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The present volume of the Journal of Young Scientists (JYS) presents topics on language acquisition, nature of human language, issues related to human cognition, language and brain development. It also highlights the research findings on the functions of different parts of brain in the process of production, acquisition and comprehension of linguistic units. The volume also covers the topics of language usage in different psychological, pragmatic and communicative contexts.

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## What dolphins and songbirds could tell us about the evolution of language?

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The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the era of communication. People get to know and make relationships with each other throughout the internet. Sometimes virtual chats are enough for somebody. However, language still remains the main opportunity to communicate. We all know means of communication for humans, but do animals have a language? There always have been the discussion about how animals or birds communicate. Some people think, that they have their own language, which humans can't understand. But do animals really understand each other? Are they smart enough to understand the language like humans? Take dolphins for example. They are one of the smartest creatures around the world. Do dolphins have a language? This is a fantastically interesting question, and one that researchers at the Dolphin Communication Project are asked on a regular basis. The answer can be a bit confusing unless we are all on the same page with respect to what we actually mean when we use the word 'language'. So, before we dive head-first into this subject I think we should clear up any potential confusion.

There are three important definitions or meanings for the word 'language' that are relevant to the question 'do dolphins have a language?'.

The first meaning is 'language' as a kind of metaphor or simile. When we say 'the language of love' or 'the language of dance' we don't mean that dance is the same as a spoken language like English or Chinese. We mean that it is 'like' a language without actually being a language, in the same way that we can 'sleep like a log' without actually being a log. It is a metaphorical, or perhaps poetic usage, which isn't really helpful in answering the question 'do dolphins have a language'.

The second more formal definition of 'language' is that used by linguists and other cognitive scientists. It is the kind of definition you will find when you look up the word 'language' in the dictionary. If the question of 'do dolphins have a language' is asking if dolphins have anything like this description of language, well then we are posing a good scientific question! But before going further with this discussion, the third definition should be presented. And, this one causes quite a lot of confusion. This meaning and usage of the word 'language' considers language to be any form of communication system. In this sense, it is halfway between the linguists' definition and the metaphorical meaning. It is a very flexible definition, for example: scientists sometimes use this version of 'language' when they say things like 'the language of birds' or 'honey bee dance language' to describe animal communication systems. But, this meaning of language can be used to describe any kind of system that communicates something.

Essentially this ‘informal’ definition of language is simply ‘a communication system’. In this case, we could easily say that dolphins have a language. Dolphins, like nearly every living thing on the planet, communicate with each other. So, if the question is ‘do dolphins have a communication system’, then obviously the answer is yes. But then we could say that cats have a language, kangaroos have a language, and ants have a language. Even fleas, paramecia and bacteria have a language according to this definition. So do flowers, which are quite excellent at communicating information about their reproductive state to animals like bees. Even the cells in your body have a language – perhaps one of the most complicated communication systems around. But, obviously if we are just answering the question ‘do dolphins have a language’ by saying, “Of course! They have a communication system just like skin cells!”, then we are going to be stuck with an exceptionally boring answer. Unless of course you are a cell biologist, at which point the phrase ‘the language of cells’ probably gets the adrenaline flowing. Things only really get interesting when we want to know if the communication system used by dolphins is anything like the formal definition of language. What we are really asking is this: do dolphins have anything like a natural human language? Now that is a good question! So what can a human do with this language instinct? Well, some pretty amazing things! First and foremost, humans (as we have seen) can learn a language – that might sound obvious, but it would appear that without a language instinct, learning human language is impossible. Scientists have tried to teach human language to a number of animals – from chimpanzees to parrots. Some of the results have been remarkable, but the scientists have all reached the same conclusion-only a human can fully learn a human language.

This isn't so strange really – if humans were the subjects of experiments by a super-race of pigeons, I am sure the pigeon researchers would have to conclude that humans, no matter how smart we are, just can't seem to learn to fly.

So, what can we do with our language instinct? Well, humans can use language to refer to things in our environment – we can talk about the sky, rose bushes, math, James Bond, etc. This is a basic property of human language that is unlike anything found in normal animal communication systems. Perhaps some animals do refer to things in their environment. However, this ability is very rare, very limited, and not very flexible.

Here's another important note: all language is communication, but not all communication is language. Of course, humans use language to communicate all sorts of things to each other; language was designed by evolution to be a fantastically efficient means of conveying information. Humans can communicate how they feel, what they want for dinner, whether or not they believe something, and etc. But this is only a subset of the kind of communication that humans engage in on a daily basis. Human beings are, in fact, in possession of a huge number of behaviors that we use to communicate with other human beings, none of which rely on language. Think about this; you don't need language to understand meanings of a hand shake, smile, lough, shrug, rolling eyes, high five and etc.

But, non-verbal communication in humans is much more than just gestures. Postures (like folding your arms or slouching), physical contact (like a hug or a punch to the gut), non-language vocalizations (like a scream, a laugh, a sob, or a whistle) – all of these things can be used to communicate without resorting to language. If you have ever visited a country where

you don't speak a word of the local language, you will soon realize how powerful these non-language communication signals can be!

So yes, language is a form of communication, but communication can happen in so many different ways - not just through language.

So, what about dolphins? Well, like all animals, dolphins have evolved a set of behaviors that allow them to communicate. Like humans, they use a variety of kinds of physical contact for communication, for example: a gentle nuzzle of the rostrum, a playful bite to the dorsal fin or an aggressive bite to the flank.

