

Structure in language

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Partners

About me

- Currently in the third year of my PhD
- Studying how scientists research cognitive evolution and animal behaviour
- From language to language evolution to animal communication to animal cognition

The module

- We are going to look at structure in language
- And we are going to give you the perspective and tools necessary to approach linguistics problems

Patterns

- We will look at every level of language
- But at each level there will be one common denominator:
- Patterns

Our approach

- We are going to start from the bottom up
- Hopefully, you have already learned about the role of sound in language
- We are now going to use this knowledge to start building words with letters, phrases with words, and different kinds of sentences with phrases.

Outline

- What is language?
- Structure in sound (Phonology)
- Structure in words (Morphology)
- structure in phrases (Syntax)
- Structure in sentences (More syntax)

What about meaning?

- You might be wondering where meaning comes in to everything
- Without meaning, communication would be difficult
- At each level, we will look at how meaning comes in to the system

Some preliminaries

- Language is in the brain
- Although languages differ, they share many similarities in structure
- We are primarily interested in where they are similar