**Culture Paper**

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**Defining Term Culture**

Culture has various definitions according to anthropologies. Despite different definitions, anthropologies agreed on some particular features of culture. Among the key features is that culture is shared, socially transmitted, and affects people's actions, knowledge, and emotion. People in society have a shared social identity through sharing of culture. Each culture is distinct from other cultural traditions. Besides, culture is transmitted from one generation to the other brought up in a particular environment. Enculturation is social learning through which cultural knowledge is transmitted from one generation to the next.

Moreover, cultural knowledge affects personal feelings and actions in a particular society. Cultural knowledge leads to adaptive and meaningful behavior based on the social and natural environment of the specific culture. Thus people's behavior is a product of their culture.

Culture can be define as knowledge as well as characteristics of a particular group of people, including beliefs, language, food, social habits, clothing, religion, art, and music. Besides, it can be defined as a set of beliefs, attitudes, values, material objects, and knowledge acquired by a social group over time and passed to generations (Giuliano, 2020). According to The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, culture is a shared pattern of interaction and behavior, understanding, and cognitive constructs learned through socialization. In his book Work Culture and Society, Raymond Williams defined culture as "a whole way of life." Besides, Williams viewed culture as intellectual practices and work, specifically artistic activity.

Individual behavior, values, a mental phenomenon, and ideas are the broader view of culture. People's way of life is defined through this behavior since culture is socially shared even though the sharing is not universal between every person in that culture. Besides, culture emphasizes the uniqueness of various aspects of an individual's customs and beliefs. Culture can keep people together or apart, which is created by our perspectives towards other society cultures. Through culture, we understand how societies are different and similar when looked at from an anthropological perspective.

**Chinese Cultural Influences as Opposed to Similarities and Differences of Deaf Culture**

Chinese culture is categorized as the oldest culture in the world with varieties of dialects and languages. The presence of several dialects affects having a common sign language. Thus the deaf culture is always in a dilemma on whether to use the home sign language or the standard sign language. The dilemma is caused by dialects variation of Shanghai and Beijing versions. Additionally, the Chinese culture has other components such as music, architecture, martial art, visual art, religion, cuisine, and philosophy.

In Chinese culture, the family concept is vital with close-knit. The family concept greatly influences the deaf culture since the child is first exposed to the family environment. Besides, children tend to stay with the family even after they grow up and marry up to the fourth generation. In most situations, the child is not exposed to the deaf community and is kept together with the other hearing children, affecting their way to deaf culture (Korte, Potter, & Nielsen, 2017). Growing together with normal hearing children affects the formation of identity of deaf children. Besides, the families may have stigma toward the deaf child.

Moreover, Chinese culture has a tradition of families investing in their children. Investing in the deaf child through sign language learning and having supporting hearing devices positively influence the deaf culture. The Chinese culture, through the government, has contributed to the reduction of the inequalities deaf culture used to face by establishing a deaf school where they can learn standard sign language (Jones, Ni, & Wang, 2021). The advancement of technology and people understanding sign language has helped solve the employment differences. Any member of the deaf culture can comfortably work in a public sphere since public members have a concept of using sign language.

Culture is concerned with the way we live our life, values, and beliefs we hold. Deaf culture also holds their values, norms, and beliefs, though they have distinct characteristics of using sign language. Besides, deaf culture is ordinarily available in the deaf community, which describes their unique features in forming their identity. Again, their characteristics reflect their literature, art, and social environment. China has the largest deaf population comprising a deaf community. The formation of the deaf community was to bridge the gap between the deaf and normal society through communication and exposing their culture. The community was to enhance the meeting of the urgent social needs of deaf people. In China, the deaf community comprises people coming from various cultures. And their interaction in the deaf community made them feel at home.

Every culture is expressed through values, language, traditions, and behaviors, which differentiate between deaf culture and Chinese culture. The difference between Chinese culture and deaf culture is in the use of facial expressions and body language in their sign language. Chinese sign language entails the use of motions, shapes, and facial expressions in communication. Culture has an impact on how people communicate. Thus, body movement and facial expression form conscious communication in deaf culture, whereas Chinese culture is subconscious communication. Besides, sign language is fundamental in deaf culture. The basic norm of deaf culture is maintaining eye contact (Knight, 2018). Similarly, they can read the body language and facial expressions easily.

Maintaining eye contact while communicating with ordinary hearing people is not mandatory. Hearing people are rarely concerned with eye contact, but in deaf culture, maintaining eye contact is compulsory, and failure to do so is treated as rudeness. Additionally, deaf culture has some accepted norms, such as attracting someone's attention by tapping them on the shoulder and looking at each other. At the same time, communication is a must in deaf culture to maintain eye contact, which is the difference from hearing people who, in most cases, break eye contact. Besides, deaf culture embraces natural language. People are identified with their natural features. In deaf communication, they go direct to the point.

Chinese culture and deaf culture share some concepts in common. In the two cultures, communication is essential. Despite the hearing challenges, the deaf community communicates and understands each other as the hearing people do. But their communication is affected by the Chinese culture due to the availability of different dialects that make it challenging to interpret some signs that have different meanings depending on the region of the dialect.

Further, every culture has its norms, beliefs, and rules. Thus deaf culture and Chinese culture share this perspective through which each expresses their passion and love of culture. Besides, the Chinese culture and deaf culture both use body language and facial expression, though to a different degree.

Moreover, deaf culture has particular institutions such as schools and churches, just like hearing Chinese culture. Besides, in all these institutions, the meaning of Chinese sign language depends on the interpretation given to it by normal society.

Besides, through culture, each individual has a self-identity and enables living a unique way of life. Each culture has a lifestyle. Deaf culture lifestyle is affected by the Chinese culture because the ordinary society of people assigns the meaning of shapes and joint movement meaning without hearing disabilities.

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