

ENGLISH NONVERBAL EXPRESSIONS IN COMMUNICATION

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ABSTRACT

The article focuses on the comparison of distinctive features of nonverbal expressions, their similar and dissimilar peculiarities in English communication. The examples are provided in the English language concerning culture specific nonverbal expressions.

Humans send messages not only with the help of words, but they can also convey meaning through the use of facial expressions, eye contact, body language, hand gestures and tone of voice all of which we know as nonverbal communication. It involves all those nonverbal stimuli in a communication setting that are generated by both the source and his or her use of the environment, and that have potential message value for the source and receiver [1. P.271]. To put it simply, nonverbal communication is the use of wordless messages in generating meaning.

Dickson and Hargie [2] suggest that we use nonverbal communication to:

- replace verbal communication in situations where it may be impossible or inappropriate to talk;
- complement verbal communication, thereby enhancing the overall message;
- modify the spoken word;
- contradict, either intentionally or unintentionally, what is said;
- regulate conversation by helping to mark speech turns;
- express emotions and interpersonal attitudes;
- negotiate relationships in respect of, for instance, dominance, control and liking;
- convey personal and social identity through such features as dress and adornments;
- contextualize interaction by creating a particular social setting [3. P.286].

A gesture or eye movements are considered nonverbal behaviour or they may be simply called as tells since due to them we are highly likely to be informed about the true state of a person's mind. Gestures are contextually linked, to the situation, and along with the interplay of body and facial movements and utterances, they together convey the speaker's intent [4. P.5]. Studies in the 1970s showed that greater amounts of gesturing make a speaker's argument more persuasive [5. P.210]. However, how

simple it may seem, it is in fact necessary to know how and in what context to use gestures since they have different meaning in different cultures even if it is a simple gesture, such as glancing at a person, touching somebody and the like. For instance, the avoidance of looking at the person you talk is considered impolite in Europe which is seen politely in other cultures, such as Uzbek.

As it is known, communication is much more than words since every part of our body may speak as eloquently as words. There are many theories about how much communication we actually do through body language.

One that is found quoted most often is the Mehrabian theory by Doctor Albert Mehrabian. According to his findings, 7 percent of message is in the words that are spoken, 38 percent of message or meaning is paralinguistic (tone of voice) which is the way the words are said and 55 percent of message is in facial expression (body language). As it is seen, this experimental data covers only a small part of spoken words in communication that is 7 percent of meaning one could convey from the words. However, it should be mentioned that these percentages do not coincide with all communication scenarios or situations because his research covers spoken communication, not the written one.

It can be summarized that messages are sent by the use of words as well as through the facial expressions, eye contact, body language, hand gestures and tone of voice. Nonverbal communication serves to generate and convey meaning. The purpose of using nonverbal expressions is to modify the spoken word, replace verbal expression when there is an inappropriate situation to tell, express emotions, interpersonal attitudes, enhance the overall message and so on.

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