They also use visual signals (sort of like human gestures) to convey information. For example, the following signals can convey frustration, threat, or anger. Dolphins, like chimpanzees, birds and many other animals, also use vocalizations for communication. They produce whistles, creaks, chuffs, screams, squawks, pops, chirps— a whole assortment of sounds that scientists have labeled in any number of ways. Dolphins appear to use these communicative behaviors, vocalizations, physical contact, and postures, to express all sorts of things to each other. They can communicate their emotional state (anger, frustration, contentment, affection), but also convey information about their reproductive state, age, gender, etc. What's more, dolphins, like many animals, can learn to read each other's behaviors and communicative signals in order to coordinate activities like feeding on fish, or even just swimming together. Sometimes, like in the town of Laguna, Brazil, dolphins can even communicate with humans in an effort to catch fish, using signals to coordinate their hunting effort. For highly social animals like

dolphins, chimpanzees, and humans, the ability to communicate and interpret each other's behavior is mighty important.

So the question remains, 'do dolphins have anything like human language'? The simple answer to that is: as far as science has been able to determine, no they don't.

Well, why not? If they can convey all sorts of information about their emotions and coordinate activities together, they must have something like human language, right? Well, no not really.

If you remember all of the things a normal communication system is able to convey WITHOUT language (all of the body language and other subtle social things humans can do), you will quickly realize that typical animal communication systems can convey tons of useful information.

Well, what exactly are the 'things' that make a complicated communication system different from a language? Why don't scientists take seriously the idea that dolphins speak 'dolphinese'?

It is entirely true that dolphins can be taught artificial communication systems that allows them to do at least some of the things listed above. But, despite their progress in these experiments, dolphins don't seem to use their normal communication system to do any of the human language like things I just listed.

In fact, no animal communication system are able to do any of these things, and certainly no system other than human language can do all of them.

Of course, science might be wrong – it is entirely possible that all of the chirps and whistles are actually used to refer to things more than just general emotional states – maybe they use them to refer to objects like fish and boats, and maybe, just maybe dolphins are discussing



things like Newtonian physics. Half a century ago, some researchers believed that dolphins had a communication system that was able to do these things— just like a human language, and that one day we would unravel the meaning of their language. But, scientists have spent many decades trying to find a hint of truth in these predictions, and unfortunately have not found any positive evidence. There is a possibility that some dolphin species use a ‘signature whistle’ that might refer to either themselves or other dolphins. The signature whistle is hypothesized to be a unique whistle that a young dolphin develops soon after it is born, and that might function a bit like a name. It is generally accepted that dolphins do not have an inborn cognitive mechanism that allows them to create a highly structured grammatical system capable of combining small meaningful elements into larger meaningful elements that can refer to concrete and abstract things. In other words, dolphins don’t have anything like human language.

Scientists who study communication in dolphins are trying to learn more about the kinds of communication signals dolphins use, when they use them, in what situations and what these signals might convey for meaning. Asking if dolphins have human language is much like asking if humans can use their nose like an elephant’s trunk. You might indeed find a few similarities but it is a bit like comparing apples and oranges. You will learn quite a bit about what the differences in the structures are, which can be a useful lesson for sure, but you won’t learn anything about what a dolphin’s natural communication system is designed to do and how dolphins go about using it in everyday life. While dolphins might not have a human language, they do have a communication system that is just as fascinating, and just as much fun to study.

Songbirds also have very interesting communication systems. Vocal learning is widespread in songbirds, parrots, and hummingbirds, with abilities to mimic hundreds of human words. And even though birds and humans are separated by over 300 million years of evolution, the brain areas in birds controlling vocal learning are strikingly similar to language regions in the human brain. That means birds and humans have converged on similar neural mechanisms for mimicking sounds.

Scientists from the University of Texas Southwestern and Duke University recently discovered a new pathway in the songbird brain by making firing neurons glow. They injected a virus into neurons that connect a region important for producing song to a region important for hearing song. The virus causes a fluorescent protein to be expressed every time the brain cells fire, and the researchers found that the neurons glowed every time the birds sang. This means that the neurons are transferring instructions about how to sing to neurons that hear what is being sung. This feedback from the motor system onto the auditory system allows a learning bird to predict what they'll hear coming out of their beaks, and, as a result, better mimic your favorite song. Similar pathways in the human brain likely help us learn and maintain spoken words.

After comparing the brains of many parrot and songbird species, a large international group of researchers hypothesized that parrots share a “core” song system with songbirds, but then evolved a unique “shell” song system beyond that, enabling enhanced vocal learning ability. In a similar way, human brains may have developed new language-related circuits on top of ancestral hominin circuitry.

After decades of research, now we know more than ever about vocal learning in birds, providing invaluable clues about how we, Homo sapiens, became equipped for language. Yet, there is still so much we have yet to discover, and I think birds and dolphins are the key to understanding the evolution of language. Without them, the oceans, trees and skies would be less colorful and melodic, and our chances of discovering how human language evolved would be slim. So, when the story of the evolution of language is finally complete, be prepared to thank the birds and dolphins.

## Gap Fillers

*Anna Voskanyan*

What are gap fillers and how do they influence our speech or generally our lives? Not many pay attention to them or their meaning, yet they use them every day. But why are they so important for us to use them and where did they come from? Or what do they actually mean? A filler word is apparently a meaningless word, phrase, or sound that marks a pause or hesitation in speech. Also known as a pause filler or hesitation form. Some of the common filler words in English are um, uh, er, ah, like, okay, right, and you know. Although filler words "may have fairly minimal lexical content," notes linguist Barbara A. Fox, "they can play a strategic syntactic role in an unfolding utterance".in Fillers, Pauses and Placeholders, 2010).

