Step 4: writing an abstract

The question of whether animals speak a real language or just rely on instinctual communication has intrigued researchers for decades. While some scientists argue animals lack complex grammar in their communication, others propose there are a lot of similarities such as the utilization of sounds and the spontaneous use of language, as well as turn-taking behaviors. This study analyses, to what extent animal communication can be compared to the human language system. The research on this topic is extensive, allowing me to discover interesting ways of communication used by particular species. From melodic birdsongs, to high frequency chirps created by bats, to beep and clicking noises made by dolphins.

It is a common mistake to think that communication and language are synonyms, however these terms have a different definition in the field of linguistics. For instance language is a tool of communication. Including that language changes throughout time, it evolves. Unlike communication, which is considered static and focuses solely on transferring a message. The question now is, whether these above-mentioned ways of communication among animals fit into the framework of communication or language.

Answering this question requires searching beneath the surface. Resulting into the discovery of the functioning of a bird's vocal organ, which is amazingly similar to a human vocal organ. Additionally, some animals can even be trained to “understand” our language. Furthermore, there is a big difference between humans and animals based on their short-term memory limits. We can now begin to place communication systems of different animals within the framework of communication or language by seeing if it meets certain criteria. On that account, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the diversity of linguistics beyond human boundaries.