





Verbal and Nonverbal Communication

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التواصل اللفظي والتواصل الغير لفظي

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Abstract:

Verbal and nonverbal communication are essential components of human interaction, shaping how individuals convey meaning, establish relationships, and navigate social contexts. This paper provides a comprehensive examination of both verbal and nonverbal communication, elucidating their distinct features, interconnectedness, and impact on interpersonal dynamics. Through a review of theoretical frameworks, empirical research, and real-world examples, this study explores the roles of verbal and nonverbal cues in encoding and decoding messages, regulating social interactions, and expressing emotions. Furthermore, it examines the influence of cultural norms, individual differences, and technological advancements on communication patterns and effectiveness. By synthesizing insights from diverse disciplines such as psychology, linguistics, sociology, and communication studies, this paper offers a nuanced understanding of the complexities inherent in verbal and nonverbal communication processes.

المخلص:

يعد التواصل اللفظي و الغير لفظي مكونات اساسية للتفاعل البشري. حيث يشكل كيفية نقل الافراد للمعنى و تكوين العلاقات والتنقل في السياقات الاجتماعية, يقدم هذا البحث فحص شامل للتواصل اللفظي و الغير لفظي و توضيح سماتها المميزة و ترابطها وتأثيرها على ديناميكيات التعامل مع الاخرين من خلال مراجعة الاطر النظرية و الابحاث التجريبية تستكشف هذه الدراسة ادوار الاشارات اللفظية و الغير لفظية في تشفير الرسائل و فك تشفيرها و تنظيم التفاعلات الاجتماعية و التعبير عن المشاعر بالإضافة الى انه يدرس المعايير الثقافية و الفروق الفردية و التقدم التكنولوجي على انماط الاتصال و فعاليته.

Introduction

Verbal and nonverbal communication are seen in terms of interacting streams of spontaneous and symbolic communication, and posed “pseudo-spontaneous” displays. Spontaneous communication is defined as the nonintentional communication of motivational-emotional states based upon biologically shared non-propositional signal systems, with information transmitted via displays. Symbolic communication is the intentional communication, using learned, socially shared signal systems, of propositional information transmitted via symbols. Pseudo-spontaneous communication involves the intentional and strategic manipulation of displays. An original meta-analysis demonstrates that, like verbal symbolic communication, nonverbal analogic (pantomimic) communication is related to left hemisphere cerebral processing. In contrast, spontaneous communication is related to the right hemisphere (Buck, 1984).

A general theory of communication should account for the natural biologically based aspects of communication as well as its learned and symbolically structured aspects. Further, such a general theory should include a feedback process—explanations of message production alone or message reception alone, although potentially useful, are incomplete. A corollary of these two criteria is that a general theory of communication should account for the coevolution of symbolic endosymbiotic feedback processes and

their integration into systems of communication characteristic of the human species. Whereas the explication of such a general theory is beyond the scope of this article, developmental interactionist theory (Buck, 1984, 1989, 1994) does aim to offer such an integrated view. The current article poses how developmental interactionist theory deals with the topic of this special issue of *Journal of Communication*—the relationship between verbal and nonverbal communication.

A message can be sometimes expressed without the help of words. Nonverbal communication is the process of communicating without the use of words. It is defined as nonword human responses like facial expressions and gestures and the perceived characteristics of the environment through which the human verbal and nonverbal messages are transmitted. Nonverbal communication is also known as “silent language.” It involves the use of cues, gestures, vocal characteristics, facial expressions, and spatial relationship between the sender and the receiver to convey a message. Kinesics is the interpretation of body language such as facial expressions and gestures or, more formally, non-verbal behavior related to movement, either of any part of the body or the body as a whole. Body Language is technically known as kinesics. Body movements include gestures, facial expressions and other physical movements. Every body movement conveys a certain meaning (Andersen, 1999).

