

# Hockett's design features and study of language evolution

WANG Feng

Peking University

In this lecture, the design features proposed by Charles Hockett will be discussed in details. Highlighted will be the significant role these features play in bridging animal communication and human communication, as well as in defining the uniqueness of human communication. With the progress of cognitive studies, design features have been brought up less and less frequently. Some critics even brand features as a 'non-starter'. However, such views may contribute to some kind of misunderstanding about design features. In light of language evolution, the importance of design features may be stressed once again.