

Re: Universal grammar

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- *From:* "Franz Gnaedinger" <frgn@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Prof. Dr. Nathan Sanders used a metaphor:

That's like Julia Child claiming she studied chemistry. (May Julia's spirit forgive the deprecating analogy; I'm sure her cooking skills far exceed your polyglotism.)

Using something, not matter how regularly, diversely, or competently, is not at all the same thing as studying its underlying structure in a scientific manner.

I had me a nice and peaceful yet lively and colorful discussion with Hans Aberg and Rob Freeman, now you must introduce the usual online war in this thread.

When I was fourteen years old, I had an insight: when I do a chore in a clever way, I save energy, so intelligence and energy are somehow related, perhaps even equivalent, as matter and energy in Einstein's theory? My idea was declined by physicists in the early 1970s and in the 1990s. Meanwhile I find confirmation: Maldacena's holographic principle from 1999 explains matter as holographic emanation of information, Eric Chaisson says that information is a form of energy, whether stored, flowing, or unrealized. Applying energy is the way to handle matter, applying intelligence is the way to handle information, ergo ... (see my reply to Hans from moments ago).

I let a great idea slip, listening to professors of physics (who were polite, contrary to some linguists over here). In the same year 1963, when I had my above insight, I began to wonder about language. What is language? My schoolbooks told me nonsense. My teachers couldn't help me. So I set my mind to answer that question myself. As the official science failed to answer my question, I felt no need to study all the approaches that lead astray anyway,

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so I decided to follow my own way. The above idea in physics, for which I begin to find confirmation forty years later, tells me that my intuition works fine. I let slip my idea in physics, I won't let slip my ideas in language.

Franz Gnaedinger

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