So - this work is – um - about those little – er – short ‘filler’ words that people use – like – in the middle of sentences – you know? Yes, written down, the above sentence is incredibly infuriating. Yet, to say it aloud does not sound too different from how people talk to each other every single day. Long considered to be a sign of stupidity or ineptness, linguists are saying this is unfair. Often, the people who make these sounds, in between actual words recognised in the English dictionary, are being especially conscious of who they are talking to. Professor Michael Handford, a professor of applied linguistics and English language at Cardiff University, says there are two main reasons people use these filler words. Often these are known as “discourse

markers" ('you know', 'so') or "filled pauses"('um', 'er'). "The functions they fill are often interactional and cognitive," he told The Independent.

- "The interactional function is to do with politeness. If you invite somebody to a party and they say no without any of those markers they will appear rude probably. If you say 'um, well, you know, sorry' it makes it much more polite. They play a really important politeness function"
- The cognitive use of the words is when the person is trying to process information that might be more complex. "This is important for the speaker and the listener as well," Professor Handford says. "If you did speak how people write people wouldn't be able to understand you as we can't process that much information... As speakers we are often aware, if we speak too complexly the listener might not understand. We use these items, pretty unconsciously, to help the person process what we are saying." This goes for ourselves as well, the reason we tend to over-fill these pauses is when we are not sure of what we are saying, think job interview or if a stranger stops you in the street to ask for directions to a place you are not too familiar with. If you don't know what you're talking about, if someone asks you a difficult question, then while you're scratching your head for an answer you are probably going to be using more of them," Professor Handford says.

But still gap fillers have a bad reputation as many think they show unsureness and nervousness but is it so? As a study suggests um, filler words may not always be bad, and may do some good. In some cases, they may aid comprehension.

So-called filler words such as "um" or "like" have a bad reputation—but using filler words is not only normal, it may have some benefits, *Susmita Baral* reports for Quartz. *Steven Cohen*,

an assistant professor of communication at the University of Baltimore, told Quartz that filler words "appear in every language and every culture." It's easy to understand why. When we need a moment to think or we get a bit nervous, a quick interjection of an "um" can do wonders. But overusing filler words can send a signal to some that a speaker is immature, inarticulate, or nervous. The words "impede our ability to speak with power" and "become interrupters that detract from our message," Cohen says .

Have you ever thought which gap fillers are used more often and the attitude of the users towards them? Well let me tell you that recently there was a study done regarding to this issue the results were quiet interesting.

Historic struggle between the ummers and the errers, the ummers are getting the upper hand. A study of speech patterns by socio-linguists at Edinburgh University has found that English speakers increasingly tend to use “um” rather than “er” as the filler of choice. Earlier this year on the Andrew

Marr Show, Nigel Farage used 15 “ers” and just two “ums”. Get with the programme grandad: don’t you realise that to er may be human, but to um is increasingly on-trend? Consider Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard who, by contrast, used nine “ums” and one “er” recently when discussing the 1-1 draw with Everton. Separate studies have found that men and older people prefer to use “er”, while women and teenagers prefer to fill their manifold sentential lacunae with “ums”. What about the likers and the whateverers, the y’knowers and the knoworrimeaners, not to mention my personal favourite, the inniters, you ask? I’m, like, don’t even go there, you feel me? Socio-linguists distinguish discourse markers (like, y’know) from

what they call filled pauses such as “er “ (or “uh” as they say it Stateside) and “um”. Discourse markers, says Josef Fruehwald lecturer in socio-linguistics at Edinburgh, help speakers negotiate turn-taking in conversation, while the latter, um, fill gaps. Both men and women are shifting their preferences towards using “um” more, says Fruehwald, but women are shifting faster “[W]hen language changes, women lead the way – women are about a generation and a generation and a half ahead of men.”

As I mentioned every language has it's own gap fillers and it's not essential only for English users, so here are some examples of gap fillers around the world.

- ✓ In Greek, ε (*e*), εμ (*em*), λοιπόν (*lipon*, "so") and καλά (*kala*, "good") are common fillers
- ✓ In Korean, 응 (*eung*) 어 (*eo*), 그 (*geu*), and 음 (*eum*) are commonly used as fillers.
- ✓ In Japanese, common fillers include ええと (*e-eto*, or "um"), あの (*ano*, literally "that over there", used as "um"), まあ (*ma*, or "well"), そう (*so-*, used as "hmmm"), and ええ (*e-e*, a surprise reaction, with tone and duration indicating positive/negative).
- ✓ In Arabic, يعني *ya'ni* ("means") and والله *wallāh(i)* ("by God") are common fillers. In Moroccan Arabic, زعمة *z3ma* ("like") is a common filler.
- ✓ In Italian, common fillers include "tipo" ("like"), "ecco" ("there") and "cioè" ("actually")
- ✓ In Spanish, fillers are called *muletillas*. Some of the most common in American Spanish are *e* /e/, *este* (roughly equivalent to "uhm", literally means "this"), and *o sea* (roughly equivalent to "I mean", literally means "or be it").<sup>[8]</sup> in Spain the previous fillers are also used, but ¿Vale? ("right?") and ¿no? are very common.

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## Perception of Colors and Numbers across Languages

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### Perception of colors

We have a basic template for categorizing color and we personalize what distinction are important in our culture English has eleven basic terms Russian and Hungarian have twelve and the new Guinean language has just two yet color is a spectrum and research has shown that we are capable of seeing millions of them. If you show people two very close shade of green they can tell you that they are not the same but rather then name all of those distinct colors we tend to categorize them into group like blue green and so on. Color vision is the ability of an organism or machine to distinguish objects based on the wavelengths of the light they reflect, emit or transmit. Colors can be measured and quantified in various ways; indeed, a person's perception of colors is a subjective process whereby the brain responds to the stimuli that are produced when incoming light reacts with the several

types of cone cells in the eye. In essence, different people see the same illuminated object or light source in different ways.

