

Linguaggio ed evoluzione. Perché la biolinguistica 2.0 non basta

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Studi italiani di linguistica teorica e applicata XLV, 1 (2016), pp. 39-52

ABSTRACT

In this article, we analyze the relationship between language and evolution. Starting from the evolutionary turn within cognitive sciences, we wonder if nowadays Universal Grammar can be considered the reference model of the cognitive studies on language. To this end, we compare two different ways of addressing such an issue: on the one hand, the models that explain the relationship between language and evolution by referring to a “criterion of compatibility”; on the other hand, the models that appeal to a “criterion of conformity”. We maintain that the attempts made in order to adapt Universal Grammar to evolutionary theory (compatibilist accounts) have several problems. Our thesis is that the future of biolinguistics has to be grounded on a kind of analysis that fits in with the results of evolutionary theory (conformity-based accounts).