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“The most elementary fact about each individual’s language is that it generates a pair of interpretations (sensorimotor (SM), conceptual-intentional (C-I)) for each of infinitely many hierarchically structured expressions, where SM is the link to organs of externalization (typically articulatory-auditory) and C-I is the link to the systems of thought and action. We can refer to this virtual truism as the Basic Principle of human language, instantiated in one or another form in the brain of each language user. Understood in this sense, language is what has been called I-language, where *I* signifies ‘internal to an individual’ and ‘intensional,’ in that we are interested in the actual nature of the generative process, not some set of entities that it determines. For many years, this general perspective has been labeled the biolinguistic program, a term suggested by Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini...”

(Chomsky, *Aspects* new preface (2015, ix))

“*Aspects* was the first attempt to outline a general framework for the study of I-language, adopting the Basic Principle within the biolinguistic program.”

(Chomsky, *Aspects* new preface (2015, x))

"...the grand aim of all science, which is to cover the greatest possible number of empirical facts by logical deduction from the smallest possible number of hypotheses or axioms."

(Einstein 1951)

"...the Minimalist Program, right or wrong, has a certain therapeutic value. It is all too easy to succumb to the temptation to offer a purported explanation for some phenomenon on the basis of assumptions that are of roughly the order of complexity of what is to be explained. ... Minimalist demands at least have the merit of ... sharpening the question of whether we have a genuine explanation or a restatement of a problem in other terms."

(Chomsky 1995, 233-4)

“Since Galileo, modern science has been guided by his maxim that nature is simple and that it is the scientist’s task to show that this is the case. It has long been clear that the quest for simplicity is closely related to the quest for explanation...”

(Chomsky, *The Minimalist Program*, new preface (2015, vii))