Our ability to see a color is limited by the words we have to describe it. There are several culture in the world, including the ancient Greek, that did not have any words for color blue. Himba tribe in Namibia is one of those culture. But in Russian has two words for color blue: синий and голубой. It distinguishes darker and lighter blue in separate categorise. Some people, however, have a color vision deficiency, which means that their perception of color is different from what most of us see.

### **Perception of Numbers**

Number sense hypothesis holds the intuitive understanding of numbers is a primary visual property like color sense. Langue plays an important role in how culture affects, self-versus other perception. As for numbers, unlike most cultures in Chinese have a rather odd of stacking numbers which involves repetition. Since their minds are so used to computing. It reflects on their ability to do math.

Rod numerals (筹 [籌] chóu)

Rod numerals or counting rods were a positional numeral system used by merchants, mathematicians and astronomers from the Han Dynasty to the 16th century.

Ⅰ	Ⅱ	Ⅲ	Ⅳ	Ⅴ	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎	𠄎
一	二	三	四	五	𠄐	𠄐	𠄐	𠄐
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

### Shang numerals

These are the numerals that were used in the Oracle Bone Script from the 14th century BC.

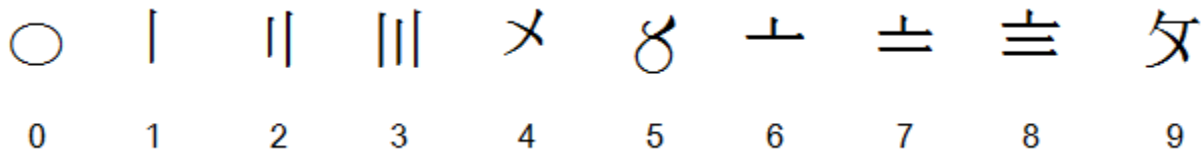
Later numerals used in Chinese developed from these

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
十一	十二	十三	二十	三十	四十	五十	六十	八十	一百

### Suzhou numerals (蘇州碼子 [苏州码子])

The Suzhou numerals system is a version of the rod numeral systems that were formerly used in China. The Suzhou numerals developed from the Southern Song rod numerals. They were a positional system used as a form of shorthand in bookkeeping and accounting and were popular in markets, particularly in Hong Kong, until the 1990s, since when they have been

replaced by Western numerals. These numerals are also known as 花碼 [花码] (huā mǎ)



The ability of tribal adults of the piraha to conceptualise number is no better than that of infants or even some animals and their language with only 300 speakers, has no words even to express the concept of “one” or any other spe- but why might the brain devete a specialized map like region to processing a higher-order cognitive concept like numerosity, but not other higher-order functions. Past research has shown that the ability to perceive quantity closely resembles our basic senses and is distinct from acquired mathematic skills. In fact this is innate much as having, seeing and touch are inherent sensory functions.

# Blaming and accusing

*Tamar Jakhia*

## *Aim and Research questions:*

The aim of the paper is to investigate the language of blame and accusation. The research questions are: how do people blame someone? Do men or women blame more often? Do girls or boys accuse each other? Who blames more often: a child or an adult?

What language is used when speaking about blaming?

Are women more likely to blame partners for failings in a relationship? ... and is it money, excess or alcohol that cause most conflicts?

**Blaming – the fine art of making others responsible for all the difficult things that happen to us** – is something our modern society seems to support as perfectly acceptable. Reality TV shows force feed us scenes of one character blaming another, and newspapers are awash with stories about how all of society's problems are to be blamed on politicians or terrorists and there is nothing we can do.

- **But is our culture of blame helpful?**

The self-serving bias

Psychology talks about the 'self-serving bias', with researchers discovering that many of us will take the credit for ourselves if things go good in life, but lay blame on circumstance when things go bad.

For example, imagine taking a driver's test. If you just pass, then you will likely make it an internal reason – I studied hard, I'm actually a good driver naturally. But if you just fail the same test, suddenly there is an external reason – the weather was bad, it wasn't the car I usually drive, I didn't get enough sleep

- Why do we blame other people?

So why do it?

### **1. Blaming others is easy.**

Blame means less work as when we blame, we do not have to be held accountable. It is really the opposite of being responsible and all the work that that entails.

### **3. Blame means you do not have to be vulnerable.**

If we do not have to be accountable, then we do not have to be vulnerable. Researcher Brene Brown says this about blame

**Blame protects your ego.**

*In a way, blaming is a form of social comparison that is status-seeking. If you blame someone, it puts you in the superior seat, making you feel more important and the 'good' person as opposed to their 'bad'.*

Of course, some people use blaming to make themselves a victim. This is really still an ego move, as when you are in 'poor me' mode it means you get everyone else's attention, and are still the 'good' person.

### ***Empirical studies***

Following is the overview of the studies conducted on blaming and accusation at different universities and research centers.

**A study by University of Texas found that:**

- **Women blame men for problems in relationships.**
- **Couples who discuss their issues are happier.**
- **Conflict topics include: time together, past relationships and alcohol use.**

Women are more likely than men to blame their partner for failings in their relationship, according to a new study.

Researchers also found that people who are unhappy in their romantic relationships spend more time during a disagreement thinking about how angry and frustrated they are, while happy couples coordinate their thoughts so that when one partner has many emotional thoughts, the other has few.

Lead investigator Doctor Anita Vangelisti, professor of communication at the University of Texas, said: 'Among happy couples, when one partner is thinking a lot about disagreement or anger, the other instead may be thinking about how to understand his or her partner or how to resolve the conflict.'

I conducted interviews and according to the responses, 70% of women blamed men.

1. Mariam said that it was her boyfriend's blame that their relationship ended.
2. The lecturer said that it was students' fault that they didn't prepare homework.

### ***The Role of Self-Blame in Children's Adjustment to Parental Separation***

A longitudinal study of a nonclinical sample of 6- to 12-year-old children of divorcing parents examined the incidence, antecedents, and correlates of feelings of self-blame about parental separation during the first 18 months after the breakup. About one third of the children reported some feelings of self-blame at 6 months after the separation; one year later this figure



had dropped to 20%. Being caught in triadic relations with the two parents was associated with self-blame, but parental disagreement over child rearing and a history of physical, mental, or school problems were not. The consequences of self-blame for children's adjustment to the separation were primarily negative, according to self-, mother, and teacher ratings. Children who reported feelings of self-blame had lower perceived competence, more psychological symptoms, and more behavior problems.

70% of children blame themselves for their parents' divorce.

According to the research, people start to blame someone for something when they are teenage . Mostly in every country when child begins growth and development, and when she or he is almost grown-up they begin to blame someone for something.

*A new perspective on blame culture: an experimental study:*

- OBJECTIVES:

Recently, a range of different institutions worldwide has identified the 'culture of blame' and the fear of being punished as the principal reasons for the lack of medical error reporting and, consequently, of their reiteration and of the poor quality of patient care. Despite much theoretical debate, there currently exist no experimental studies that directly investigate the presence and pervasiveness of the blame and punishment culture in health care contexts. In order to document empirical evidence for this culture in medicine and nursing, we conducted an experimental study asking physicians and nurses to express their fear of blame or

punishment in the context of having made an error that would cause: (i) no; (ii) mild; (iii) severe consequences; or (iv) the death of the patient.

#### *METHODS:*

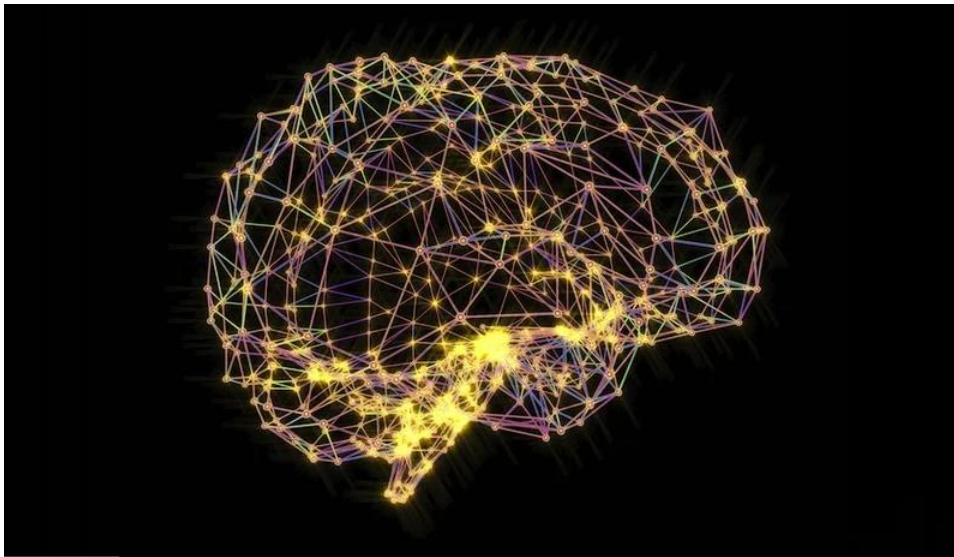
Two hundred and forty-nine health care providers (38 physicians, 11 medical students, 127 nurses and 73 nursing students) were included in the study. Two main data emerged: first, in general, the fear of being blamed is higher than the fear of being punished. Second, while the fear of being blamed is equally distributed among all participants, the fear of being punished varies according to the experience of subjects (it is higher in nursing students than in seniors nurses) and to their professional role (student and senior nurses are more susceptible to it than medical students and senior physicians).

#### *CONCLUSION:*

Given the relevance of these factors in medical error reporting and the evidence that they are so deep-seated not only in senior professionals, but also in students, we argue that an educational approach, together with an organization-based intervention, is desirable to shape cultural attitudes of health care providers in the direction of a 'safety culture'.

*Brain scans:*

Aristotle dealt quite the challenge to humanity when he issued his moral philosophy about the 'perfect man,' saying he does not "concern himself that others should be blamed." Aristotle must have missed the brain scans.



Human Brains Are Wired to Blame Rather Than Praise.

Following are the most widely used blaming phrases from different types of media:

- Democrats have blamed Republicans for the failure to reach an agreement.
- Police blamed bad weather for a series of accidents on the roads.

- For many years I blamed myself for her death.
- They blamed the failure of the business on the economic downturn.
- Don't try to put the blame on me!
- Subsequent investigations placed the blame squarely on city officials.
- Farmers have laid the blame for their problems entirely on EU policies.
- Are you saying it's my fault that we lost the game?
- He was held personally responsible for the failure of the project.

*Discussions:*

*Shifting blame is socially contagious*

*Date:* November 22, 2009

*Source:* University of Southern California

*Summary:*

Merely observing someone publicly blame an individual in an organization for a problem -- even when the target is innocent -- greatly increases the odds that the practice of blaming others will spread with the tenacity of the H1N1 flu.

The study called "Blame Contagion: The Automatic Transmission of Self-Serving Attributions" is believed to be the first to examine whether shifting blame to others is socially contagious. The results will be published in the November issue of *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.

"Blame creates a culture of fear," Fast said, "and this leads to a host of negative consequences for individuals and for groups."

