

Re: Italian vs Turkish

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Ar an triochadÃ° IÃ¡; de mÃ- na Nollaig, scrÃ-obh Peter T. Daniels:

- > > *Though, if I had to make a bet on this (which I wouldn't, because it*
- > > *could never be determined who'd won), I'd plump for monogenesis like*
- > > *Peter, as the (marginally) more economical hypothesis.*
- >
- > *It's indisputable.*
- >
- > *If a language capacity had evolved more than once,*

The language capacity evolving only once does not necessarily imply that language came into existence only once.

Though now I think of it, the only cases that would prevent the common ancestor existing would be something marginal like two hearing children being raised by two deaf, non-signing parents in isolation from a wider community, and developing their own language in that context.

In that context, monogenesis does still seem most likely, though not indisputably so. (Replace "deaf, non-signing parents" above with "people who didn't have the language capacity" for a, perhaps, slightly more likely hypothesis).

- > *there would be then sets of languages that arose within one or another,*
- > *and they would differ in some small but essential way(s), and infants'*
- > *automatic learning of languages would differ at least in efficiency, if*
- > *not in possibility at all. It has never been observed that infants from*
- > *one speech community (or ethnic group) have the slightest difficulty*
- > *learning the language of any other.*

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"Ah come on now Ted, a Volkswagen with a mind of its own, driving all over the place and going mad, if that's not scary I don't know what is."