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Book Review

The Biological nature of language in the Evolutionary perspectives

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Performance, Functional plasticity and Biological hearig-voice feedback are themes analyzed in the book edited by Antonino Pennisi and Alessandra Falzone entitled Darwinian Biolinguistics. The text, edited by Springer, for Perspectives in Pragmatics, Philosophy and Psychology 12, exposed have been focused on Theory and History of a Naturalistic Philosophy of Language and Pragmatics, analysed from several scientific literature.

In the Part I, History and State of the Art it open with Chomsky and Biolinguistics (see Capther 2), the theme goes throught the Evolutionary Perspective, with the Externalization Devices, Computational Processes of the Linguistic Mind (see Capther 3), including the Micromutation and in an Instant the “God-Language” appears. The Contemporary revisionism is located in chapter 4; Another Biolinguistics History from Aristotle to Darwin

is in the chapter 5, by Vico and the origins of the “Lingue Mutole” to the most modern data of neuroscientific research.

In the Part II, Towards a Darwinian Biolinguistics, the discussion becomes more specialist by making the text a high-level guide, i.e. in chapter 6, Comparing Two Models: Darwinian Biolinguistic Model (DBM) and the Chomskyan Biolinguistic Model (CBM) where you learn how the centrality of language within human cognition is biologically oriented.

These definitions open to the theoretical framework discussed in the next chapter (7) entitled The Nature of the Species-specificity of Human Language, in which they will be analyzed the Cognitive Constraints of Language, the Technomorphic Thought and the Bodily Technology of Language. Here, mind and body are analyzed in a scientific and rigorous way, in a function that connects them; the language is a function revised through the theories, observed in its biological evolution, becoming a competing dimension to understanding the continuum between normality and pathology. An example is provided by the evolution of this second part, which starts with Genetic Fundamentals (see chapter 8), continues with the Morphological Fundamentals (chapter 9), Vocal Tract and Productive Specificity, Auditory Perception, Biological Hearing-Voice Feedback.

In the chapter 10 there is the discussion of cognitive sciences in the Neurocerebral Fundamentals, where it is possible read the Methodological Issues, the Networks for Language and psychopathological issues related to injury to the brain areas (i.e. the formulation of the Wernicke-Geschwind model, study of aphasia, the Broca’s area).

Performance and Functional plasticity are themes that we find in the Part III named Extended Performativity: From Brain Plasticity to Linguistic Pragmatics, starting from the question of brain plasticity (see chapter 11). In chapter 12 the Physiology and Pathology of Plasticity and (13) the Evolutionary plasticity of Evo-devo (chapter 13), you can find a profound reflection on the psychopathology of language and how these are often an open window to understanding the biological substrate of this cerebral function.

The Mechanical Trigger, the Natural Selection, Cultural Evolution of Language are related themes in the chapter 14, in aspects of Biolinguistics of Performance (chapter 15) and Pragmatics to Cognitive Performativity (16). Overall, the in-depth treatment makes the book highly specialized and important to mind professionals in the scientific understanding how language is an interface between neural and genetic components that characterize a cognitive function, that has as its heritage a long evolutionary history and a form of intelligence species-specific.

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