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    Sommario/riassunto   A line of research in cognitive science over several decades has been
                                 dedicated to finding an innate, language-specific cognitive system, a
                                 faculty which allows human infants to acquire languages natively
                                 without formal instruction and within short periods of time. In recent
                                 years, this search has attracted significant controversy in cognitive
                                 science generally, and in the language sciences specifically. Some
                                 maintain that the search has had meaningful results, though there are
                                 different views as to what the findings are: ranging from the view that
                                 there is a rich and rather specific set of principles, to the idea that the
                                 contents of the language faculty are - while specifiable - in fact
                                 extremely minimal. But other researchers rigorously oppose the
                                 continuation of this search, arguing that decades of effort have turned
                                 up nothing. The fact remains that the proposal of a language-specific
                                 faculty was made for a good reason, namely as an attempt to solve the
                                 vexing puzzle of language in our species. Much work has been
                                 developing to address this, and specifically, to look for ways to
                                 characterize the language faculty as an emergent phenomenon; i.e., not
                                 as a dedicated, language-specific system, but as the emergent
                                 outcome of a set of uniquely human but not specifically linguistic
                                 factors, in combination. A number of theoretical and empirical
                                 approaches are being developed in order to account for the great
                                 puzzles of language - language processing, language usage, language
                                 acquisition, the nature of grammar, and language change and

diversification. This research topic aims at reviewing and exploring these recent developments and establishing bridges between these young frameworks, as well as with the traditions that have come before. The goal of this Research Topic is to focus on current developments in what many regard as a paradigm shift in the language sciences. In this Research Topic, we want to ask: If current explicit proposals for an innate, dedicated faculty for language are not supported by data or arguments, how can we solve the problems that UG was proposed to solve? Is it possible to solve the puzzles of language in our species with an appeal to causes that are not specifically linguistic?