

《高考英语阅读理解真题43(含答案解析)》

2022年新高考I卷

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Human speech contains more than 2,000 different sounds, from the common “ m ” and “ a ” to the rare clicks of some southern African languages. But why are certain sounds more common than others? A ground-breaking, five-year study shows that diet-related changes in human bite led to new speech sounds that are now found in half the world ’ s languages.

More than 30 years ago, the scholar Charles Hockett noted that speech sounds called labiodentals, such as “ f ” and “ v ” , were more common in the languages of societies that ate softer foods. Now a team of researchers led by Dami á n Blasi at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, has found how and why this trend arose.

They discovered that the upper and lower front teeth of ancient human adults were aligned (对齐), making it hard to produce labiodentals, which are formed by touching the lower lip to the upper teeth. Later, our jaws changed to an overbite structure (结构), making it easier to produce such sounds.

The team showed that this change in bite was connected with the development of agriculture in the Neolithic period. Food became easier to chew at this point. The jawbone didn ’ t have to do as much work and so didn ’ t grow to be so large.

Analyses of a language database also confirmed that there was a global change in the sound of world languages after the Neolithic age, with the use of “ f ” and “ v ” increasing remarkably during the last few thousand years. These sounds are still not found in the languages of many hunter-gatherer people today.

This research overturns the popular view that all human speech sounds were present when human beings evolved around 300,000 years ago. ” The set of speech sounds we use has not necessarily remained stable since the appearance of human beings, but rather the huge variety of speech sounds that we find today is the product of a complex interplay of things like biological change and cultural evolution, “ said Steven Moran, a member of the research team.

32. Which aspect of the human speech sound does Dami á n Blasi ’ s research focus on?

A. Its variety. B. Its distribution. C. Its quantity. D. Its development.

33. Why was it difficult for ancient human adults to produce labiodentals?
- A. They had fewer upper teeth than lower teeth.
 - B. They could not open and close their lips easily.
 - C. Their jaws were not conveniently structured.
 - D. Their lower front teeth were not large enough.
34. What is paragraph 5 mainly about?
- A. Supporting evidence for the research results.
 - B. Potential application of the research findings.
 - C. A further explanation of the research methods.
 - D. A reasonable doubt about the research process.
35. What does Steven Moran say about the set of human speech sounds?
- A. It is key to effective communication.
 - B. It contributes much to cultural diversity.
 - C. It is a complex and dynamic system.
 - D. It drives the evolution of human beings.

答案解析：

32. D 解析：第二段提到“ Now a team of researchers led by Dami á n Blasi at the University of Zurich , Switzerland , has found how and why this trend arose ”，即Dami á n Blasi的研究团队发现了这种趋势(人类发音变化)是如何以及为什么产生的，因此他的研究重点是语音的发展。所以答案是D。

33. C 解析：文章第三段提到，古代成年人的上齿和下齿是对齐的，这使得产生由下唇触碰上齿形成的labiodentals(如“ f ”和“ v ”)变得困难。这说明古代人类成年人难以产生labiodentals是因为他们的颌部结构不方便。

34. A 解析：第五段提到了对语言数据库的分析，确认了在新石器时代之后，世界语言的声音发生了全球性的变化，其中“ f ”和“ v ”的使用在过去的几千年中显著增加。这些分析结果支持了研究团队关于咬合变化与农业发展相关联的发现，因此这一段主要是关于支持研究结果的证据。

35. C 解析：最后一段中，Steven Moran提到，我们使用的语音声音集合并不一定自人

类出现以来就保持稳定，而是生物变化和文化演化的复杂相互作用的结果。这表明他认为人类语音声音是一个复杂且动态的系统。

