

In retrospect, the conclusions of Terrace and others seem to have been premature. Although some early ape language studies had not been rigorously controlled to eliminate cuing, R. A. Gardner and B. T. Gardner were conducting double-blind experiments that prevented any possibility of cuing as early as the 1970s.² Since 1979, researchers have diligently guarded against cuing. For example, Rosh Lewin reported that instructions for Kanzi, a bonobo (pygmy chimpanzee), were “delivered by someone out of his sight,” with other team members wearing earphones so that they “could not hear the instructions and so could not cue Kanzi, even unconsciously.”³ More recently, philosopher Stuart Shanker of York University has questioned the emphasis placed on cuing, pointing out that since human communication relies on the ability to understand cues and gestures in a social setting, it is not surprising that apes might rely on similar signals.⁴

There is considerable evidence that apes have signed to one another spontaneously, without trainers present. Like many of the apes studied, gorillas Koko and Michael have been observed signing to one another.⁵ At Central Washington University, Loulis, the baby chimpanzee placed in the care of the signing chimpanzee, Washoe, mastered nearly fifty signs in American Sign Language without help from humans. “Interestingly,” wrote researcher Robin

2. Robin Fouts, *Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees Taught Me About Who We Are* (New York: William Morrow, 1997), 102.

3. Rosh Lewin, "Look Who's Talking Now," *New Scientist* 130 (1991): 51.

4. Glenn Johnson, "Chimp Talk Debate: Is It Really Language?" *The New York Times*, June 6, 1995, <http://www.santafe.edu/~johnson/articles.chimp.html> (accessed February 2, 1998).

5. Frances Patterson and Elton Linden, *The Education of Koko* (New York: Holt, Rineheart, & Winston, 1981), 51.

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