

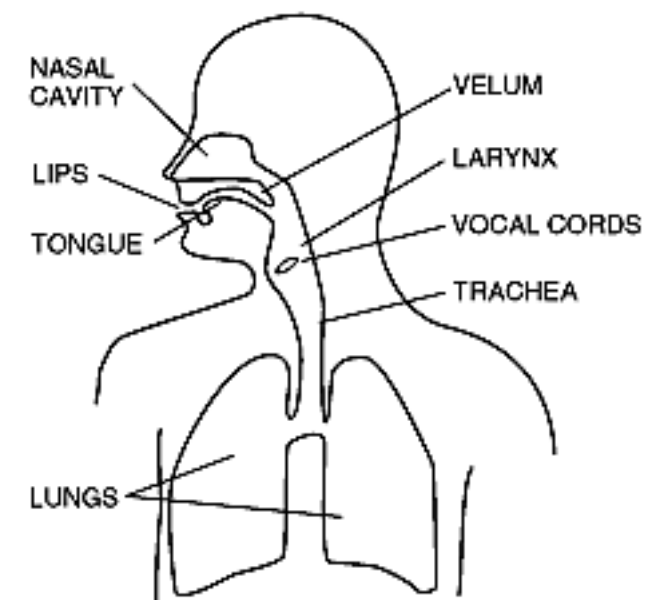
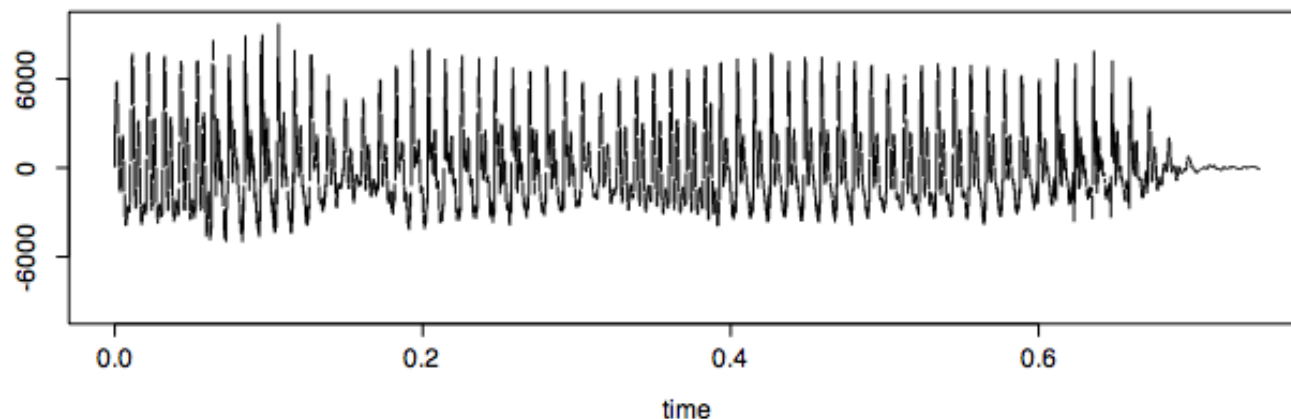
Modern Generative Linguistics has many sub-fields, each attending to one form of regularity in language

1. **Pragmatics**
2. Semantics
3. Syntax
4. Morphology
5. Phonology
6. **Phonetics**

Aspects of Language

6. **Phonetics:** Study of speech, its production, and perception

What are the differences between ‘speech’ and ‘language’?



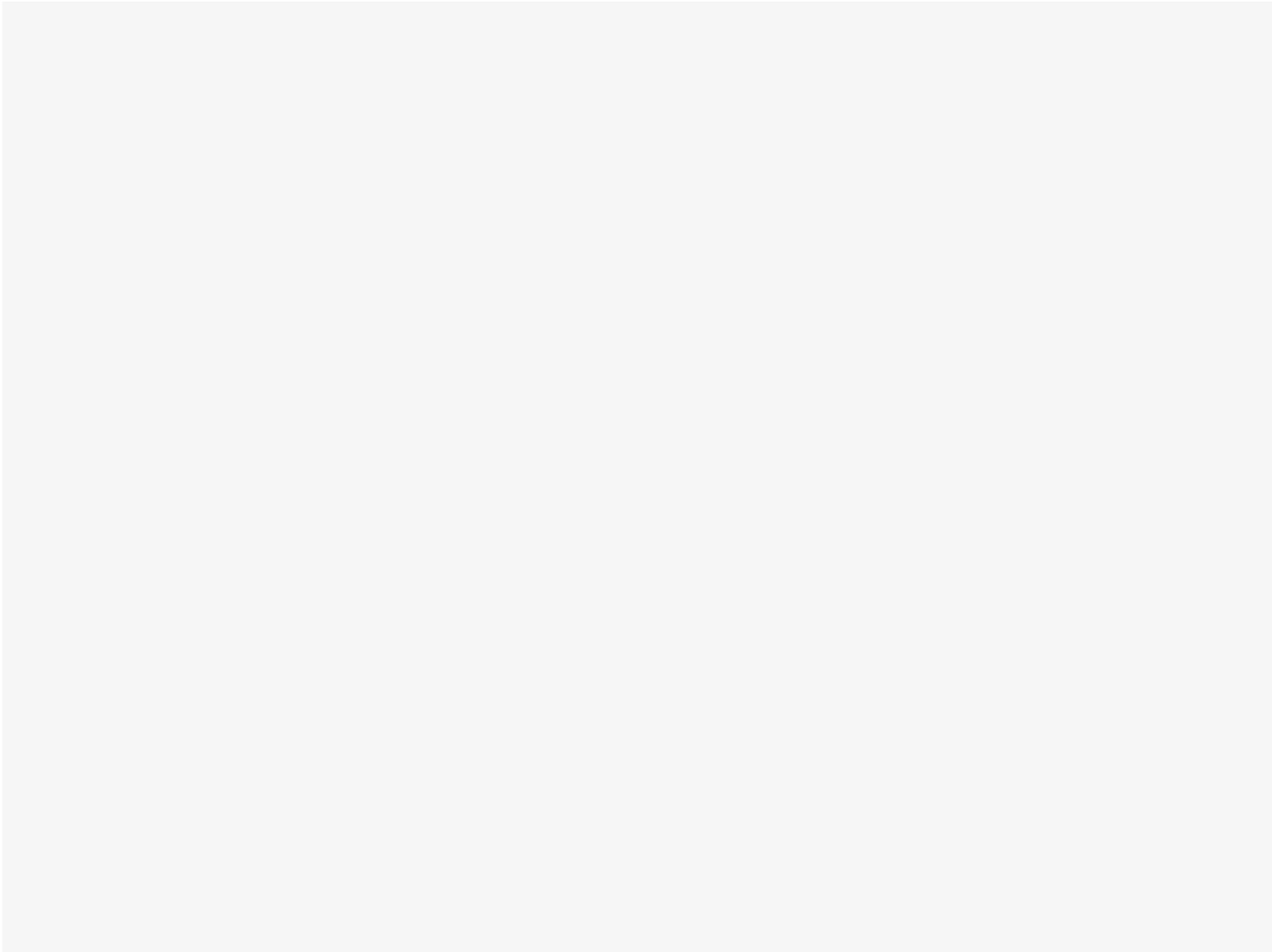
Don't confuse Phonetics and Phonology

Phonology deals with idealised symbolic units that can be combined according to formal rules

Phonetics deals with sound, meat, spit, and ears.

Both try to understand how language is made manifest in speech.

Phonetics: the gory bits ...





Phonetics: the production and perception of speech; speech in its physical manifestation as sound; anatomy and physiology of speaking/hearing; Strongly empirical

Main topics: Speech production, transmission, perception

Phonology: the systematic organization of a discrete set of linguistic units within a language; rule-based organization of sounds within syllables, phrases, etc.

Main topics: Uncovering systematic regularities in the sequencing of abstract units (phonemes, etc). Strong reliance on theoretical assumptions

Language: Beyond the Theoretical Core

What distinguishes Language from other forms of communication?



Very many features of human language are found, in some form, in animal communication. But never all together.

Arbitrary relationship: symbol and referent

cheval

horse

Pferd



Displacement



Deception, Propositional Attitudes



X believed/thought/hoped/understood.... *that* Y

Language provides ways to express how the speaker feels about the statement being made.

