

Introduction

Systems of Communication

Continuity Hypothesis

Human Language is an elaboration of other animal communication systems.

Discontinuity Hypothesis

There is something qualitatively different about human language from other species' communication systems.



Tree: stock_shoppe/iStock/Thinkstock; Giraffe: colematt/iStock/Thinkstock; Man: denis_pc/iStock/Thinkstock

Communicative Media



Touch

Grooming, whacking, fondling, braille



Sound

Snake rattles, beaver slaps, bird calls, bird songs, speech



Sight

Movements, postures, facial expressions, orthographies

Yarj/iStock/Thinkstock

Communicative Media



Touch



Sound



Sight



Smell

Pheromones, skunk squirts, pee-pee



Taste

Pheromones, other chemical signals

Yarj/iStock/Thinkstock

Communicative Vehicles: Signs



"not here"

Both images: Randy Harris

Communicative Vehicles: Signs



Both images: Randy Harris

Communicative Vehicles: Signs

D-o-g



**Signifier
(Form)**

Object, noise, image, taste, smell

**Signified
(Meaning)**

Concept, idea, notion

Dog: colematt/iStock/Thinkstock

Communicative Vehicles: Signs

School



**Semasiology
Form**

Object, noise, image, taste, smell

**Onomasiology
Meaning**

Concept, idea, notion



School: blueberry/iStock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock