

**** The Status of Language in Human Cognition and Communication ****

<http://inyaz.herzen.spb.ru/symposium.html>

“ Proposal for a shared evolutionary nature of language and consciousness “

Christophe Menant <http://crmenant.free.fr/Home-Page/index.HTM>

- Bordeaux – France -

A) Evolutionary scenario for self-consciousness and language.

A.1: Identification with conspecifics and evolution towards self-consciousness.

A.2: Identification with conspecifics and anxiety Increase.

A.3: Anxiety limitation and language. Evolutionary advantages.

A.4: Action scenario improvements. Evolutionary advantages.

A.5: Evolution of consciousness and language. Overall scenario.

B) Organic meaning generation and its evolution towards language.

B.1: Organic meaning generation. Stay alive constraint.

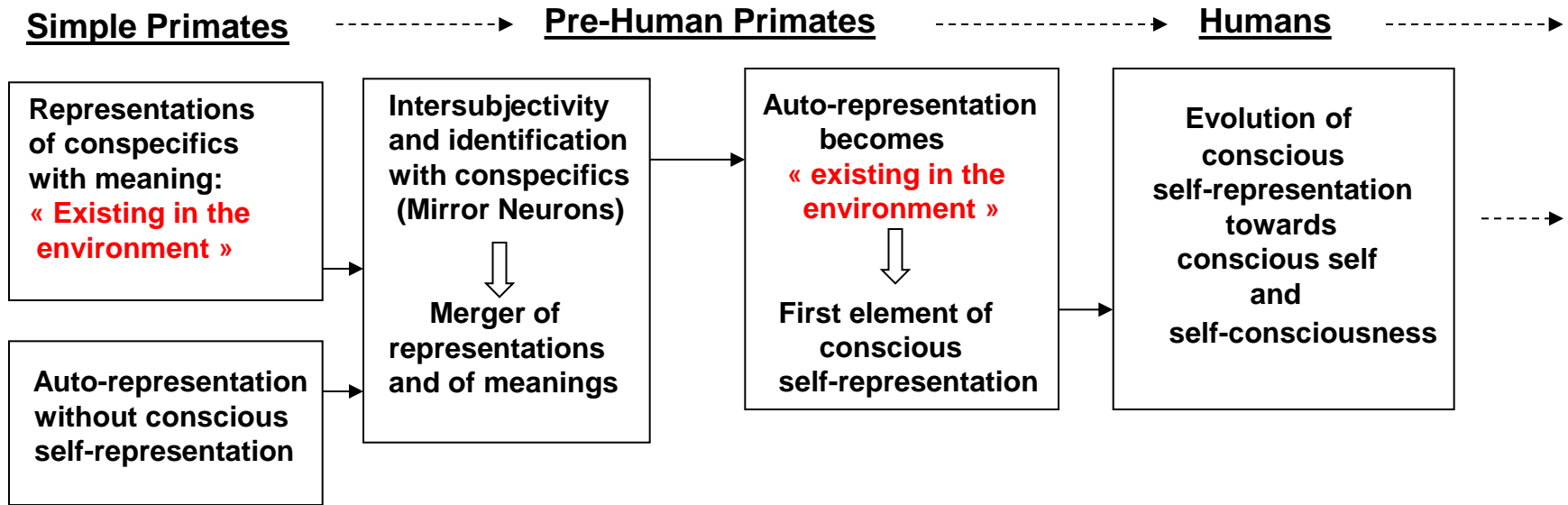
B.2: Meaning communication. Group life constraints.

B.3: Meaning communication. Group life constraints. MGS.

B.4: Evolution of meaning communication towards language.

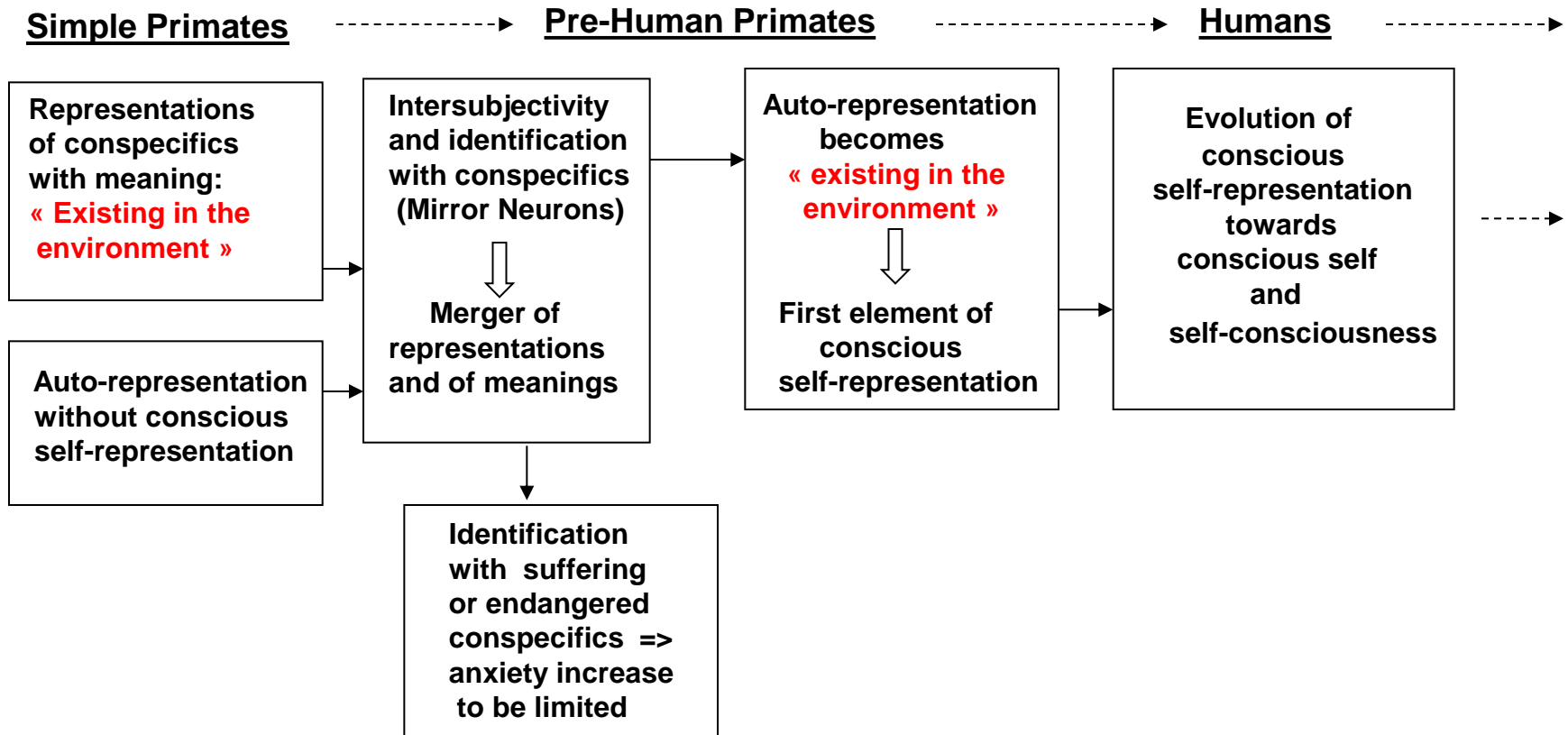
C) Conclusion. Continuations. References

A) Evolutionary scenario for self-consciousness and language



- * Pre-human primates lived in groups.
- * Conspecifics were represented as existing in the environment.
- * Pre-human primates carried some auto-representation.
- * Pre-human primates identified with conspecifics.
- * The auto-representation became « existing in the environment ».
- * Initiated first elements of conscious self-representation.

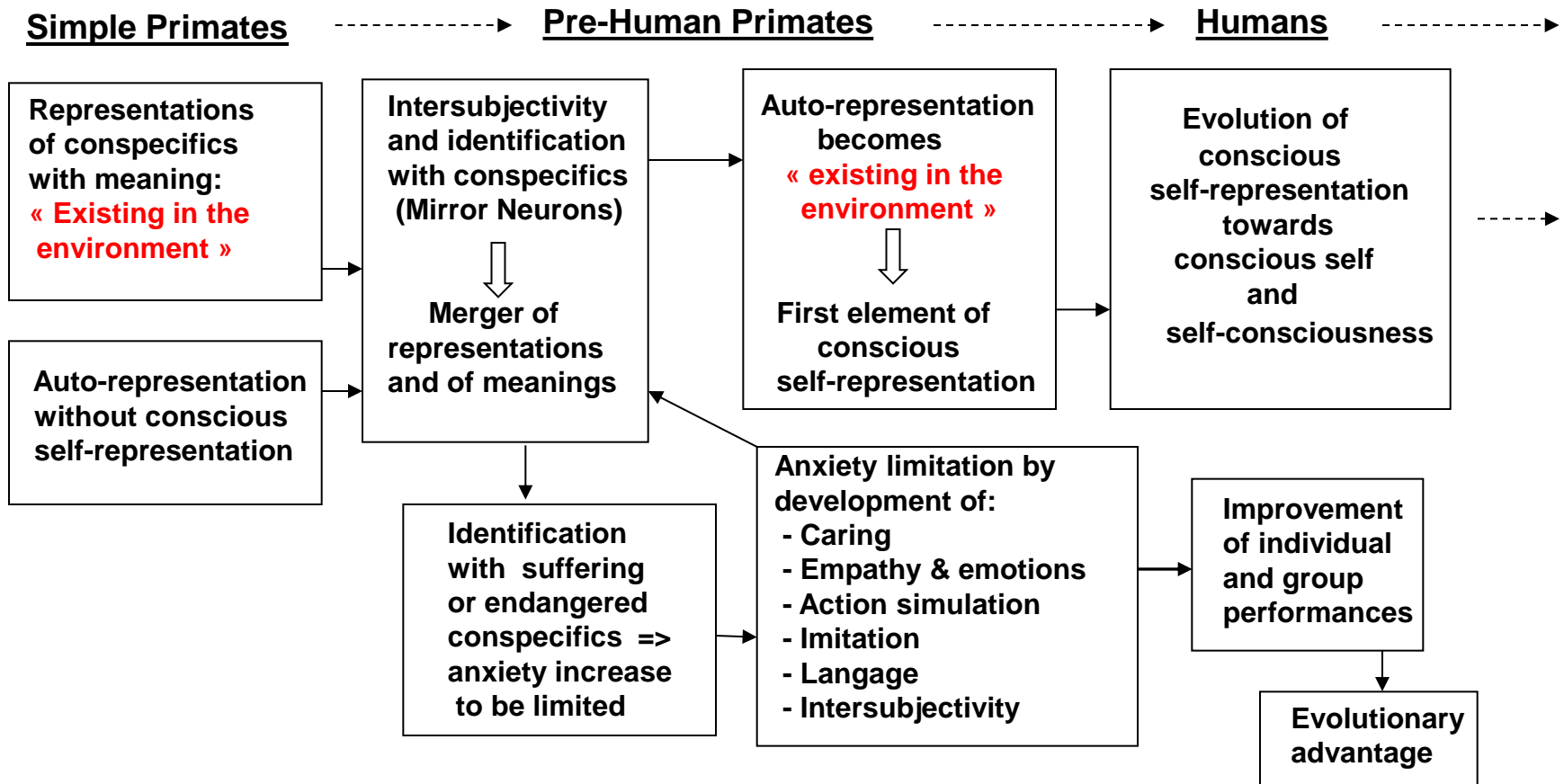
A) Evolutionary scenario for self-consciousness and language



- * Dangerous environment at times of survival of the fittest.
- * Identifying with suffering or endangered conspecifics created an anxiety increase.
- * Important anxiety had to be limited.

A.2: Identification with conspecifics and anxiety increase [4]

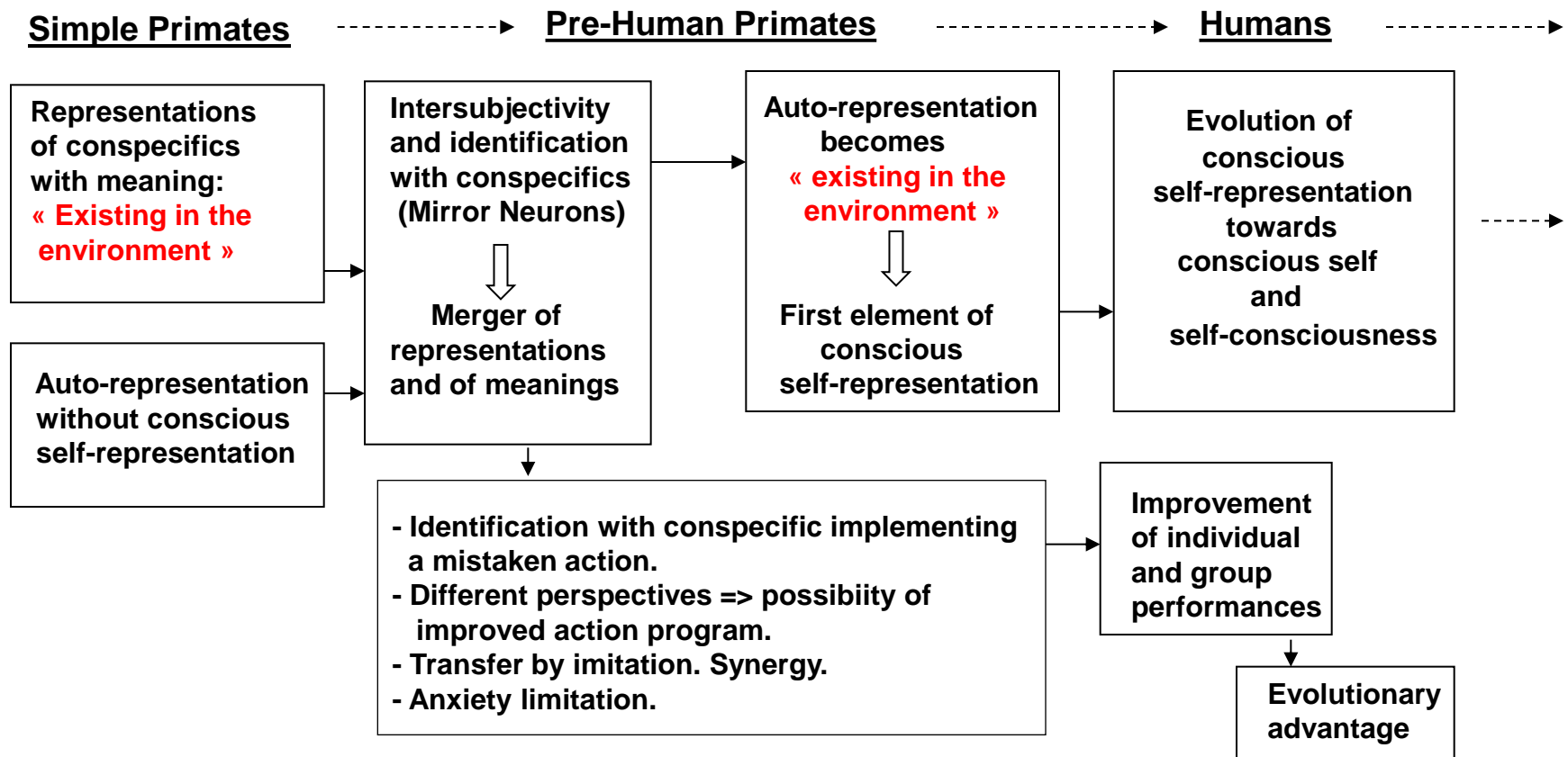
A) Evolutionary scenario for self-consciousness and language



- * Anxiety limitation by development of behavioral & mental capacities, Includes language.
- * Evolutionary advantage and positive feedback on intersubjectivity.
- * Development of language as key in the evolutionary scenario of self-consciousness.
- * Evolution from communication to language to be analyzed within evolution of SC.

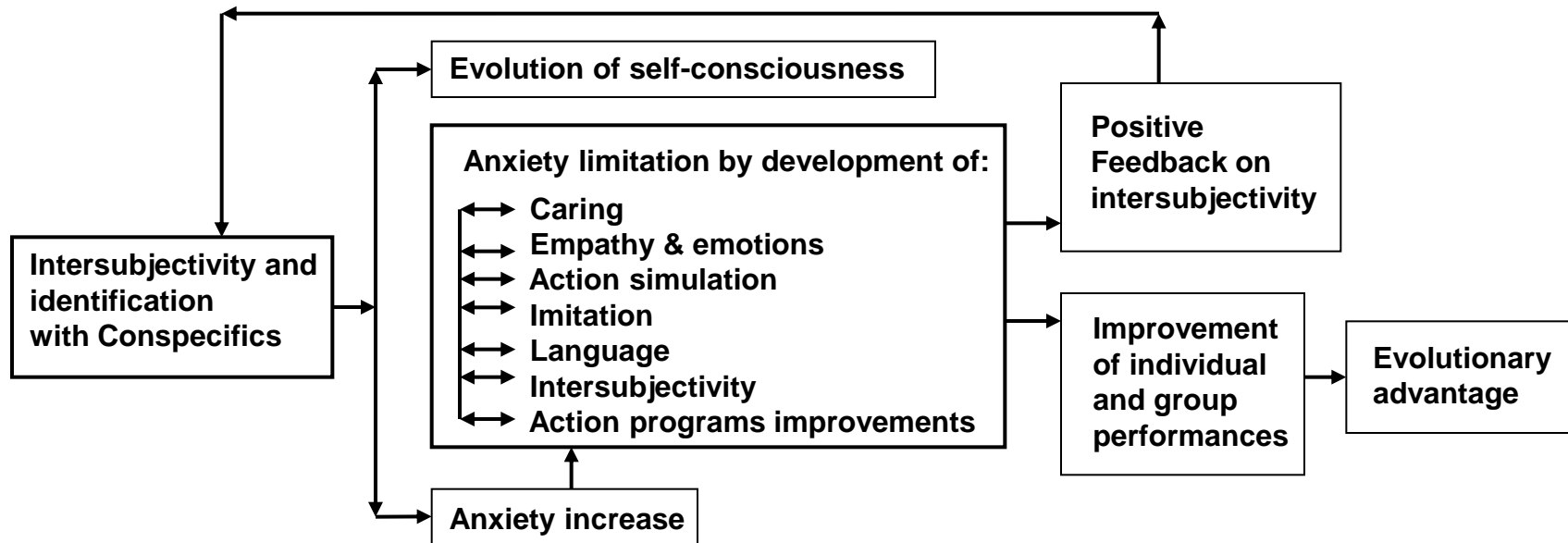
A.3: Anxiety limitation and language. Evolutionary advantages. [4]

A) Evolutionary scenario for self-consciousness and language



- * Agent feels as her own the mistaken action implemented by the conspecific.
- * Agent perceives the mistaken action from her position.
- * Different perspective => possibility of new action programs that avoid the mistake.
- * Improved action programs availability. Transfer to conspecifics by imitation and language.

A) Evolutionary scenario for self-consciousness and language



- * Positive feedback and evolutionary advantages for self-consciousness.
- * Contributors are interrelated. Language is key contributor (synergy).
- * Nature of language is embedded in nature of consciousness.
- * Anxiety increase/limitation as permanent evolutionary engine.

A.5: Evolution of consciousness and language. Overall scenario.

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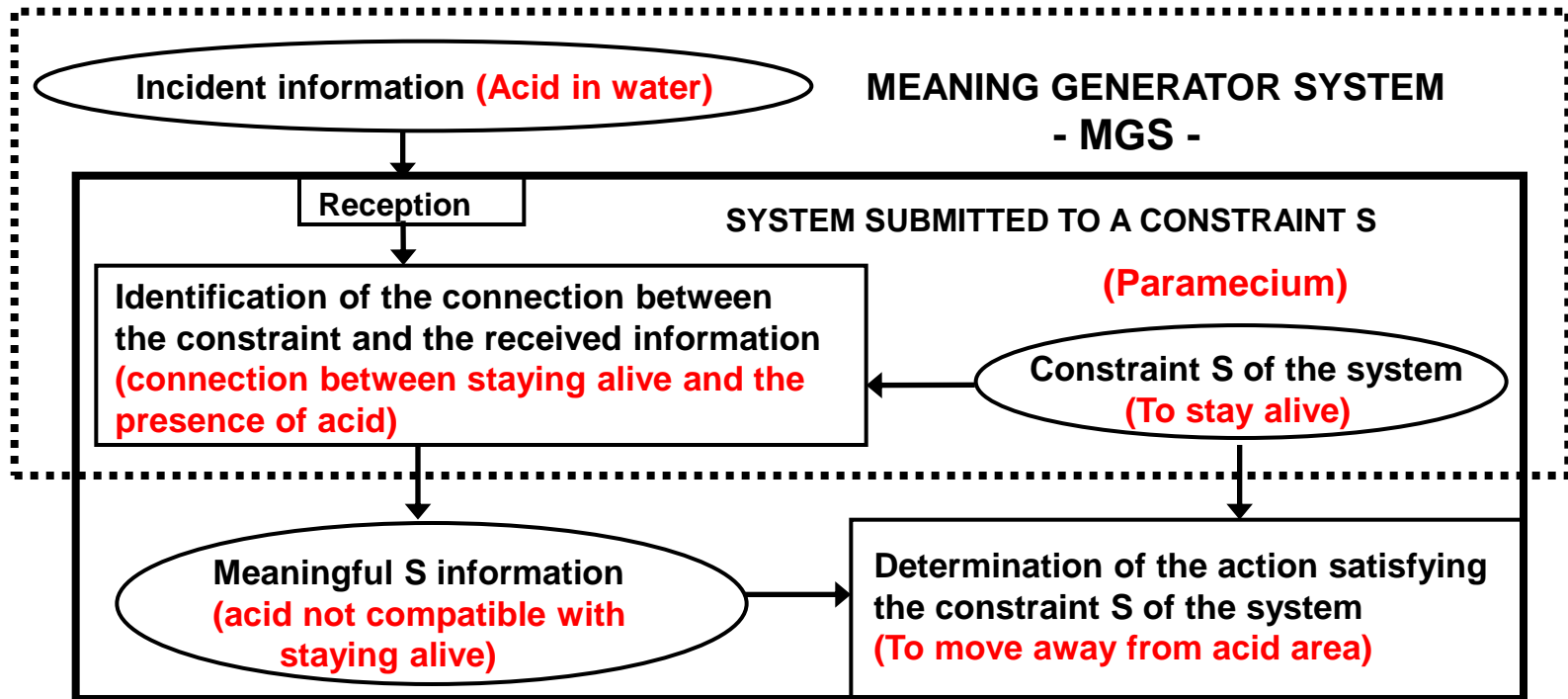
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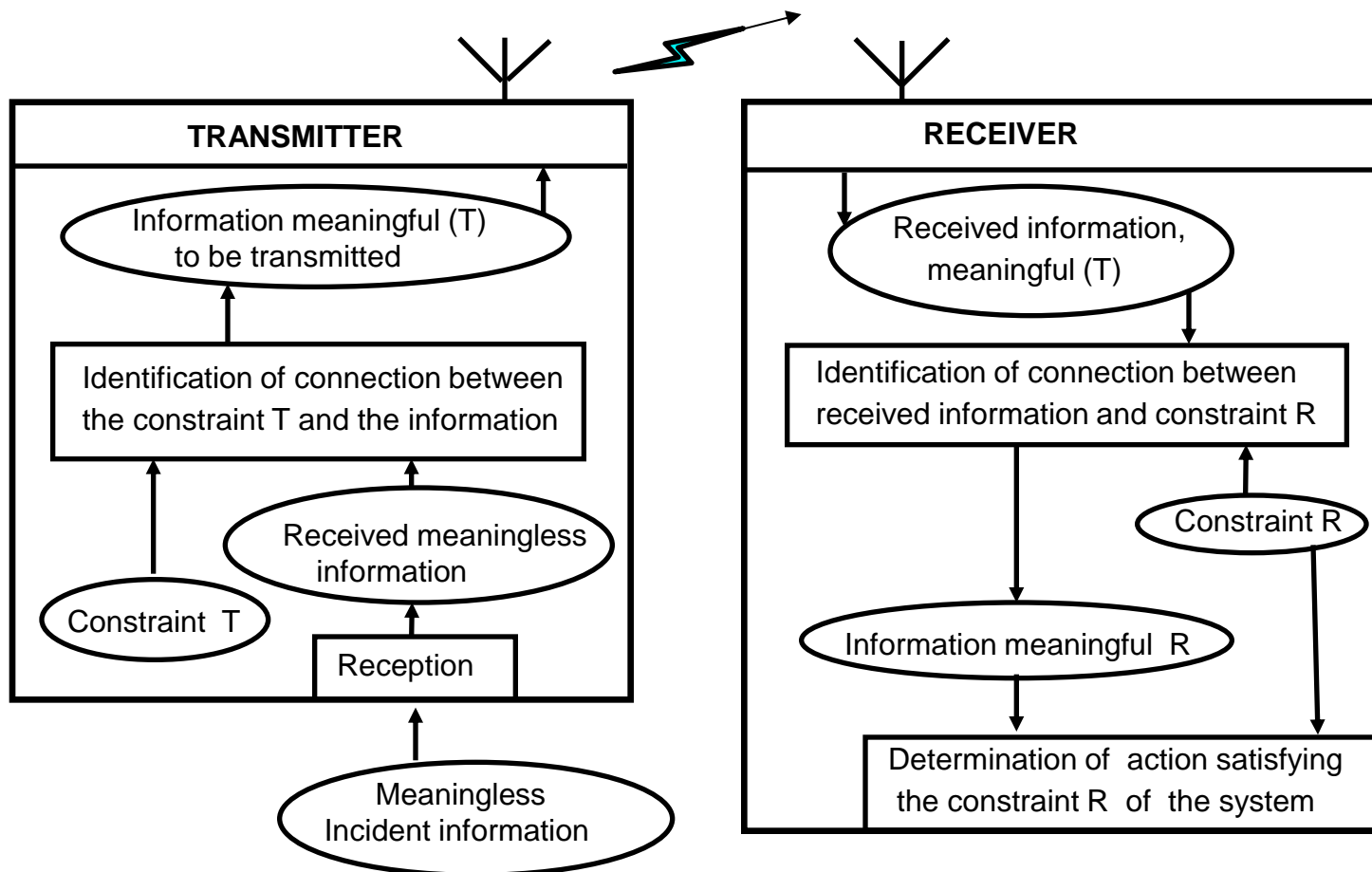
B) Organic meaning generation and its evolution towards language



- * Stay alive constraint => organic meaning generation.
- * Meaning generation for constraint satisfaction by action implementation.
- * Meaning does not exist by itself. Is attached to a system that creates it or uses it.
- * Meaning generation as first step in evolution. Prior to communication and language.

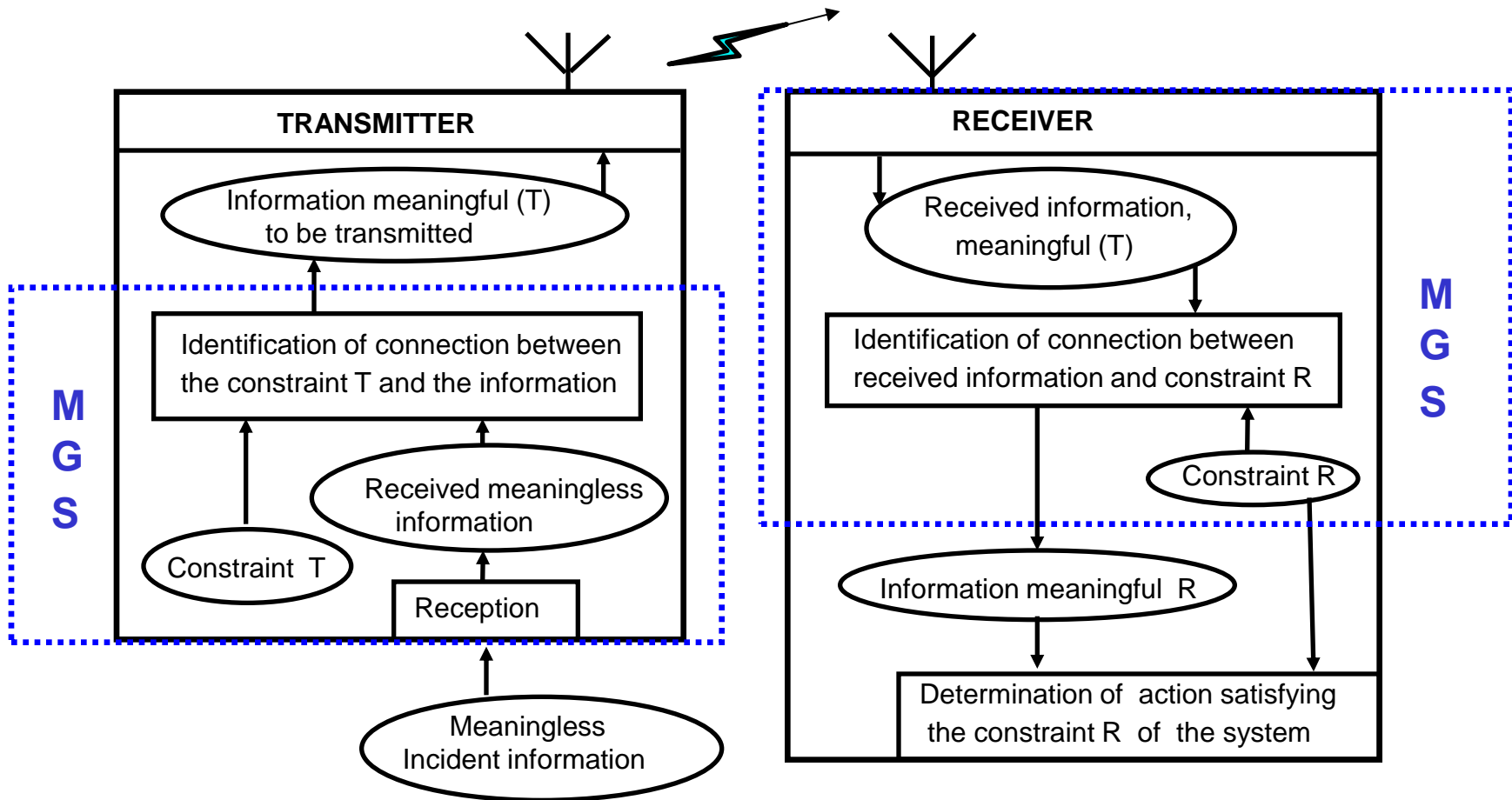
B.1: Organic meaning generation. Stay alive constraint. [1, 2]

B) Organic meaning generation and its evolution towards language



* Meaning transmission from transmitter to receiver. Group life constraints.