The experiments showed that individuals who watched someone blame another for mistakes went on to do the same with others. In one experiment, half of the participants were asked to read a newspaper article about a failure by Governor Schwarzenegger who blamed special interest groups for the controversial special election that failed in 2005, costing the state \$250 million. A second group read an article in which the governor took full responsibility for the failure.

Another experiment found that self-affirmation inoculated participants from blame. The tendency for blame to spread was completely eliminated in a group of participants who had the opportunity to affirm their self-worth.

"By giving participants the chance to bolster their self-worth we removed their need to self protect though subsequent blaming," says Fast.

The results have particularly important implications for CEOs. Executives and leaders would be wise to learn from such examples, Fast suggests, and instead display behaviors that help to foster a culture of psychological safety, learning, and innovation.

**Story Source:**

Materials provided by [University of Southern California](#)

**Other sources:**

- <https://www.ldoceonline.com/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

# Praising

*Khatia Janjghava*

Praise and rewards both motivate and de-motivate everyone, depending on how they are used.

Praise is especially important for the children. Praising children for their efforts is motivating as it teaches them what they're doing well. Below are some examples of how praise can be done well and not so well.

Ineffective praise	Effective praise
"You're a good counter Ted."	"You're excited about doing counting today Ted."
"You found Evonne because she hid in her favourite hiding spot."	"You thought long and hard about where Evonne might be hiding, then you remembered she likes to hide in the cubby house and you found her ' good thinking!"
	"You tried to catch the ball three times Libby, you seem pleased that you did so well."
	"You have used so many colours in your painting Evonne."

<p>"You caught the ball Libby, you deserve a star."</p> <p>"Great work on the painting Evonne."</p> <p>"Look at how Libby used all the page in her drawing Evonne."</p>	<p>"You have drawn on so much more of your page than last time Evonne."</p>
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Also below are the synonyms and antonyms for the meaning of "praise".

Synonyms	Antonyms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve</li> <li>• endorse</li> <li>• pay tribute</li> <li>• glorify</li> <li>• compliment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• denounce</li> <li>• dishonor</li> <li>• disapprove</li> <li>• disparage</li> <li>• disregard</li> </ul>



Following Praisings are compiled from Magazines:

**“This was a remarkable collection.”**

**“Gvasalia’s Balenciaga isn’t a lifestyle brand. It’s a branded lifestyle.”**

**“‘the shape of water’ is one of the best films of the year.”**

**“Manchester is a working-class city and it has fantastic people there.”**

**“William Shakespeare is one of the world's greatest writers.”**

**“As a young man, Henry VIII was handsome and clever.”**

**“Beyonce also referred to as ‘Queen B’ by her fans, is one of the biggest and most successful musicians in the world.”**

Below are the examples of how people praise each other:

“you are a good-looking person.”

“I adore you.”

“you are amazing.”

“your dog is so lovely.”

“you are the most interesting person, I have ever met.”

“you are such a likeable person.”

“you are a great listener.”

“I like your behaviors.”

# The Language of Silence

*Nana Partladze*

The aim of the research is to investigate the meaning and importance of silence in communication.

The main research question is: when do people use silence in communication and what do they mean by silence?

The findings:

Below are the most frequent cases of using silence.

When a person does not know the answer

No matter what your job or level, your work life is always throwing questions at you. Some of them are easy to answer with a confident “yes,” “no,” or a well-reasoned explanation. Others aren’t. Most of the time it’s no big deal when you don’t have a solid answer right away. But sometimes a question can really stump you, and defaulting to “I don’t know” or “I’ll get back to you,” can risk diminishing your credibility—especially if those are your go-to responses every single time you’re put on the spot at work.

*For example:* Show gratitude for questions you can’t answer.

It's impossible to prepare for every possible question. Nobody's perfect, and every once in a while, you're going to be asked a perfectly legitimate question that you unfortunately can't answer.

When this happens, first acknowledge the value of the question. Then be honest and explain that you're going to need to look into it more. "I'm going to explore that because I think there are a lot of valuable insights we could gain by examining this area further," you could say. They may not be satisfied with your answer, but this is a much better response than, "I don't know" or changing the subject altogether. By making it clear that you're committed to looking into it, you're showing that you care and take their question seriously.

Classifying tricky questions into categories like these helps you avoid panic and answer more analytically. Just remember, questions are seldom just requests for information, they're also great opportunities to showcase your thinking and show leadership—even when you don't have a ready answer.

(This opinion agrees with 87% of politicians, teacher and students).

#### When a person is shy to speak

The shy person never answered the question always correctly, or stops talking, because it is self-restrained and less responsive to the question. Also, she can't communicate with the public and is always excluded. They don't speak; they don't talk, but they see everything. However, they aren't sociable.

### When a person is angry

In the conversation, politicians are more often angry than other people. Politicians speak to people on their own side and when the opposing side touches the painful place they are angry.

### When a person ignores communicants

When communicating, a person may not answer questions that negatively affects the person who asked questions. Because it suddenly happens when the answer is interested in your own question. So, you are angry when you don't pay attention.

### Silence as a negotiation tool

When you are involved in a negotiation, silence can be a powerful stalling device.

It may encourage the other party to say more than they planned to and will help you to avoid responding too quickly. Using silence can put you in a more powerful position and suggest that you do not need the deal as much as the other side needs it.

'Using silence can put you in a more powerful position'

### Speak only when your words are more beautiful than silence.

Two old men, friends of many years standing, would meet in each other's house every day. They would sit in perfect silence for a couple of hours, then the visitor would get up and leave, without a word of farewell.

