

The Aboutness of Language: a Critique of Berwick and Chomsky.
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Alas, the book *Why Only Us: Language and Evolution* by Berwick and Chomsky (2015) is marred by unwarranted assumptions, faulty logic and snide rhetoric -- and its answer to "Why Only Us" reduces to "Because we had a mutation that no one else had," which is hardly satisfying.

I offer an alternative framework based on the key notions of

i) *Aboutness*: Language evolved for communication about the actual and imagined worlds, and

ii) *Comparative neuroprimatology*: Our closest living relatives are the great apes. Their brains and behaviors, as well as those of monkeys, provide clues to "why us?" (Arbib et al., 2018). The "only" is a separate issue.