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**Aaya Pasternaq** ▲ David J. Peterson · 9 years ago

David, my comment about English was in response to your comment, as well as a more general observation: of all the crowd of Tomasello's supporters (or UG-detractors), you were the only one that offered some sort of linguistic observation not just name-calling and the like. I thought you were trying to support Tomasello's claim in the Guardian article, which I mentioned in my post which you responded to. I assumed you at least read my post to which you commented and in which I cited the relevant quote verbatim. If you are simply venting some frustration with the UG framework or some specific people working in it, this may not be the best forum to do so. If you are interested in a discussion of Tomasello's claim in the Guardian article, I'm taking it up with him/her! Why comment on my blog, especially if it's not in response to either the Guardian article or my critique of it? I am surprised that so many people understood this post to be an invitation to do mud-slinging and name-calling and frustration-venting that has nothing to do with the post. (That's a comment that is directed at most comments here, although the response of FB has been quite different, I'm not sure why.)

But since we are having an orthogonal discussion here in relation to your point

see more

^ | ✓ · Share ›

**David J. Peterson** ▲ Aaya Pasternaq · 9 years ago

*Why comment on my blog, especially if it's not in response to either the Guardian article or my critique of it?*

Well, if you must know, it was this comment from you (my emphasis):

*I don't see how it can even begin to threaten the UG framework if it doesn't explain **the facts that UG does explain**.*

The way this is presented as an implicit fact that, of necessity, everyone must accept as true is something I've seen done a lot, and I find it troubling. It was a bit chutzpah of me to draw attention to it, though, as it wasn't at issue. This wasn't the place for it. My apologies.

*If you are unhappy about something a lecturer in a class you TAed for said, why not taking it up with him/her?*

I did. The response was, "Well, the exception proves the rule," and that was that. Ancient history, though.

Thanks for the reference to that database! I didn't know about it. That may prove fruitful to look through. I mean, if it's still bugging me ten years later, I owe it to myself to at least look into it on my own.

^ | ✓ · Share ›

**Aaya Pasternaq** ▲ David J. Peterson · 9 years ago

"Ancient history, though." – but you felt compelled to spill this beef you have with someone else which I don't even know on me...

"If it's still bugging me ten years later, I owe it to myself to at least look into it on my own." – Right. Then you can tell us what we've been doing wrong for 50 years. If your claim pans out. Good luck with it.

^ | ✓ · Share ›

**David J. Peterson** ▲ Aaya Pasternaq · 9 years ago

Again, my sincere apologies, and thank you so much for your kind words! I appreciate it.

^ | ✓ · Share ›

**Ekaterina Lyubtsova** · 9 years ago

Well done, Aaya! Great paper. It reminds me on Zalizniyak's papers and lectures on amalgamath linguistics (http://semanticy.ru/30/30/30, which you discussed earlier in your blog (http://www.language-archives.org/item/oai:linguistlist.org:1.2.4.1.1.1