The inevitable happened and, in the natural course of things, one of the old men died. “You must miss him a lot”, said a condoler to the survivor. “I do,” replied the bereaved friend. “What I particularly miss are the long conversations we used to enjoy with each other.”

The story suggests that there are forms of communication which don’t need the use of words. But more than that, it conveys a suitably wordless message that silence has its own subtle yet resonant vocabulary, if only we choose to learn its language.

### Silence means consent.

If, for example, you saw someone about to commit a criminal act and didn’t warn the victim or raise an alarm, a law court could take your silence to mean that you gave your consent to the act and as such were an accomplice to it. This is a negative interpretation of the consenting nature of silence.

A positive interpretation of silence would be that it affirms a unity of consciousness as distinct from a duality. A seeker asked a spiritual master: “How can I transcend into the All?” The master made no reply. Every day, the seeker would ask the same question, and every day the master would maintain his silence.

Exasperated, the seeker finally asked the master, “What’s the matter? Why don’t you reply to my question that I’ve been asking every day?” The master said, “I have been replying to your question every day. But you talk so much that you don’t hear my reply.”

The seeker understood that the master’s reply to his question was silence. Because silence provided the bridge across the chasm of duality caused by the use of two words: ‘I’ and ‘All’.

By seeking to become one with the cosmos, the spoken 'I' was separating itself from a wordless union which already existed, and which could only be realized when words like 'I' and 'All' were surrendered into silence.

### Silence helps to coach

When coaching your employees or sharing feedback, increasing your use of silence shows that you are listening and attentive to what has been said.

Pausing before responding shows that you are reflecting on how best to reply rather than rushing to verbalize what you have been thinking while your team member has been speaking.

You will demonstrate that you respect the other person and value what they say.

'Use of silence in business communication: Pausing before responding shows that you are reflecting on how best to reply'

### Silence as comfort.

"Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent," said Person A. This silence beyond words that the Austrian philosopher referred to has been given different names on different signposts set up by spiritual masters to guide seekers. One of these synonyms for silence is meditation, another is prayer.

You don't need to go to an ashram or a cave in the wilderness to meditate. You don't have to go to a shrine to pray. You can do either in your home, or your place of work during a spare moment. Perhaps, best of all, like the two friends in the story, you can do either of them when

deep in silent conversation with someone else who is you by another name, just as you are someone else by another name. And both are one in silence.

Silence is the language of communication between a devotee and the almighty.

It is also a powerful tool used by two lovers in deep love; where without a single word spoken they understand what the other has to say or saying. A language of mind, said the foreign students. (She agrees with 14% of students).

Silence is not always good.

Silence is good sometimes but assertiveness is good most of the times. How can you differentiate between silence of stupidity and silence of intellectual? I think that you have the luxury of silence once you have established your reputation as wise one. Even then you might be confused enough to articulate any intelligent and effective response. Finally you might come up with a laconic response but you have to speak. It cannot be understood by silence or will be as effective as expression through speech. Debates and dialectic discussions are better than long hours of armchair contemplation to get an answer. (Student from Korea S.K – he agrees with 47 students from 56 students).

“Speech is silver. Silence is Golden.”

What does ‘Silence is Golden’ Mean? The phrase ‘Silence is Golden’ is a universal guide to helping us in all areas of our life. It means it is better to be silent than to speak. *“Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something.” – Plato*



Words are Sacred. Words are not just a sound to communicate to someone, it is a vibration that you send out to the universe. When we speak, we are not just speaking words. We are communicating with our tones, our inflections, our pitch, our key emphasis, and our emotional states. That is why 2 same words can have different meanings.

It is not the word itself, but the intent behind it. (According to world studies, many people agree with this idea).

### Silence brings reflection

We fear silence. When there is silence in a conversation, we fill it up with endless chatter so that it won't get awkward. When there is silence in our environment, we turn on the television or music to fill the area with noises. In silence, we are stripped of all distractions and we are met with facing ourselves. If we are uneasy with our own silence, it is because we don't feel secure with how we are truly feeling.

Once we are at ease with silence, we find that silence welcomes reflection in ourselves. And healing comes when we can reflect within our deeper selves.

*"Silence fertilizes the deep place where personality grows. A life with a peaceful center can weather all storms". – Norman Vincent Peale.*

"Made me realize that I help when unnecessary and speak when unnecessary. In return I get criticized and turned away. My words, I'm aware don't always align with what I truly feel. It's hard to grasp control over my tongue but now with the understanding of what words actually are, I'll keep trying. My spirituality seems no more than a more concept and it's unsettling to

know I don't know where to start, where I am, where to turn to, where to step", said the student N.C from USA. (He agrees with 76 students from 76 students, so all students)

### Silence as an irony

Sometimes people use silence as an ironic answer, which is a ridiculous response to the opponent or other significance.

Music link \_ 'The sound of silence' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJEA0RIVUsI>

### When you silence yourself

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."* - **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Sometimes we need to speak up and don't do it.

Too frequently, we silence ourselves when we have feelings we think or feel sure the other person won't want to hear. We often do this because we value the relationship and are afraid that it will worsen or even end if we say how we really feel. Ironically, without honest and open dialogue, there is no possibility of a deeper and better relationship. Silencing yourself contributes to the very thing you want to avoid. Further, if it's anger, resentment or another strong negative feeling that you have, keeping silent doesn't make that feeling dissipate. Just the opposite happens—the unspoken problem remains, distancing occurs and the relationship suffers as a result.

