

## **SUMMARY**

In this thesis I pursue a critical summary of the so-called "talking animals" projects, wherein the researchers tried to train their animal subjects to perform "linguistic" feats. Considering both the fundamental dissimilarity of the projects and the uniformity of their results, I am led to conclude that the shortcoming was that of the students - the animals, and not that of the teachers. Failure of the animal projects points mainly to the fact, that a core feature of language is missing in the pseudolinguistic feats of the animals, that which is missing is the hierarchical recursive syntax. I conclude that no animal has had likely adopted the open, unbounded, hierarchically recursive system that allows us, quite literally, to express anything. Linguistic data that I considered indicates that language is most likely an inborn neural specialization of *H. sapiens*. All the available facts considered manage to show that the pseudolinguistic feats of the "talking" animals are most likely caused by a great plasticity of general cognition. General cognition has the capacity to virtually simulate (although imperfectly) certain aspects of human neural linguistic specialization. Neural linguistic specialization in *H. sapiens* is an evolutionary discontinuity, whereas the general cognition plasticity is evolutionarily continuous trait. Humans tend to misinterpret the pseudolinguistic feats of the "talking" animals as linguistic achievements. That is caused by rampant and unchecked, although completely natural anthropomorphism. Language specialization in humans causes anthropomorphism in the communication with nonhuman entities. Language specialization in humans is most likely caused by the possibility of language being a secondary representational system, which is being used as a communication tool.