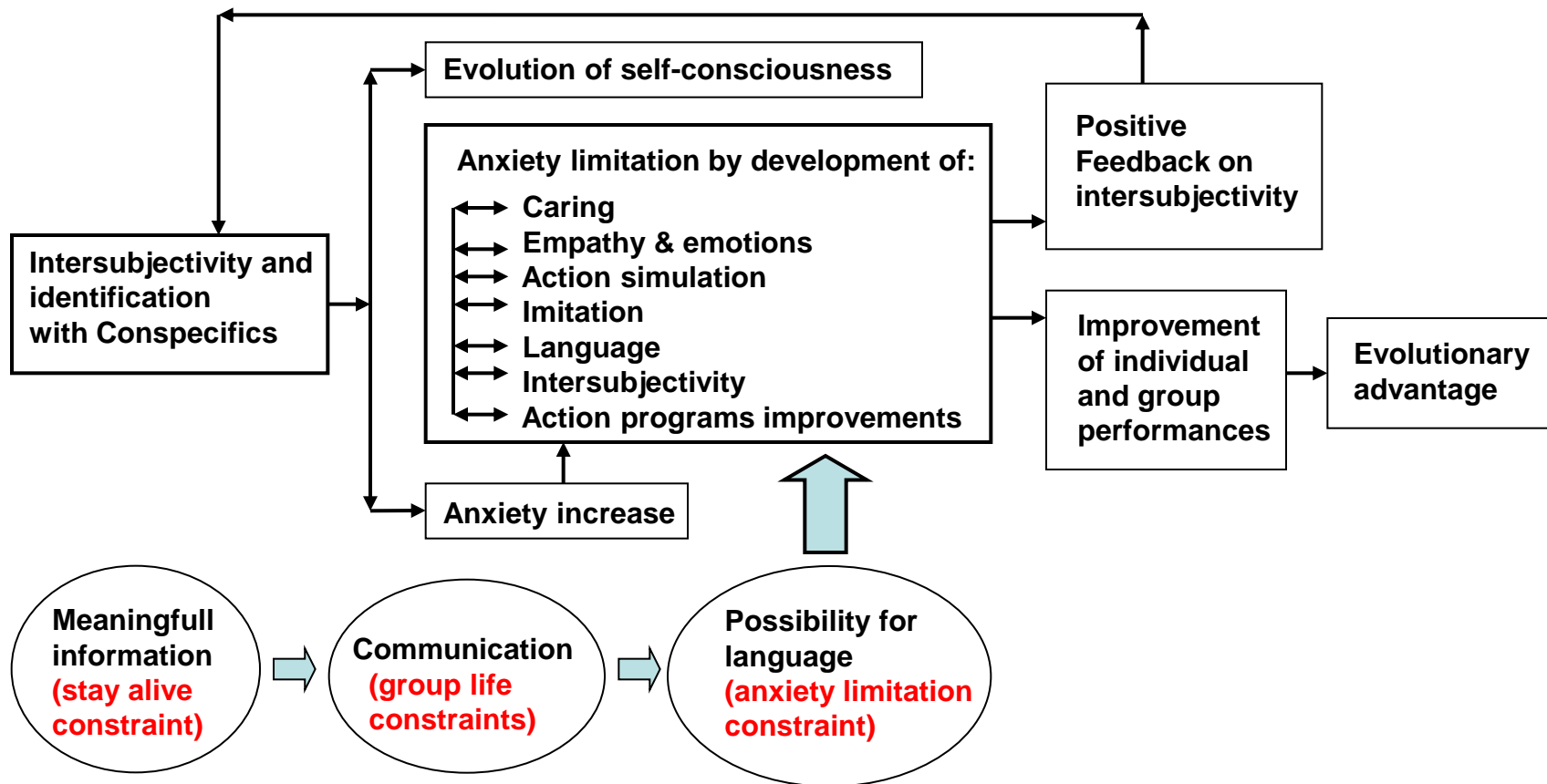
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* Meaning Generator Systems as driving Transmitter and Receiver.

B.3: Meaning communication. Group life constraints. MGS.

B) Organic meaning generation and its evolution towards language



- * Evolution of constraints. Evolution does not plan ahead.
- * Nature of language is embedded in nature of consciousness.
- * Evolution of meaningful information → Communication → Language.

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Conclusion

- * **Evolutionary approach => Nature of language is embedded in nature of consciousness.**
 - Identification with conspecifics as source of conscious self and of anxiety.
 - Development of language for anxiety limitation. Evolutionary advantages.
- * **Evolutionary process: meaning generation => communication => language.**
 - Meaning generation process based on constraint satisfaction.

Continuation

- * **Evolution of constraints. Evolution of communication and language. [6]**
- * **Evolutionary history of intersubjectivity. Links with phenomenal consciousness. [5]**
- * **Evolution of anxiety/anxiety limitation. Phylogenesis of emotions and feeling. [3]**
- * **Shared analysis for the evolutions of consciousness and language.**

References

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