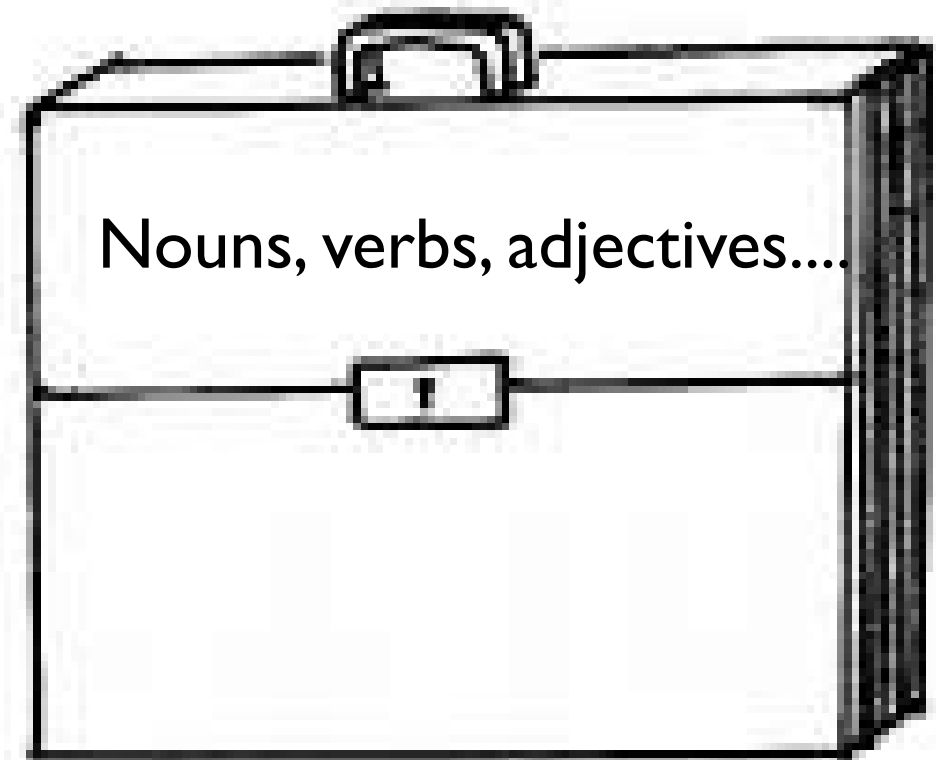
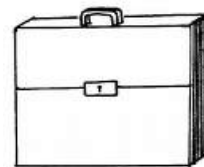
Generativity, Creativeness

Finite Recursive
Rules:

If S is a sentence,
so is “I believe that
S”, or “It is not true
that S” etc.....

Finite means, Infinite
productivity

Function words



Transcript of Koko the Gorilla, in the first live inter-species internet chat!!!

HaloMyBaby: SBM87 asks, What are the names of your kittens?
(and dogs?)

LiveKOKO: foot

DrPPatrsn: Foot isn't the name of your kitty

HaloMyBaby: Koko, what's the name of your cat?

LiveKOKO: no

DrPPatrsn: She just gave some vocalizations there... some soft puffing

HaloMyBaby: I heard that soft puffing!

DrPPatrsn: Now shaking her head no.

Question: Do you like to chat with other people?

HaloMyBaby: That was from Rulucky!

LiveKOKO: fine nipple

DrPPatrsn: Nipple rhymes with people, she doesn't sign people per se, she was trying to do a "sounds like..."

Compare that with this recording, reported in 2012 in *Current Biology*, of a Beluga Whale imitating human speech:



While we're at it, here is Hoover, the famous “talking seal” from Boston, who was reputed to speak with a Boston accent:



Hoover, 1971 - 1985

And in January 2018, we have Orcas imitating humans (?)

Language beyond message passing

Many approaches to language treat it as if it were the business of passing secret messages from one mind to another.

Recall: we do not have any agreement about what such a mind could be.

Also: this approach ignores and obscures many fascinating aspects to our language use.

Language vs Linguaging

20th Century Linguistics emphasises symbolic structure and rules

Focus on form and codes

Increasingly, scholars of language are emphasising the role of gesture, gaze, joint attention, context, and other non-formal, non-rule like aspects.

