

Re: Universal grammar

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In article <1162376279.310647.45360@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "Franz Gnaedinger" <frgn@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

This was what the stepping out of 19th century positivism achieved: in modern view, one develops models about reality which are distinct from reality itself.

Why, then, do the schoolbooks equate Darwin's theory of gradual evolution with evolution per se?

You would probably have to ask those who wrote them. In general, it is probably a bad idea learning from schoolbooks! :-)

If they said: Darwin was a great biologist, his discoveries make us better understand many features of life, even the human body, and this new knowledge about ourselves helps us in medicine, allows new forms of treatments and medicaments, which may one day save your life, the life of a friend of yours, or the life of your parents ... Please have respect for Darwin's work, and consider that he just understood some aspects of evolution. Evolution is a far wider phenomenon than any single person can grasp.

Yeah, Darwin only had some initial understanding of it.

For example Darwin knew that many species persisted basically unchanged for eons, but he was not able to integrate this paleontological record into his very young theory. Stephen Jay Gould and Nils Eldrege achieved this with their model of a punctuated equilibrium, a very complicated term which can easily be understood when we give the idea in simple words: a new species arises in a relatively short period of time (punctuation) and can then persist basically

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unchanged for eons (stasis). This comes very close to the act of creation in the Bible. And consider that God created t