



## **Assignment No# 2.**

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## Impact of specific language on culture

What exactly is language?

Language is a system of speech, manual or written symbols, that humans use to communicate. It enables us to communicate, interpret and play. Language helps us to share with others and identify ourselves.

The roots of human language remain a mystery, yet there is no record to show us how language started.

Language is linked to all the human-life aspects in society, and understanding of the surroundings, culture plays an important role in learning a language. Moreover, language allows the organization and evolution of cultural values.

What exactly is culture?

A group of people's characteristics and patterns of behavior define their culture. Language, arts and customs are the basic categories we use to characterize culture.

Culture is defined as a blend of thought patterns, and characteristics of a group of people. Usually, the term culture is defined using external aspects such as language, tradition, religion, arts and cuisine. But, culture is something deeper than these factors. It refers to the way we think and interacts with those around us.

Culture, on either side is much more than that. Culture teaches us how to think, communicate with others, and perceive our surroundings.

Culture comes from the Latin word 'colere' which means to produce something out of the earth. In specific ways, our history, is what brings us closer together.

Language is one of the most important part of any culture. It is the way people communicate with each other, build relationships and create a sense of community. There are roughly 6500 languages that are spoken everyday all over the world and every language is different from others in number of ways.

The number of languages in the world is diminishing at a rapid rate with half of the current inventory of languages estimated in danger of extinction, as a result of culture contact, colonization, status and more recently globalized process. When a language dies out there is a significant loss to the world community and to the next generations in knowledge and culture, since language is a primary means of cultural maintenance and transmission. Most of the endangered languages in the world have unfortunately, not yet been well documented.

Communication is the core concept of any society, and language is an important aspect of that. As language began to develop, different cultural communities put together collective understandings through sounds. Overtime, these sounds and their implied meanings became common place and language was formed. Intercultural communication is a symbolic process whereby social reality is constructed, maintained, repaired and transformed. As people with different cultural background interact, one of the most difficult barriers that they face is that of language.

Cultural identity is heavily dependent on a number of factors including ethnicity, gender, geographic location, religion, language and many more.

Culture is defined as a “historically transmitted system of symbols, meanings and norms”. Knowing a language automatically enables someone to identify with others who speak the same language.

Language is not only words but also pronunciations, tone and particular dialects. All of these parts of language are shaped by culture. Culture, meanwhile is influenced by shared experiences, environment and history. Language is created and influenced by the needs of culture as it changes. This means that language and culture are fluid, shifting to reflect one another and the changing landscape of the world. Language is also a social institution both shaping and being shaped by the society. This means that language is not an independent construct but social practice both creating and being created by the structures and forces of social institutions within which we live and function. Certainly, language cannot exist in a vacuum and there is an in evitable kind of transfusion at work between language and culture. It follows then, that, learning a new language will also involve grappling with the notion of culture in relation to language.

Culture can be defined as a way of life. No matter where people live, their behaviors and thoughts follow and are generally based on their own cultures. Culture has many different dimensions. It



includes ideas, customs, skills, arts and tools that characterize a group of people in a given period of time. It is also the beliefs, values, and material objects that create our way of life. Culture establishes a context of cognitive and effective behavior for each person. It influences individual estimation and attitudes, and can also have an effect on practical aspects of life.

Culture is also a matter of habit. This habit then becomes a tradition and tradition that gives rise to culture. Local people began with habitual actions and go on to create common stereotypes. The cultural stereotypes affect how people think, speak, act and interact with one another.

Culture is inherent in our being and a powerful human tool to develop our society, add to our knowledge and establish the relationships between people. So culture is fragile. The traits of culture are constantly changing and easily lost. If we do not value it, we will lose it eventually.

### Language or culture which comes first

Language is an integral part required for the establishment of culture.

Communication is the basic human need. From the start, human beings are communicating and interacting with each other in different ways. Thus, for obvious reasons, language came first.

Language is the source as well as the essence of culture.

Language complexity increased over times and so did cultural diversity. The language evolves primarily because of their association with culture.

### Interlinking of language and culture

Language changes often represent a cultures changing values. Language and culture are inextricably related. Language is related to all features of human life in society. A comprehension of the surrounding culture is key to learning a language. The language also allows for the development and evolution of cultural values. Language promotes social connections. At the same time, culture aids our learning of how to connect with others.

Language is a resource that allows you to communicate your culture. In reality, language uses to convey cultural ideas and beliefs.

Our cultural values influence the way we perceive, talk and communicate with others. Language affects human thoughts as well.

## Relationship between language and culture

Language is a structure of symbols and rules that is used for communicating. In many ways the structure of language reflects the structure of how our minds process the world. It is a system of signals including voice sounds, gestures and written symbols which encodes and decodes information. The goal of language is to communicate meaning. Language and culture are intertwined, and one will affect the other. Language and culture have a kind of deep and symbolic relationship. Language stands for the whole culture because language represents culture in the minds of its speakers. Culture also symbolizes language and is summed in the economic, religion and philosophical systems of a country.

“Language is the road map of culture”

(Rita Mae Brown)

Some of the languages are evolved from the others while many languages are traced back thousands of years. However, the origin of first spoken language is still unknown.

