#### Evolutionary Theory

The evolutionary theory suggests that language evolved gradually over time in response to environmental changes or evolutionary pressures such as population growth. According to this theory, language evolved slowly and incrementally rather than suddenly appearing out of nowhere in its current form. This means that it would have taken thousands of years for the **evolution of human language** to emerge from earlier stages of communication such as hand gestures or simple words and phrases.

#### Bow-Wow Theory

The bow-wow theory proposes that language evolved from animal sounds. This theory was first proposed by German philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder in the late 18th century. According to this theory, humans mimicked animal sounds to communicate with each other. For example, a person may have imitated a dog's bark to let another person know that a dog was nearby. Over time, these animal sounds evolved into more complex language structures.

One advantage of this theory is its simplicity; it is easy to understand and visualize how humans could have evolved from animal sounds. However, this theory does not take into account the complexity and structure that exists in modern languages; it fails to explain how such complexity could have arisen from simple animal sounds.