**10 Characteristics of Human Languages**

1. Except for sign languages, which are rare, the language will be composed of meaningful sounds.
2. The language will have from about 10-70 meaningful sounds; furthermore, all languages will choose from the same potential set of sounds.
3. Languages will have a way of making things negative.
4. The language will have both consonant and vowel sounds, and the number of vowels will at least be two.
5. The language will have a way to make statements, questions, commands and exclamations.
6. The language will have both noun-like and verb-like elements.
7. The language will have a way of indicating the case relationships between nouns and verbs.
8. That language will have a way to indicate the tense and aspect of the verb.
9. The language will have grammar rules that allow the deletion of parts of sentences, and rules that allow them to be moved around.
10. The language will have at least two ways of combining small sentences into larger ones.