debated Despite growing appreciation of cognitive and neural continuity between humans and other animals an evolutionary account of human language in its modern form remains as elusive as ever The Social Origins of Language provides a novel perspective on this question and charts a new path toward its resolution In the lead essay Robert Seyfarth and Dorothy Cheney draw on their decades long pioneering research on monkeys and baboons in the wild to show how primates use vocalizations to modulate social dynamics They argue that key elements of human language emerged from the need to decipher and encode complex social interactions In other words social communication is the biological foundation upon which evolution built more complex language Seyfarth and Cheney's argument serves as a jumping off point for responses by John McWhorter Ljiljana Progovac Jennifer E Arnold Benjamin Wilson Christopher I Petkov and Peter Godfrey Smith each of whom draw on their respective expertise in linguistics neuroscience philosophy and psychology Michael Platt provides an introduction Seyfarth and Cheney a concluding essay Ultimately The Social Origins of Language offers thought provoking viewpoints on how human language evolved

**The History and Origin of Language** A.S. Diamond, 2023-12-30 First Published in 1959 The history and origin of language deals with one of the most important and most fascinating subject matter of all human historical problems that of the origin and development of language It is the first attempt to solve it not by a priori methods but by marshalling and analyzing the whole of the evidence It is a work of great originality by a scholar who

has written other well known sociological works and the treatment is that of the sociologist Dr Diamond writes for the intelligent layman as well as the linguist He first seeks the true nature of language and its true function and structure in modern society and traces the paths along which language has developed and changed in its known history both in the forms of its words and in their meanings examining for this purpose many languages of civilized and primitive peoples These paths he then pursues backwards with the aid of data from human physiology the language of children and observations of animal behaviour and shows how all these paths converge to one beginning and deduces how language originated both the form of its first words and their meanings He finally shows relics of these earliest words and meanings in languages which still survive The arguments are cumulative and many sided and the case made is convincing This is a must read for scholars and researchers of linguistics

Language: Its Nature, Development and Origin Otto Jespersen, 2022-05-28 In Language Its Nature Development and Origin Otto Jespersen explores the intricate tapestry of language considering its biological psychological and social dimensions Through a rigorous linguistic framework Jespersen employs a descriptive and analytical style that deftly combines historical linguistics with contemporary insights revealing the evolution of language as a dynamic and living system He delves into concepts such as phonetics syntax and semantics while situating linguistic development within broader cultural and historical contexts making it an essential text for understanding the complexities of human communication Otto Jespersen a prominent Danish linguist and a pioneering figure in the field of English grammar draws on his extensive academic background to craft this seminal work His experiences in the rapidly evolving landscape of European languages during the late 19th and early 20th centuries likely informed his inquiry into language origins and classifications Jespersen s ability to synthesize various linguistic theories showcases his commitment to the scientific study of language making him a respected authority in the field This book is highly recommended for scholars students and language enthusiasts alike offering profound insights into the essence of language itself Jespersen s thoughtful analysis invites readers to reflect on their own linguistic experiences while providing a comprehensive foundation for further exploration in the spheres of linguistics and semiotics

**Theory of Morals and Origin of Language** ,1871 The Descent of Language Rod Mengham, 1993 In this book poet and critic Rod Mengham takes a look at the origins ends and development of languages in the histories of societies and the lives of individuals In ranging from the details of brain functions to tracking the spread of Indo European the largest family of languages in the world Mengham reveals how these processes have become complicated by successive waves of technological advance by writing by movable type and printing by the telephone by computer networks This book argues that it is through language that human beings define themselves and their world He analyses the way that cultures are organised around language from literary classics to advertising slogans and reflects on the rise of dictionaries translations and universal language schemes Above all it uncovers the fundamental role that language plays in the process of social change and demonstrates how it can be used equally as a force for conservatism or for radical

innovation in the formation of nationality and family gender and class It also presents the fruits of the latest research in linguistics history psychology and neurology to a non specialist audience     The Nature and Origin of Language Denis Bouchard,2013-10 Denis Bouchard looks at how the human brain got the capacity for language and how language evolved He argues that language is a system of signs and considers how these elements first came together in the brain His account of language origins offers insights into language and to constructions that have defied decades of linguistic analysis     *The Origins and Prehistory of Language* Géza Révész,1956     Original Sanskrit Texts on the Origin and History of the People of India, Their Religion and Institutions ,1874     *Man: Embracing His Origin, Antiquity, Primitive Condition, Races, Languages, Religions, Superstitions, Customs, Peculiarities, Civilization, Nature and Constitution, Physical Structure, the Care and Preservation of the Body, the Mental and Moral Faculties, Etc., Etc* George Dallas Lind,1884     *Original Sanskrit Texts on the Origin and History of the People of India: Inquiry whether the Hindus are of trans-Himalayan origin, and akin to the western branches of the Indo-European race. 3d ed.* 1874 John Muir,1871

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