Statement of the Problem

Studying verbal and nonverbal communication presents various challenges and complexities due to the intricate nature of human interaction and expression. One primary issue lies in deciphering the nuances and context-specific meanings embedded in both verbal and nonverbal cues. Verbal communication, while explicit in language, often carries layers of implied meanings, cultural nuances, and context that can be easily misinterpreted without a thorough understanding of cultural backgrounds or situational contexts. Nonverbal communication, on the other hand, encompasses gestures, facial expressions, body language, and tone, which can vary widely across cultures and contexts, leading to potential misunderstandings or misinterpretations .

Objectives of the Study

The aims of studying verbal and nonverbal communication encompass several key objectives:

Understanding Human Interaction: Exploring how individuals use verbal language, gestures, body language, facial expressions, and tone to communicate, fostering an appreciation for the multifaceted nature of human interaction.

Enhancing Communication Skills: Developing the ability to effectively convey messages and interpret the intentions of others

through both verbal and nonverbal means, improving overall communication competence.

Cultural Awareness: Gaining insight into how cultural backgrounds influence communication norms and practices, fostering sensitivity and adaptability in diverse interpersonal encounters.

Significance of the Study

Easy presentation: Information can be easily presented in non-verbal communication through using visual, audio-visual and silent means of non- verbal communication.

Substituting: Non-verbal message may substitute for the verbal message especially if it is blocked by noise, interruption, long distance etc. for example.

Help to handicapped people: Non-verbal cues of communication greatly help in handicapped people especially to deaf people. Deaf people exchange message through the movements of hands, fingers, eyeball etc.

Attractive presentation: Non-verbal communication is based on visual, picture, graph, sign etc. that can be seen very much attractive.



Limitations of the Study

Studying verbal and nonverbal communication encounters several limitations that impact the depth and accuracy of understanding human interaction:

Subjectivity and Interpretation: Both verbal and nonverbal cues are subject to interpretation, leading to potential misunderstandings or varied perceptions based on individual experiences, biases, and cultural backgrounds.

Cultural Variations: Cultural differences heavily influence communication patterns, leading to diverse interpretations of gestures, expressions, and language nuances. Understanding these variations can be challenging and may lead to misinterpretations.

Questions of the Study

What are the primary differences between verbal and nonverbal communication?

How do cultural differences influence the interpretation of verbal and nonverbal cues

Introduction

Engage in research specifically focused on nonverbal communication, examining aspects such as facial expressions, body language, and gestures, and their impact on interpersonal dynamics, including the investigate of the role of verbal and nonverbal communication in the context of modern communication technologies, such as social media, virtual reality, or other emerging platforms

Literature Review

A verb is one of the main parts of speech in English and many other languages. It's a word that describes an action, occurrence, or state of being. Verbs are essential in constructing sentences as they convey the action (like "run," "eat," "sleep") or a state of existence (like "is," "am," "are"). Verbs are flexible; they can change their form to indicate tense, aspect, mood, or voice. For instance, "walk" can become "walked" to show past tense, or "walking" to indicate continuous action in the present. Verbs often work in conjunction with subjects (nouns or pronouns) and sometimes objects to form complete sentences (Klaiman, 1991).

Verbs, within the vast realm of language, embody dynamism and vitality. They are the engines that drive communication, encapsulating actions, occurrences, or states of being. At their core, verbs encompass a spectrum of functionalities: from articulating tangible actions like "run," "sing," or "write" to expressing intricate

emotions and thoughts such as "believe," "love," or "contemplate." Not merely confined to the tangible, verbs serve as bridges between subjects and their conditions, enabling the portrayal of a subject's state of existence or linking it to a descriptive complement these are the linking verbs like "is," "appear," or "become." Verbs are versatile, transforming their forms to paint a detailed temporal canvas, indicating past actions ("walked"), ongoing events ("walking"), or future endeavors ("will walk"). In their company, auxiliary verbs dance harmoniously with main verbs, enabling the subtleties of tense, aspect, mood, or voice to be woven into linguistic tapestries ("have walked," "might walk"). Modal verbs join the symphony, conveying shades of possibility, necessity, obligation, or permission ("could," "must," "should"). Their collaboration with subjects and objects constructs the very essence of a sentence, crafting nuanced meanings and allowing for the elegant articulation of diverse thoughts, experiences, and narratives across a multitude of contexts, times, and perspectives (Remland, 2000).

Non-verbal communication refers to communication that doesn't involve words but conveys information through gestures, body language, facial expressions, tone of voice, and other non-linguistic cues. Here are some types of non-verbal communication:

Facial Expressions: Expressions like smiling, frowning, or raised eyebrows convey emotions and reactions.

Gestures: Hand movements, nods, or gestures like pointing, waving, or using thumbs up/down convey meaning.

Body Language: Posture, body orientation, and movements can express confidence, discomfort, or engagement

Eye Contact: Direct or averted eye contact can indicate interest, respect, or deception.

Tone and Pitch of Voice: Variations in tone, pitch, and volume convey emotions or emphasize certain points.

Touch: Different types of touch communicate various emotions or intentions, from comforting to asserting boundaries.

Proxemics: The use of personal space to communicate - closeness or distance

-which can convey intimacy, power dynamics, or comfort levels.

Appearance: Clothing, grooming, and accessories can convey social status, personality, or professionalism.

Silence: Pauses and moments of silence can convey meaning, emotions, or give room for reflection in communication.

Symbols and Signifiers: Objects, images, or signs convey specific meanings or messages.

Understanding these non-verbal cues is crucial as they often complement verbal communication, adding depth, context, and nuances to interactions. They can greatly influence how a message

is perceived and understood in various social and cultural contexts (Adolphs, 1994).

Non-verbal communication serves various purposes in human interaction, enhancing and complementing verbal communication.

Here are some key uses:

Enhancing Verbal Communication: Non-verbal cues such as gestures, facial expressions, and tone of voice can complement spoken words, adding emphasis, clarity, or emotional context to the message.

Expressing Emotions: Non-verbal cues are potent tools for expressing emotions, conveying feelings like happiness, sadness, anger, or surprise, often more vividly than words alone.

Conveying Attitudes and Intentions: Body language, posture, and gestures can indicate attitudes, intentions, or levels of engagement, influencing how a message is received.

Building Relationships and Trust: Non-verbal communication, including eye contact, proximity, and touch, can foster connections, build rapport, and establish trust between individuals.

Interpreting Social Cues: Understanding non-verbal cues helps in interpreting social situations, identifying social norms, and adjusting behavior accordingly in various contexts.

Substituting for Verbal Communication: In situations where verbal communication may be limited or not possible, non-verbal cues

serve as a primary mode of communication. For example, in noisy environments or for individuals with communication challenges.

Emphasizing or Contradicting Verbal Messages: Non-verbal cues can reinforce or contradict verbal messages, providing additional context or indicating underlying feelings or thoughts.

Cultural and Contextual Communication: Different cultures interpret nonverbal cues differently. Being aware of and adapting to cultural nuances in nonverbal communication is vital for effective cross-cultural interactions.

Negotiation and Persuasion: Non-verbal cues can be powerful tools in negotiation, persuasion, and influence, impacting how messages are received and decisions are made.

Monitoring Reactions: Observing non-verbal cues helps individuals gauge the reactions of others, enabling them to adjust their communication to ensure understanding and engagement (Fast, 1970).

Communication is the intricate process of exchanging information, thoughts, ideas, or emotions between individuals or groups through various mediums and channels. It's the bedrock of human interaction, encompassing verbal and nonverbal cues, spoken or written words, gestures, body language, and nuanced expressions. More than just conveying messages, communication involves active listening, understanding, and interpreting the intended meanings behind the conveyed information. It's a dynamic

interplay that not only transmits data but also establishes connections, fosters relationships, resolves conflicts, and shapes societal structures. Communication serves as the bridge that transcends boundaries, cultural differences, and distances, enabling shared understanding, empathy, and cooperation among diverse individuals and communities. In essence, it's the cornerstone of our social fabric, driving collaboration, progress, and the richness of human experience (Charles, A. 2008).

