

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910963887603321
Autore	Anderson Stephen R
Titolo	Doctor Dolittle's delusion : animals and the uniqueness of human language / / Stephen R. Anderson ; with illustrations by Amanda Patrick
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2004
ISBN	9786611740689 9781281740687 1281740683 9780300127102 0300127103
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (368 p.)
Classificazione	WT 3700
Disciplina	591.59
Soggetti	Animal communication Language and languages
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 331-338) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1 Animals, Language, and Linguistics -- 2 Language and Communication -- 3 On Studying Cognition -- 4 The Dance "Language" of Honeybees -- 5 Sound in Frog and Man -- 6 Birds and Babies Learning to Speak -- 7 What Primates Have to Say for Themselves -- 8 Syntax -- 9 Language Is Not Just Speech -- 10 Language Instruction in the Laboratory -- 11 Language, Biology, and Evolution -- Notes -- References -- Credits -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Can animals be taught a human language and use it to communicate? Or is human language unique to human beings, just as many complex behaviors of other species are uniquely theirs? This engrossing book explores communication and cognition in animals and humans from a linguistic point of view and asserts that animals are not capable of acquiring or using human language. Stephen R. Anderson explains what is meant by communication, the difference between communication and language, and the essential characteristics of language. Next he examines a variety of animal communication systems, including bee dances, frog vocalizations, bird songs, and alarm calls and other vocal, gestural, and olfactory communication

among primates. Anderson then compares these to human language, including signed languages used by the deaf. Arguing that attempts to teach human languages or their equivalents to the great apes have not succeeded in demonstrating linguistic abilities in nonhuman species, he concludes that animal communication systems-intriguing and varied though they may be-do not include all the essential properties of human language. Animals can communicate, but they can't talk.
