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*A Victorian Account of Human Language as Physiological Science*

In 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain, consideration of the nature of human language was informed by new ideas about development and evolution, language and thought, and learning and memory. From the 1860s onwards, Victorian scholars pursued new theoretical and methodological approaches to investigate language. A dominant figure in philology was Friedrich Max Müller (1823-1900) who argued that language should be investigated as a science. This approach was underpinned by the view that related languages had developed from an organic shared past. He based his analyses on collected observations of Oriental languages and was concerned to provide an account of human culture. At the same time, John Hughlings Jackson (1835-1911) was a rising star in the medical sphere. He investigated language as part of physiological science. Jackson held the view that the organization of language was a reflection of the evolutionary development of the brain. His analyses were based on collected observations of impaired language in neurological patients. He proposed a model which differentiated various aspects of linguistic expression-- interjections, words and sentences, as well as swearing and gestures. His intention was to provide a comprehensive approach to meaning and expression within a broader account of human behaviour. This paper will review these efforts to determine the physiological nature of language, and consider the research strategies and theoretical assumptions underpinning them. The objective is to evaluate the contribution of this approach to language, the study of which was situated in a traditionally non-linguistic domain.