

Responding to Student Writing: Patterns of Error

Paper edited to reflect correction of "s" plural and past-tense

Anthropology 212

Question #3

How do we, modern human beings, are closely related to apes like the chimpanzee? Support your argument with evidence. Use both behavior and biology.

"Do not feed the animals." Those were the instructions written in a sign in front of a gigantic chimpanzee's cage, which looked like a jungle on its own. I was about 14 years old in my first science trip, and the teacher chose the Zoo, to show us some important points about evolution, points in which as religious child, who believed in God's creation of the earth and all living creatures, didn't believe or wasn't interested in. I don't remember the assignment that I had to do, but there is one think which I remember; I remember myself observing these curious creatures through the diamond shape fence that surrounded them. I couldn't believe how me, a child who would spend hours in the mirror trying to look her best, could somehow be related to this hairy, smelly, small creature who would jump from one tree to the other in their artificial jungle, making strange sounds (which I considered annoying) be related to me. They were looking with a lot of curiosity to their expectators, in a couple exchange of looks, you couldn't tell who was observing who.

6 years after my fun day at the Zoo, I enrolled this Anthropology class, not as a favorite, but as an "I didn't have any more choices". I got in with less interest in evolution than the interest I had in my science class back in middle school. However curiosity is my worst enemy and the class had gotten more interesting since that first day of class. I remember professor B. mentioning that we, human beings are 98.3% genetically the

same a Chimpanzee, that got my attention, that means that from 100% of our DNA we were just 1.7% different from the chimps that I saw in the Zoo. Incredible.

From the Cadogram of humans and apes we can see the relationship through time between them. We can also see How close is a human to a chimp, and even after dividing to a difference genus "homo", humans shared a lot of characteristics and similarities with the chimpanzee that suggest that there were a period of time in which they shared a common ancestor between them. But why the chimpanzee, it could be another primates like the gorilla or orangutan? How do we know we are more close to them than to the other primates? That single proof that our DNA is more similar to chimp than what it into Orangutan or gorilla is a great step to figure out which is our closest relative. According to J. Phillippe Rushton in his book, "*Race, Evolution and Behavior*" He argues that human-Chimp DNA comparisons are about 20% more stable than human and gorilla comparisons or chimp-gorilla comparisons.

Even though it might sound strange, but the fact that humans shared some physical characteristics with the chimp is a reality. Which a few years ago would give a headache. One of these characteristics is the chimpanzee's feet, which is more efficient for walking than gorilla feet, this is possible because chimp's sole is broader and toes are shorter. As humans the a lot chimp has no tail, just that bone that we can touch at the end of our dorsal spine, proof that there was a tail once. Our hands, like chimp hands had the thumb separated that helps to grab smaller food and handle to pick them up. The position of eyes, the eyes are located in the front of the skull, which permits to look forward, rather than on the side. This gives to the primates stereoscopic vision that helps us to see further. Another fact is the large cranium that protects our brain, even though chimp's brain is half of ours, a big amount of their brain is in the sense of vision more than smell. Primates like us have a great sense of but lack of smell...