

On the antiquity of language:

The reinterpretation of Neandertal linguistic capacities and its consequences

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The antiquity of modern language is from 50,000–100,000 years to half a million years

The authors review several recent lines of evidence concerning Neandertal language and speech capacity, aiming to dispel the idea—still held in some influential circles—that the Neandertals were an inarticulate not quite human species, arguing instead that they were probably not very different biologically or cognitively from us, and that their linguistic capacities were closely similar to our own.

That language is prior to the genetic separation of Neanderthals and anatomically modern human

It happen in Africa

At the same time, those ancestors of modern humans who continued to inhabit Africa also enjoyed half a million years of linguistic evolution

Genetic evidence

It has an effect on formation and comprehension, language and speech

The developmental or maturation of Neandertal

The organs related to the formation of language

The authors used evidence to prove that Neanderthals and their ancestors had a configuration of modern growth and maturation.

Archaeological evidence

Neandertals buried their dead, with some but contested evidence for grave offerings and indications of cannibalism . Lumps of pigment—presumably used in body decoration, and recently found applied to perforated shells are also found in Neandertal sites.

The complexity of making tools

The replacement of Neanderthal populations by modern human was slow and gradual.

This is due to the different historical and demographic developments