



Why is language made up of words, and why are those words arranged in phrases and organized into sentences? On page 288, Martin Nowak and Natalia Komarova propose a theoretical approach to understanding the evolutionary process that lead to the structure of language as we know it. They show how natural selection can lead to a fundamental duality of language: phoneme sequences form words; word sequences form sentences. They also develop a mathematical framework for the population dynamics of grammar acquisition that provides a means of studying the evolution of grammar. Design by Geraldine Woods.

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