QUESTIONS TO TACKLE in class:

1. **In what ways is language related to our brain and mind?**
2. **Why do we talk?**
3. **Language in a community: When and where did language start?**

**Do we invent language or come to BE through language?**

**“***pressing needs“*

Bows and arrows analogy

1. **Is ART an evidence of thinking and speaking?**
2. **How did language humanize us in anatomy, genes, brain and cognition?**

When did human ancestors start behaving modern/using modern l.?

Genetically „touched by God“

Anatomically adjusted for articulating and speaking

Larynx, hyiod bone supporting the tongue

Composing out of sounds that are „meaningful“

auditory capacity – handling l. sounds

capacity for interchangeability – hearing while speaking

dependent on our modern/ advanced brain and its neural activity, i.e.

neural control over L: speaking, signing and thinking

translating sound vibrations of HL sounds into neural activity

manipulating symbols

remembering

1. **Is language natural and instinctive?**
2. **What characteristics make language work the way it does?**

What is the “language design“?

1. **When did we learn/****start to think?**

What actually happened on the „day we started to think“?

Any evidence?

In what “symbolic activity” that marked our beginnings were humans involved?

“Living in a world created in our heads” implies that…

Self-reflection, inner talk

displacement

arbitrary nature of l.

words as signs, L. as signing activity

compositionality

creativity and recursitivity/recursion

1. **In what ways is our language universal and in what ways it is not?**
2. **What can we do with l. that other primates or animals can’t (or can partially)?**

Reflect and refer

Plan and reason

Listen while speaking and thinking

Conceptualize/draw out the “essence”

Use conventions, signs, symbols

Understand metaphors and ambiguity

Communicate directly and indirectly

Share in imagination/imagine together

Spread information

Socialize

Tell stories

vs. other animals – remember, plan, intend, desire etc. but don’t…

1. **What makes the phenomenon of language possible?**

Human commitment to arbitrary language and grammar defined by constraints of the general cognition

“Language” of hominids? 6 – 3 mill. yrs ago?

Modern l. of Homo sapiens sapiens?

Descartes on language