

HOCKETT'S DESIGN FEATURES LAB

The sheet you have been given represents language data from alien field scientists to Earth. The aliens are alternately horrified and fascinated by many aspects of the human communication system (they hesitate to call it “language”). For one, humans are apparently forced to use the same apparatus for respiration and digestion as they do to communicate with one another. (The aliens’ rich visuo-olfactory language is expressed via dedicated abdominal displays that develop in adolescence; see Figure 1)

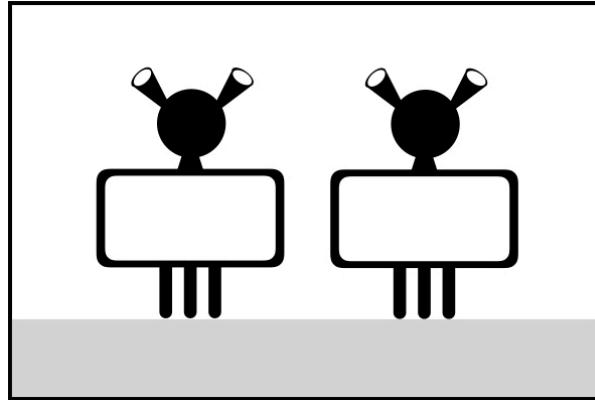

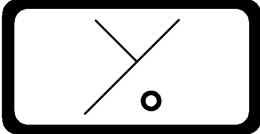
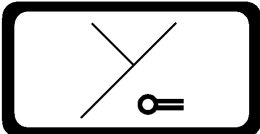
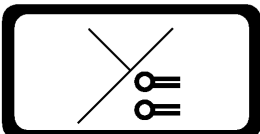
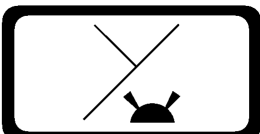
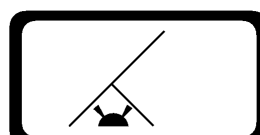




Figure 1: Alien scientists to Earth.

The alien scientists have written extensively about the humans’ clear inability to perceive variations in smells and sound, as evidenced by their impoverished vocabularies for these domains. The aliens themselves are highly evolved, and pity humans for their underdeveloped and imprecise system, when smell is so clearly the most important sense in the galaxy.

Use the utterances that you have been given to evaluate the alien communication system with respect to the properties of language we read described by Hockett (1959), and/or discussed in class. As you did in your Design Features Checklist assignments, please **use the table on the following page** for your response. To receive full credit, **include the utterance number(s)** that serve as evidence for your evaluation of each property.

1.		to consume by way of energy	to BURN
2.		to consume by way of mouth	to EAT
3.		to consume by way of mouth-wave	to LEARN
4.		to consume by way of mouth-wave mouth-wave	to ARGUE
5.		to consume by way of smell	to SENSE
6.		to be consumed	OVERWHELMED
7.		to be consumed by way of energy	INSPIRED / POSSESSED
8.		to be consumed by way of energy from an idea or sense	REALIZATION / to feel AWE

LANGUAGE FEATURE	HAS IT?	EVIDENCE	EXPLAIN
<i>Duality of Patterning</i>			
<i>Productivity</i>			
<i>Arbitrariness</i>			
<i>Interchangeability</i>			
<i>Specialization</i>			
<i>Displacement</i>			
<i>Semanticity</i>			
<i>Cultural Transmission</i>			
<i>Reflexiveness</i>			
<i>Discreteness</i>			
<i>Polysemy</i>			
<i>Recursion</i>			
<i>Total Feedback</i>			