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The official name of our species is Homo Sapiens; but there are many anthropologists who prefer to think of man as Homo Faber — the smith, the maker of tools. It would be possible. I think, to reconcile these two definitions in a third. If man is a _____

knower and an efficient doer, it is only because he is also a talker. In order to be Faber and Sapien, Homo must first be loquax, the loquacious one. Without language we should merely be hairless chimpanzees. Indeed we should be something much worse. Possessed of a high IQ but no language, we should be like the Yahoos of Gulliver's Travels — creatures too clever to be guided by instinct, too self-centered to live in a state of animal grace, and, therefore, condemned forever, frustrated and malignant, between contented ape-hood and aspiring humanity. It was language that made possible the accumulation of knowledge and the broadcasting of information. It was language that permitted the expression of religious insight, the formulation of ethical ideals and the codification of laws. It was language, in a word, that turned us into human beings and gave birth to civilization.

(191 words)

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Title:

(i) Language leads to
humanity.

(ii) Language: a distinctive
feature of human beings.

Initially, Man has been defined as the knower and doer, but this is an incomplete definition. Practically, it is a language that distinguishes between human kinds and animals. Without language, he would be just like a beast. Having intellectual abilities, but no language, he would be hanging between ape-hood and humanity. Knowledge, religious insight, ethics, laws and human civilization are all products of Language.

[64 words]