

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction to Divergent Views</b> . . . . .	1
1.1	Why Study Language Evolution ... or Not? . . . . .	1
1.2	How Ancient Is Language, and Did Neanderthals Have It? . . . . .	3
1.3	Sudden (Saltationist) or Gradual Emergence? . . . . .	4
1.4	The Core Questions to Answer: The Five Problems . . . . .	5
	References . . . . .	11
<b>2</b>	<b>Sudden (Saltationist) Approaches to Language Evolution</b> . . . . .	15
2.1	A Sampling of Saltationist Approaches . . . . .	15
2.2	All or Nothing Saltationist Scenario (Berwick and Chomsky) . . . . .	15
2.3	Saltationism with Some Continuity (Miyagawa) . . . . .	21
	References . . . . .	27
<b>3</b>	<b>Gradualist Approaches to Language Evolution</b> . . . . .	31
3.1	A Sampling of Gradualist Approaches . . . . .	31
3.2	Using the Linguistic Framework of Grammaticalization: Reconstruction of Earliest Vocabularies (Heine and Kuteva) . . . . .	32
3.3	Using the Linguistic Framework of Minimalism: Reconstruction of Earliest Grammars (Progovac) . . . . .	35
3.4	In Defense of “Living Fossils” (Jackendoff; Bickerton; Givón; Progovac) . . . . .	46
3.5	Cultural Change or Genetic Evolution? . . . . .	54
3.5.1	Nurture Versus Nature . . . . .	54
3.5.2	Cultural Evolution and Computer Simulation Studies . . . . .	56
	References . . . . .	62
<b>4</b>	<b>Putting It All Together: The Language-Brain-Genes Loop</b> . . . . .	67
4.1	From Language to the Brain to the Genes, and Back . . . . .	67
4.2	Specific Sexual Selection Scenario: Language and Genes . . . . .	68
4.3	Genetic Discoveries and Experiments: Genes and the Brain (via Language) . . . . .	74

4.4	Neuroscientific Findings and Experiments: Language and the Brain (via Genes) . . . . .	77
4.5	What About Neanderthals and Other Species? . . . . .	79
4.6	Conclusions and Future Prospects . . . . .	83
	References . . . . .	84