**Language change and adaptation**

**What are the constraints of language change?**

What makes a language fit to survive? what characteristics does a language need to have to ensure its survival?

From the biological perspective, what is characteristic of an adaptive trait? Does language adapt to brain/mind or v.v.?

What is „communicatively useful“ and efficient? What are „the best communicative solutions“?

What is the role of cultural transmission in language change?

What role did Vikings‘ invasions and settlement in Britain (9-10th AD) play in cultural transmission and shaping of English?

What is meant by children learners‘ filtering adults‘ language usage?... i.e., weeding out inconsistently produced innovations and holding on to those meant to survive?

What’s your opinion of J. McWhorter's theory of why English dropped its endings and paradigm simplifications? Why did such a radical restructuring of Old English grammar happen?

episode 1, Birth of a new language (investigating the new sign language in Managua, Nicaragua) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maUN3asrHAo>