The Faculty of Language: What is it, who has it, and how did it evolve?
– Write up
Alexae Stone

This article is all about how people listen and hear and how this has evolved overtime. There are comparisons to animals, and how we need to study more about the role of evolutionary in order to actually follow these patterns and find out how our language advances.

I think it is difficult to compare the way humans and animals communicate with one another. I think it’s true that we share similar physical aspects with some animals, but when it comes to communicating the one common thing is hand motions. We don’t know specifically what sounds the animals are making, nor do they know what sounds we are making. I think we each have our own ways of communicating, and we do them in totally different ways. To say that one animal has a similar way of communicating seems tough to figure out.

I would agree that our FLB is similar between humans and other animals. It’s like the universal language, that even those who can’t hear can understand. I think both of us can understand motions or sounds done by others in our species. That would be the only way for animals to understand what each other is doing. Even if it only involves some kind of sounds we can’t understand or mating dances. We do something similar through body language, by flirting or batting our eyelashes. It may not be as direct as the animals (or sometimes it is =) )

I think FLN is unique to humans. This seems to be where we have shown our strength through our thinking abilities and ability to create such huge strides in the advancement in technology. We just function higher than these animals, and our FLN is one of the areas that we have differently than the others.

Our idea of language seems to be different than animals. We use phonics and write with one another. Animals have nothing similar to our ability to write. Maybe marking on an object is there way of showing where they have been, but we have a way of going into so much more depth on places that we have been and experiences we have had. We have that ability to keep history.
I think that this paper starts off addressing something I did not consider before. “Changes in attention, social contact, and interdependencies do not alter human nature of fundamental processes of society. People still fall in love, care about their bosses evaluations, and work for money”. I think because of the large differences in these types of communication, I never noticed their similarities and how it all is still forms of communications we need. Though we have so much more technology today, we still are using it provide those basic forms of contact that we have with others. Granted, this communication has become easier over the years and you can communicate anywhere, anytime, it still all stems from the idea that we feel the need to communicate with others all the time. We have moved from writing on paper and sending these, where it may take weeks to now conversing with anyone face to face whenever we want to. I think this thesis addresses these issues and how even more exciting and interactive these new technologies have become.

Hole-in-Space would have been such a shock to see back in the 70’s. I think today even, this piece would be something people would like to partake in on the street. I think the idea of triangulation helped these people along with conversing with people on the other end. I attended presentations done by Karrie in the past, and it seems the more anonymous the visualization, the better. People seem to not want others to know that they are doing such ridiculous acts, but as long as they can be anonymous they will do almost anything. I think you see this trend on forums as well. People tend to want to stay anonymous if they are making comments, but in the case of forums its usually only if they are saying something rude. I guess the rude factor goes along with silly acts done in the Hole-in-Space. However, I feel like if people are being helpful on forums, they will have a screen name, as if to receive some kind of credit for the aid they are providing to other users.

The piece that was done at Microsoft in the kitchens I think portrays the same idea as the Hole-in-Space. People like to keep to themselves when doing some activities, unless maybe it was done so the people on the other end could not see what they are doing. I think it makes sense that people tried to avoid these kitchens with the cameras due to this same fact. I know I don’t like people to know how much I am eating through the day or how unhealthy the food is that I am eating. I think many Americans are the same way, due to the bad eating habits we do have here. Even though they could shut off the spaces cameras, they still didn’t trust it. I think it also deals with the big brother issue and worrying about others watching over us.
**Primates on Facebook – Write Up**
Alexae Stone

This article is all about people’s activities on social networking sites and their ability to keep up with the number of friends they have. Some people seem to have large groups, but they are only close with a small number of these people.

I think this article is very true and sticks to what I and others have seen through our Facebook usage. I have many friends on Facebook, and just today I was looking through them to invite to an event, and had no idea who half of them were. Some of them I just don’t know by their names, only by pictures, and others are acquaintances I have through other friends or through a quick social meeting at a bar or something. However, I only talk with a few of these people, posting on their walls and commenting on pictures. I feel like there is no way that a person could stick close to that many friends at a time.

I have noticed that boys, especially my boyfriend, do not have a large number of friends. I think it is a boy thing not to go out and search for other friends. I know my boyfriend though has a tight group of friends that always write dorky things on each other’s walls and I think that they are totally satisfied with their small group. Girls tend to be more outgoing and wanting to see what others are doing, even if it is just through gossiping.

I think the author of this is correct that these means are especially for letting those outside of our group know what is going on, because the inner group already knows.

**Maintained Relationships on Facebook – Write up**
Alexae Stone

I think the stat that you are only close with n number of people in your friends, but you have 2n to 2.5n that you are not active with. I figured the number would be larger that you are not active with. I guess they include just looking at their page, so this data may be correct in my case.

I think the article is right in that these social networks provide us a method of finding out what people are doing without actually having to talk to them.

Again, the stats shown on this Facebook article I think correlate with what the study found. Boys have smaller groups of friends, on average. Even when it comes to those they are close with. I think especially on Facebook, people use it as a form of gossip and to see who’s doing what. Girls have always been about this kind of talk since they have gone to the hair salon. We just can’t seem to keep out of others business and want to share the good things that have happened to us with others.