

SPECIAL FEATURES OF VERBAL COMMUNICATION

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Abstract

This article is devoted to identify the characteristic features of verbal communication, how and what kind of ways communication is related to language, relationships between people and and their cultural background as well. Some examples were analyzed in the English and Uzbek languages concerning culture. In this study we also made an attempt to view cultural context, its division and role of gender as a primary component of culture as well as importance of voice in communication.

Key words: verbal communication, signs, significant, signifier, signified, culture, cultural context, high-context culture, low-culture culture, gender differences, voice.

There is no doubt that unlike the biological requirements of animals, people have not only biological, but also intellectual needs along with an intention in communication.

Research has shown that if you have good interpersonal communication skills you will be happier and more successful in life. This is because you are capable to perceive and express needs. This makes people comfortable to meet your needs.[1] One of the ways we communicate is considered verbal. It is impossible to imagine verbal communication without the use of language. One of the characteristics of language is that it consists of signs which were defined as arbitrary by Ferdinand de Saussure.

Language is a system of signs. The sign is the union of a form which signifies, which Saussure the significant or the signifier and an idea signifed. The sign is arbitrary in that there is no intrinsic link between *signifier* and *signified*.[2]

To make it more precise, the word pen (signifier) does not represent directly the tool used in writing, not to mention the letters stand for the p, e, n. People in interaction form the meaning of a symbol themselves while making use of this or that word.



Except having a symbolic feature, verbal communication is characterized as building a relationship. That is to say, a person communicating with another one verbally is going to establish a relaionship or vice versa. People who have already connected with each other determine the direction of verbal communication. Here it is vital to highlight these points. As relationships and verbal communication are interconnected, they tend to have an effect of one on another.

Relationships influence the meanings that are given to words and the words are actually used. The words "I love you" have different meanings attached depending on the relationship in which they are spoken. Saying those words to a romantic partner would mean something different than saying those words to a friend. [3]

In fact, meaning of words is expressed according to the relationships. To illustrate this, there are different meanings in the sentence "I owe you". If it is said to parents, it means that children acknowledge their parents' big efforts as well as the hardships they underwent and endured while growing uo their children. Therefore, as a daughter or son, a child tries to repeat doing the same good deeds, for parents after being nurtured. Nonetheless, the meaning of the sentence "I owe you" turns to be completely different when a friend is addressed with the statement and here the intended implies that someone is in debt and he or she has to pay back the money borrowed from his or her friend.

This case is the same in the Uzbek language as well.

Sizdan garzdorman. (indebtness)

It is not only meaning, but the choices of words also rely on the relationships people have since every relationship such as family, work and friendship require the appropriate word choice. It is crucial to bear in mind the people in communication while using nicknames, slangs, terminological words and so on.

One more characteristic that must be emphasized is the exposition of culture in verbal communication. Every person gets into communication accordingly to his or her culture or cultural norms. For instance, the Uzbek are known for being hospitable, showing respect and offering a help for the elderly who consider it as a casual case, particularly on the bus or in the long queues.

As nations are various, cultures are also different which also on the way people communicate. In terms of the cultural context, these distinguished high-context and low-context according to the which a particular culture can be considered by the implicit or explicit way of exchanging messages and the role of context in communication.

In high-context cultures, most of the meaning exchanged during an encounter is often not communicated through words. One reason that meanings frequently do not have to be stated verbally in high-context cultures is because there is normally a strong level of similitude among the people. They rely on how something is said, rather than



what is said, and are acutely aware of nonverbal cues.[3] It means that this kind of culture is based on the context in which words in use are not in center of attention. Japanese, Chinese cultures are fine examples of high-context culture.

Last but not least, vocal pecularities are of importance in communication process and make verbal communication differ from the nonverbal one. Voice is a distinctive feature of verbalization with the help of which one can take advantage of making points precisely, showing expressiveness, saying something emphatically, expressing deep regret, many thanks, great sympathy and so on. And these are because of tone of voice, volume and pitch all of which serve to help listener clearly understand one's speech. In conclusion, as several features and points discussed, verbal communication has a major role in every aspect of our daily lives. It is characterized as being the representation of signs, relationships as well as culture. An effective verbal communication is to be informed about the culture of our partner and being able to make a true judgement on the content of the message.

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