At other times, you feel hurt, angry or upset by something another person says or does. Because letting them know how you feel makes you vulnerable, you decide to keep those feelings inside and withhold them from the other person. Sulking, pouting, pursed lips, not answering, abrupt answers, ignoring the other person, giving them the “cold shoulder” are signs of this kind of silence, otherwise known as “the silent treatment.” Invariably, the silent treatment is hurtful to everyone involved. Even so, many of us have a tendency to withdraw and withhold when we’re in emotional pain, especially from the person we perceive is causing it.

The alternative to the silent treatment doesn’t have to be lashing out in anger at the other person. That just causes the problem to escalate and become an even bigger issue than it started out to be. A far better approach is to be willing and able to talk to them honestly about how you feel and why—without blame. For example, let’s say your spouse/partner forgot your anniversary (or birthday) which was very hurtful to you. Instead of giving them the silent treatment or lashing out at them, a better alternative would be to say: “I’m so hurt that you didn’t remember our anniversary.” Or that your boss didn’t give you a promotion you thought was a “done deal”. Instead of saying nothing and suffering in silence (and resentment), say “I feel very confused and disappointed that I didn’t get the promotion that I expected and I’d like to talk with you about it”, said *the President of GTI L.A.* ( She agrees with 39% person).

When we drop our pretenses and defenses and are authentic in our significant relationships, we experience relief, heightened self-worth and a deeper sense of meaning. It is one of the joys of existence.

➤ Conclusion

Thus, silence is a state of refusing to talk about something or answer questions, or a state of not communicating, also, the silence has many kinds of meaning, which is used in a particular situation. Silence has a lot of positive and negative purposes. It is sometimes a good 'tool' for the defense or to win the opponent.

Most of the above examples are related to the theory of relevance in a different meaning in different situations. And some examples are confusing for people.

*Silence Quotes*

1. "We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls". – **Mother Tereza**
2. "Silence is a source of great strength". - *Lao Tzu*
3. "In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends".  
- *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
4. "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people". - *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
5. "Nothing strengthens authority so much as silence". - *Leonardo da Vinci*

6. “Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself, and know that everything in life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences, all events are blessings given to us to learn from”. - *Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*
7. “Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph”. - *Haile Selassie*
8. “Silence is the most perfect expression of scorn”. - *George Bernard Shaw*
9. “I write for those women who do not speak, for those who do not have a voice because they were so terrified, because we are taught to respect fear more than ourselves. We've been taught that silence would save us, but it won't”. - *Audre Lorde*
10. “I think we all have our own personality, unique and distinctive, and at the same time, I think that our own unique and distinctive personality blends with the wind, with the footsteps in the street, with the noises around the corner, and with the silence of memory, which is the great producer of ghosts”. - *Octavio Paz*

# Language of Envy

*Nino Ruadze*

Language of envy has been scarcely investigated. The following paper makes an attempt to look at certain aspects of identifying envy through language.

## Research questions

- Can we identify the language of envy?
- How can we identify the language of envy?
- What is a language of envy?

## Methodology

The research used the following methodology: participant observation and Bronislaw Malinowski's method of initiating a language game.

Participant observation enabled to collect first-hand data and to analyze it.

**Background:** a real story was told to students, neighbours, friends and the story was about a Georgian young girl Miss **A** and a famous western actor from famous TV film, named Mr. **B**.

The story is the following:

A certain beautiful student miss **A** got acquainted with Mr. **B** through the internet. Mr. **B** liked photos of miss **A**. After that they met in one of the European countries at an event. As a result, Mr. **B** was fascinated by miss **A**. He arrived in Georgia to see her and to take her with him.

### **Sampling decisions**

The story was told to 500 people, and out of 500 people, approximately 350 were female and 150 were male. The age groups were from 15 to 25, and from 25 to 50. The professions varied from lawyer to computer specialist, from medical doctor to political scientist.

### **Study results**

The following are the most frequently used words and phrases, expressed by females of 15-25 age group.

### **Doubting**

- Are you sure this is a true story?
- That can't be true!
- No way!
- Is she that beautiful?
- How do you know that?
- Let me check it in the internet!

- Some people are so lucky!
- Are you kidding?
  
- არ არსებობს!
- შანსი არ არის!
- მელადავები?
- ზოგს როგორ უმართლებს!
- აუ მართლა ასეთი ლამაზია?
- აბა ვნახო ინტერნეტში.

**Disregard** / understatement / უგულებელყოფა/ დაკნინება /

- So what?
- Nothing special...
- I don't like that girl at all!
- Anyone can do that!
- He is not talented at all.
  
- დიდი არაფერი რაა..
- დიდი რამე რაა..



**Women of the age group from 25 to 50 sounded ironic**

- Are you sure that he will marry her?
- Maybe he is cheating on her?
- Isn't he married already?
- He must have loads of such girlfriends.
- მართლა მიყვება?
- შეიძლება ატყუებს...
- კი მაგრამ იმას ცოლი არ ყავს?
- ესეთი იმდენი ეყლება...

**The most frequently used interjections were the following**

- Oh
- No/არა (most frequently used by women with vocal fry in both languages)
- ჰმ ... / Hm ...
- In males of age group from 25 to 50, the most frequent reaction was clapping hands with exclaimed interjection:
- -oh, boy!
- - აუ ბიჭო!

### **Silence**

About 65% of participants took a long pause to realize the issue and to utter a word. Whether this was due to shock, doubt or envy is still to be investigated.

### **Facial expressions**

The majority of participants, about 75%, had surprised faces with wide open eyes, open mouths and high-pitched voices.

### **Concluding remarks**

Although, the majority of scientists in the field of psychology claim that it is difficult to investigate the phenomenon of envy, my research has reviewed certain interesting linguistic and extra-linguistic features of the language of envy. Those features were revealed through real life observations, through initiating language games in an authentic context and through participating in the conversations.