

This thesis presents communication models crucial for creating research conceptions and unified terminology in the area of animal communication studies. The text reviews research types, methods and standards used for primate behavior research. The thesis also presents science disciplines that are concerned in great apes behavior research, its representatives and essential taxonomical, morphological, behavioral and ecological characteristics in African great apes. Text reviews contributions concerning cognitive abilities evolution, with emphasis on evolution of symbolic communication. The text further provides a listing of vocal and gestural communication in African great apes and focuses on facial expressions, its cognitive processing and interpretation. Next, the thesis reviews researches with encultured great apes focused on possibilities of inter-species communication and symbolic communication development.