



The Issue Of Comprehension In Intercultural Communication In Teaching Foreign Languages

Khazratova Zukhra Mamaraimovna,

PhD, University Lecturer,

UzSWLU, Medialinguistics and Communication Department

Tel: +998903156384

Email: zukhrakhazratova80@gmail.com

Annotation: A primary issue in intercultural communication is the comprehension, or more accurately, the miscomprehension between the involved parties. Cultural disparities contribute to misconceptions in intercultural communication. It is essential to comprehend the challenges that may emerge in intercultural communication and to actively strive to mitigate them. One must attentively observe the interlocutor's reactions and, upon noticing a response deemed inappropriate from our perspective, endeavor to discern its cause and adjust one's behavior and speech accordingly.

Keywords: Intercultural communication, community, foreign language, comprehension.

The processes of integration into the global society have impacted the majority of citizens in various ways. Proficiency in a foreign language, particularly English, is increasingly becoming commonplace. There is a developing realization that mere understanding of the lexical and grammatical structure of a foreign language is insufficient for effective intercultural communication, which is ultimately embodied in practice. Furthermore, each individual embodies not only a language but also their indigenous culture, which encompasses specific customs. Additionally, each person possesses distinct attributes such as gender, age, and education.

It is crucial for individuals to comprehend the possible challenges of intercultural communication and actively endeavor to surmount them. Simultaneously, it must be acknowledged that evasion is not always feasible, regardless of our efforts. Consequently, one must be ready for diverse



communication challenges arising from an inadequate comprehension of the particulars and subtleties of the culture with whom the representative is engaging. Overconfidence in your understanding in this instance may yield adverse outcomes. In intercultural communication, one cannot and should not assume complete understanding of the discourse and the intentions of the interlocutor.

Simultaneously, it is crucial to recognize that a deeper understanding of the language, traditions, norms, and other aspects of a different culture will lead to more stringent evaluations of our conduct. This aspect of human psychology reveals that we frequently perceive unpleasant or horrible elements, and at times even humorous ones, not as entirely dissimilar to ourselves, but rather as a blend of inherent similarities along with evident differences. Intermediaries knowledgeable about the attributes of both interacting cultures, such as professional translators who can articulate not only the core message but also the nuanced meanings embedded within it, can assist in intercultural communication scenarios. They can mitigate excessively strong language that is permissible in one culture yet deemed undesirable in another. Interpreters can assist with the arrangement of meetings. In certain cultures, it is traditional to promptly address the primary issue that prompted the meeting, whereas in others, decorum dictates initiating dialogue with a general topic to foster personal rapport with the interlocutor.

A person's perception of the world is influenced by numerous elements, including upbringing, socio-cultural context, education, character, worldview, and personal experience. Typically, various forms of perception are identified: daily, conscious, and sensory perception, pertaining to an individual's understanding and cognition. The communication process commences with the observation of an individual, encompassing their look, voice, and behavior, through which we endeavor to comprehend their inner world, personality qualities, and the rationale behind their actions and thoughts as expressed externally.

All information is received by the brain through the sensory organs as sensations. This information is ascribed several meanings, contingent upon experience, motivation, and emotions. An individual categorizes and arranges the information acquired in a manner that is useful for themselves, classifying



items into categories, groups, types, etc. This process, known as classification, enables comprehension and accessibility of reality while managing the increasing volume of information. Furthermore, it enables the formulation of assumptions and predictions, as each category exemplifies a typical instance of a phenomena or object. Connections are formed between classes and groups, enabling the comparison of various things.

When an event or object defies categorization, individuals experience ambiguity and anxiety; hence, to navigate a dynamic reality, the delineations between categories must remain adaptable. Typically, four primary elements influence an individual's opinion of another: the factor of first impression, the factor of perceived superiority, the factor of attractiveness, and the factor of attitude towards oneself.

Impression metric. The initial impression aids in determining a strategy for subsequent communication. The question of his fidelity or infidelity is significant. Initial perceptions are frequently deceptive and can be challenging to alter. Appearance (neatness, attire) can convey information on an individual's social status, career (tunic, business suit, robe, lab coat), and significant life events (wedding dress, hospital gown, etc.). Apparel can garner attention, establish a positive image, facilitate anonymity within a crowd, or lead to detrimental outcomes (e.g., wearing a T-shirt and ripped jeans to an interview or an evening gown to a store). In non-verbal communication, the color of attire and the style of its presentation are significant. Research indicates that nearly every adult with adequate and varied communication experience can reliably discern most features of a partner, including psychological traits and social affiliations.