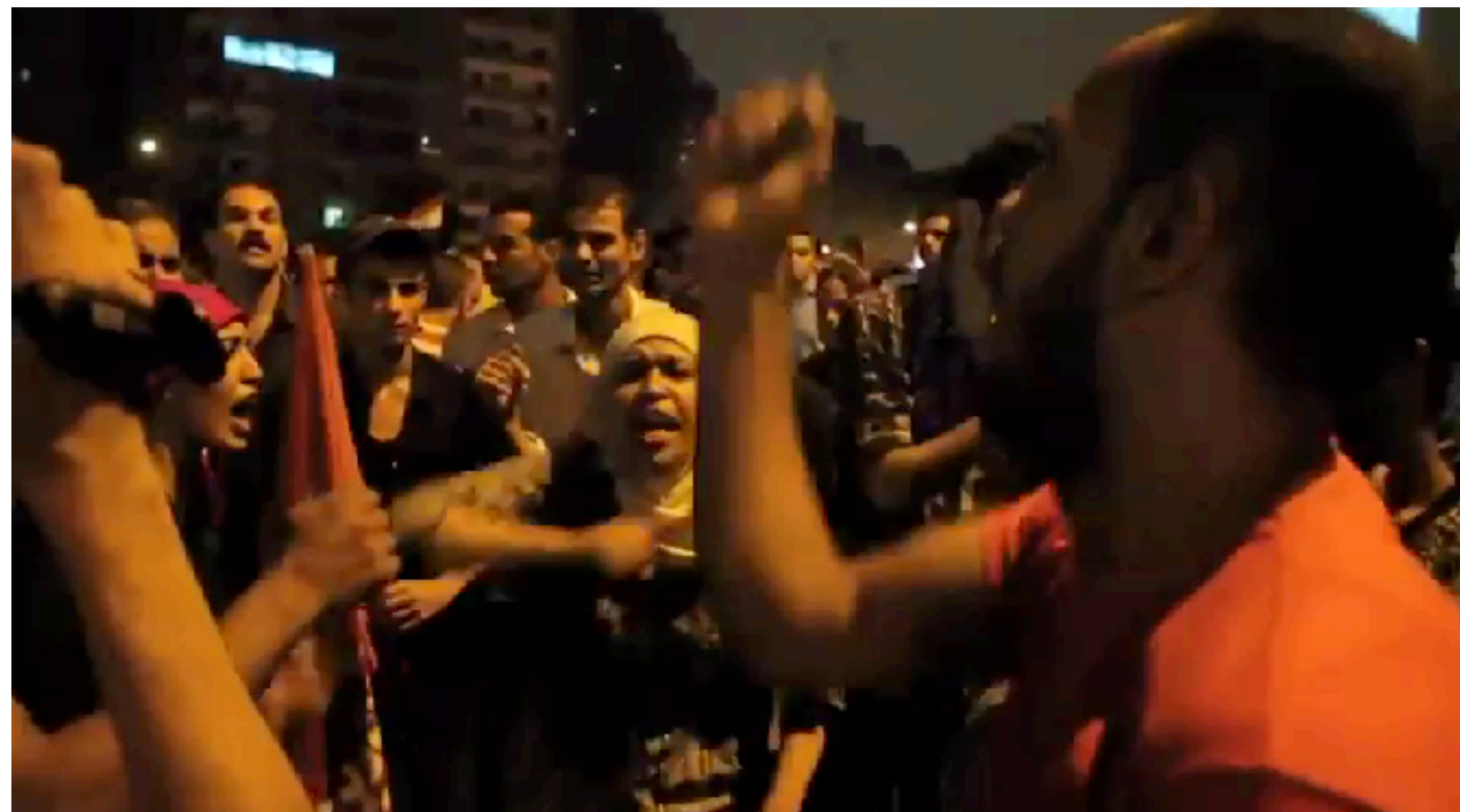
The term *linguaging* is broader than *language*, and serves to include many of these aspects.

Joint speech: from Prayer to Protest

My own work is mainly concerned with those special occasions when many people say the same thing at the same time.

This establishes an intriguing link between practices of prayer and protest (and football)

If language is all about message passing, these practices make no sense whatsoever. So some other approaches must be found!



Some simple structural features found across domains:

- Speakers and Listeners are not separate
- Texts are known by all
- Repetition, repetition, repetition
- Performativity
- Enactment of an identity
- Texts authored elsewhere
- Call & response (allows propositional complexity)
- Generalised assent
- Musicality (no speech/music divide)

A remarkable convergence

New York



Dublin



Cairo



Sudan

Which technical framework might work here? Enaction?



The *enactive* vocabulary allows us to recognise many kinds of *subjects* for whom value arises.

This is not the Psychological Subject (I mind, I person), but an *enacted* unity that grounds value.

