

ANIMAL COMMUNICATION.

In our daily life, we observe that animals also communicate usually when they encounter a difficult situation in their life. Bees start buzzing when their hive is disturbed, monkeys start hooting when they feel any threat. It shows that animals too feel the need of communication like humans but their language lacks the nuances of human language. Animals fundamentally lack such life features as they don't have a very organised form of social life, which is the hallmark of human life. This difference in life feature between humans and animals may partly be attributed to the differences in forms of their languages. These differences are enumerated in the following ways

(i) Animal language is not as well organised as human language is. Since animals don't have a developed set of organs of speech like that of humans, they are unable to produce different varieties of speech sounds.

(ii) Animal language does not cross the limit of time and space unlike human language that crosses. From this angle, animal language is highly localized, confined to a very small area depending on the loudness of speech. Moreover, it can't be carried on up to the coming generations unlike human languages such as appeal to the posterity through books, compact discs, movies etc.

- (iii) Animal language is predominantly instinctive in nature as animals inherit their languages as a result of genetic endowment, whereas human language is acquired depending on the environment one is brought up in. The experiments carried on chimpanzees named Viki, Chimsky, Washoe, etc who were brought up with human beings for a long period but failed to acquire human language, have given ample hints of this fact.
- (iv) Animal language is inelastic, non-modifiable and largely monotonous unlike human languages. Because of the predominant monolithic feature of sounds produced by animals, there is hardly any scope of modulation in their speech that may be attributed to such linguistic features.
- (v) Animal language does not exhibit two levels of operation in speech production, i.e., among animals non-discrete sounds are produced in a continuum where the difference between individual sounds and their combination in the form of words is not realized.

On the basis of the above-mentioned facts about the animal language, it can be said that animal language is a highly underdeveloped form of language compared to the human language. Actually, the vocal cords of animals are designed in such a way that they can't produce clearly distinguishable sound units.