Factor of superiority. The initial impression establishes merely the foundation for subsequent interaction, although it is inadequate for sustained and enduring contact. In this context, the element of "superiority" commences to function, subsequently determining the position of the communication partner. Two sources of information are utilized to ascertain it:

- Attire of an individual, encompassing all aspects of personal appearance (silhouette indicative of high social status – “formal”, classic tailoring, numerous vertical lines), cost of garments, eyewear, hairstyle, accessories, etc.;



- Behavioral mannerisms (posture while seated, gait, speech patterns, gaze – exhibiting arrogance, confidence (relaxed demeanor), looking out the window/at hands – signs of ennui, superiority, frequent use of foreign lexicon, specialized terminology – often seeks to attract attention, regardless of comprehension). Currently, despite the near elimination of stringent prescriptions and limits across most cultures, clothing continues to play a crucial part in signifying an individual's social status. It is plausible to discuss the presence of an unofficial symbolic system of attire and exterior qualities, wherein the components simultaneously serve as indicators that shape the initial perception of an individual's position.

Attraction coefficient. There are objective bases for the perception and comprehension of an individual based on their appearance. A person's exterior appearance can convey information regarding their emotional state, interpersonal attitudes, self-perception, and feelings in a specific communicative context. Every nation possesses distinct standards of beauty that vary from one another, along with societal preferences for certain appearances. Attractiveness or attractiveness is subjective, contingent upon the prevailing ideals of a specific culture.

The body of an individual is a notable indicator of their beauty. Three primary classifications of physique and their associated characteristics: Hypersthenics are individuals predisposed to corpulence, characterized by sociability, a preference for comfort, amiability, and mood variability; normosthenics possess a slim, robust, and muscular physique, typically exhibiting mobility, a sanguine temperament, and a penchant for adventure. Asthenics - slender, delicate, and frail individuals (reticent, quiet, composed, and sardonic). The character frequently does not align, yet in the collective consciousness of individuals, these associations are firmly established. Body kinds, in isolation, are not fundamentally significant for communication. Relational variable. The attitude of a partner towards us in communication is evidently significant; individuals who love or treat us favorably appear far superior to those who treat us poorly. The attitude towards us is evident in communication through expressions of compassion or aversion, as well as agreement or disagreement.



Numerous indirect indicators of perception exist, such as head nods and affirmative grins at appropriate moments. This aspect is grounded on the concept of subjective groups that exist solely in our heads, such as those sharing our profession or residing in the same locality, particularly outside of it. The noted components continuously influence the process of perception, however their roles and significance vary in specific situations. The primary aspect influencing this process is the object's relevance to the perceiver. Culture and cognition. The mechanism of perception is uniform among individuals, however the processes of interpretation and identification are influenced by cultural factors. The world is regarded as shaped by a system of perspectives, beliefs, cultural traditions, moral values, biases, and stereotypes. An individual's perspective on the world is shaped by various subjective characteristics, including visual acuity, height, mood, attitude towards the viewed item, and the extent of knowledge about the world. Consequently, a simplified representation of external reality is constructed, aiding the individual in navigating a complicated environment; our behaviors are, to some degree, influenced by our perception of the world.

The impact of culture on perception is most evident in interactions with individuals from different cultural backgrounds. A considerable array of gestures, noises, and behaviors is perceived variably by individuals from diverse cultures. A German presented his Russian friend with eight exquisite flowers for his birthday, which is an even quantity of roses. In Russian culture, an even number of flowers is typically presented to the deceased. Consequently, this cultural interpretation suggests that such a present will be at least unwelcome for a Russian. In Finland, it is customary to be greeted with bread and salt, and a loaf of black bread is a prevalent birthday gift.

The nominalist stance asserts that an individual's view of the external world occurs independently of the language employed in communication. Language is merely an external manifestation of cognition. In essence, any concept can be articulated in any language, however certain languages may necessitate a greater or lesser number of words. Diverse languages do not imply that individuals possess distinct perceptual realities and cognitive processes. In intercultural communication, it is essential to consider the significant likelihood of misunderstanding, exercise patience, and be prepared to modify one's behavior according to the prevailing circumstances.



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