Verbal and non-verbal communication form an intricate tapestry of human interaction. Verbal communication, through spoken or written language, articulates explicit messages, while non-verbal cues, such as gestures, facial expressions, and body language, add layers of depth and subtlety. They intertwine seamlessly, complementing and enriching one another. Non-verbal cues often accompany and enhance verbal exchanges, offering context, emotional nuances, and reinforcing or contradicting spoken words. They serve as a silent but potent force, expressing emotions, intentions, and attitudes in ways that words alone cannot capture. Cultural contexts shape both forms of communication, with nuances in gestures and expressions varying across societies. Understanding this interplay between verbal and non-verbal communication is pivotal for comprehensive and effective human interaction, facilitating a deeper understanding, connection, and empathy in our exchanges with others (McClelland, 2008).

Empirical Studies

The English language is well known for being the universal lingua franca. This has resulted in it being used as a medium of instruction to teach content subjects in tertiary education (EMI). The effectiveness of these lectures depends on the teachers and their orchestration of modes of communication, both verbal and non-verbal; that is, their multimodal competence. In this study, a comparison between two groups of academics' performances was made in order to look into the differences and similarities regarding the way they engage and interact with their audiences. For this purpose, eight mini-lessons from the AcqUA EMI microteaching corpus, four from the Technical Sciences branch (TS) and four from Social Sciences (SS), were analysed with ELAN, a multimodal annotating tool. In this study, the TS lecturers made greater use of episodes of engagement, had more questions, elicitations, and negotiation of meaning in their discourse. No striking differences were encountered in relation to multimodality. However, firm conclusions cannot be drawn due to the limitations of the study, thus further research on this matter is encouraged (Salas, 2006).

The role of verbal and nonverbal communication in team coordination is multifaceted and multidimensional. Successful team coordination can only be achieved if team members communicate effectively. Being efficient during communication

process allows teammates to share understanding of tactics, to motivate each other, and to plan future moves. Knowledge base, gender, culture, amount of training, and innate factors, such as perception, can impact the effectiveness of one's communication ability. The interaction between verbal and nonverbal communication plays a significant role in successful communication. Conceptual frameworks and models dealing with team cognitions and team processes generally have origins in IO domains (Eccles & Tenenbaum, 2004). Typically, models represent association between (a) input variables, such as team and individual characteristics, (b) process variables (i.e., communication, coordination, and other forms of behavior), and (c) outcome variables (i.e., productivity) (Salas, Rosen, Burke, Goodwin, & Fiore, 2006). Although existing 24 theories and research have correlates to team communication and team coordination in sports, they are predominantly based on teams and processes, which differ to those in sport settings (Fiore, 2006).

Introduction

As we reached the final section of this study, we conclude what to gain from presenting the study of the verbal and nonverbal communication between students and how this study can develop the students' language

Conclusion

In conclusion, both verbal and nonverbal communication play crucial roles in human interaction, influencing the way messages are conveyed and understood. Verbal communication involves the use of words, language, and vocal elements to express thoughts and ideas. It provides a direct and explicit means of conveying information. On the other hand, nonverbal communication encompasses gestures, facial expressions, body language, and other nonverbal cues that convey emotions, attitudes, and additional layers of meaning beyond words. The synergy between verbal and nonverbal elements is essential for effective communication. Misalignment between verbal and nonverbal signals can lead to misunderstandings and communication breakdowns. A holistic approach to communication involves not only choosing the right words but also being attuned to nonverbal cues, as they often convey underlying emotions and attitudes, mastering the art of communication requires a balanced integration of verbal and nonverbal elements, awareness of cultural differences, and a commitment to clear and empathetic expression. This comprehensive approach enhances the effectiveness of communication, fostering better understanding and connection among individuals and groups.

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