Efficient coding in speech sounds: Cultural evolution and the emergence of structure in artificial languages

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As part of the work I did for this thesis, I spent hours closely observing the evolution of miniature artificial languages in the lab. It almost looked like a miracle how spontaneously structure emerged in these languages. In contrast, the way this thesis took shape involved quite a bit more conscious effort and intentional design... But, voilà, here it is! And just as languages are shaped as the result of biases and influences from many individuals, the appearance of this thesis is neither a miracle, nor the result of my effort alone.

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