

We will eventually be able to understand the language of any alien species

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Language is an abstract system of communication crucial to the survival and development of evolved species (Clowry 2014). As the human race continually expands and increasingly co-inhabits with other species, we must understand their language to encourage growth and co-existence. In order to understand the language of any alien species, we must first define their language.

An alien species is a non-native group of living entities that consist of similar individuals capable of exchanging or interbreeding genes (Walther et al. 2009) – meaning any non-human species. Under that definition, whales are classified as an alien species. Although we are not able to directly hear the frequency of sounds in which whales communicate, we have developed technology able to record and slow down their speech frequencies in ways we can analyze and understand. Although we are able to analyze the language of species that use speech similarly to us, what can we say about plants or insects that don't use sound as a primary source of communication? To explain this, we must go in depth on what it means to understand language.

Language is an abstract form of communication that is communicated through the five senses. We have developed sign language which can be communicated through sight and perfumes that communicate attraction and intention through scent. Language extends far beyond verbal communication. Ants communicate with sound and touch, yet we are still able to understand how they communicate. Furthermore, we can even understand plant communication. Some plants have thorns to communicate to us not to touch them. Therefore, we are able to comprehend language in forms of communication that aren't familiar to us.

Additionally, how are we able to understand alien species such as extraterrestrials that may have more than the five senses? Assuming the laws of the universe are uniform, even if we are not aware of these other senses, they still exist and therefore should eventually be attainable. An example would be conditioning a dog. Dogs would find it rather difficult to learn our forms of communication themselves, but we are able to condition them to understand our commands. This can be applied to extraterrestrials as well in which it may be difficult for us to comprehend their forms of communication, but they are able to guide us to understand their language.

References

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