

# Situated Representations and the Evolution of Language

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In the recent decade, the modelling of the evolution of language has experienced a rebirth (Vogt, 2006). The so-called models of language evolution are a promising method for filling the gap between embodied models of simple cognitive behavior and the situated theories of human intelligence.

One prominent feature of the models of language evolution, however, hinders progress towards a theory of situated activity. This feature is the separation of the perception phase in the experiments with the agents from the attaching of labels to perceived objects and communicating these labels. The independence of the processes which lead to the creation of symbols used in communication and the perception of and interaction with objects has been an implicit assumption of the cognitive sciences which has been taken over by the language evolution literature.

In order to provide adequate models of language evolution, modellers have to take seriously the evidence from the psychology literature regarding the role of representations in human intelligence and how they are created. The alternative to an internalist model of symbolic communication and language is provided by Clark (2005) and Clancey (1997). A methodology for realizing these alternative models using embodied agents will be presented.

## References

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