## Language affects culture

Language is formed to present our ideas or concepts. These can change depending on which cultural elements are dominant at any given moment. Whenever language expands, the culture changes. An obvious advantage of human language as a learned symbolic communication system is that language has infinite flexibility.

## Culture affects language

Culture can be defined as a learned system of values, beliefs and norms among a group of people. Broad definitions of culture include ethnic background, nationality, gender disability, race, sexual orientation and religion. Culture not only changes people's values and habits but also affects people's language and behaviors. Cultural knowledge is crucial in achieving linguistic proficiency and the culture of a society can be changed depending upon the language used. For instance, some old words remain even when they are no longer used cultural. New words emerge as they become identified with particular cultural activities.

## Transmission of language and culture

Language is transmitted culturally, that is it is learned. To a lesser extent, it is taught, when parents, for example, deliberately encourage their children to talk and to respond to talk, correct their mistakes and enlarge their vocabulary. But it must be emphasized that children very largely encourage and acquire their first language by grammar construction, from exposure to a random collection of utterances that they encounter. If language is transmitted as part of culture, it is no less true that culture as a whole is transmitted very largely through language. The fact that humankind has a history in the sense that animals do not is entirely the result of language.

Language is learned, which means it can be culturally transmitted. Pre-school children take on their first language from their exposure to random words they encounter in and out of their homes. When they reach school age, they learn their first language or another language.

Languages and variations within languages play both a unifying and a diversifying role in human society as a whole. Language is a part of culture, but culture is a complex totality containing many different features, and the boundaries between cultural features are not clear cut.

Conversely, culture is transmitted in a large part by language, through teaching. Language is the reason why humans have histories that animals do not have. In the study of animal behavior, through the course of history, alterations to their behavior, were the result of their intervention.

## Aspects of Language

Language is not only words but also pronunciations, tone and particular dialects. All of these parts of languages are shaped by culture. Culture meanwhile is shaped by shared experiences, environment and history. Language is created and shaped by the needs of a culture as it changes. This means that language and culture are fluid, shifting to reflect one another, and the changing landscape of the world.

As a culturally based aspect of language, accents differ in every country, and even territories within a country.

Language plays a vital role in establishing and maintaining what we call culture, including conventions, habits and interpretive practices of individuals and communities. Through language we create and share with others identities, categories, attitudes, values and belief structure. The



study of how particular structure reveals culture and uses language can reveal important aspects of sociality and behavior, including how people organize activities, socialize new members, build or resist authority, use literacy rate, worship, argue and imagine

### Language reveal about culture

Language and culture are dependent upon each other. When events and experiences occur within a culture, language is used to express them. To an outsider, the words that evolved from the cultural experience have no meaning. But to insiders, the words resonate in an oral tradition not unlike storytelling. This example impresses the necessity of having an understanding of culture, not just its language.

Language does not simply represent a situation or object which is already there. It makes possible the existence or the appearance of the situation of object, because it is a crucial device for the creation of situation and objects.

### Culture can crystalize language

There is no doubt that culture has a profound influence on language. Furthermore, culture is a key feature in distinguishing language. Culture may be defining as a society does and thinks. Thus individual experience of culture joins the same common comprehension. From this assumption, we might think that language is a symbolic compass of culture.

### How culture is related to language?

“Changing in language often reflect the changing values of culture”

(Ravi Zacharias)

Language and culture are interlinked and you cannot learn one of these without having a clear understanding of the other. Language is linked to all the human life aspects in society, and understanding of the surrounding culture plays an important role in learning language. Moreover, language allows the organization and evolution of cultural values.

## Overlapping culture and language

Language is a device into the culture and it is absolutely true to understand people's culture should know their knowledge, for this reason, relationship between culture and language is clearly inherent. Therefore, culture play a tremendous role in indication cross cultural differences.

It is nearly impossible to disentangle the influences language and culture have on each other. Language is born out of culture. The language develops as a way of expressing the language.

Culture influences the language that is spoken within its constraints as a society, such as how certain words are used in support of the culture. It's through language that members of a specific culture communicate with each other and creates bond with each other. Language is a way that others identify specific cultures, be it based on a geographical regional culture, or a social culture based on ideology. The culture develops its own language and has nuances accompanied by forms of group body language and voice inflections.

## Language shapes culture

With language, we have a better way to understand methods of social control, products, skills and techniques. Spoken language offers a vast quantity of usable information for the community. This helps to quicken new skills acquisition and the techniques to adapt to new environment or altered circumstances.

The advent of writing increased the process of culture dissemination. Diffusing information become easier, thanks to the permanent state of writing.

Modern techniques for fast communication transmission across the globe through broadcasting and the presence of translation services around the world help make useable knowledge to be accessible knowledge to people around the world.

Language is needed for effective expression and transmission of culture

Culture impacts our core traditions, values, and the way we interact with others in society. On the other hand, language makes those interactions easy. Simply put language facilities social interactions while culture helps us to learn how to behave and interact with others.



## Language is culture and culture is language

Language and culture have a complex, homologous relationship. Language is complexly intertwined with culture. If culture is a product of human interaction, cultural manifestations are acts of communication that are assumed by particular speech communities. All children learn their language from their societies and during the process of learning a language also learn their culture and develop their cognitive abilities.

Language communicates through culture and culture also communicates through language. Communicative force of culture works not only in representing aspects of reality, but also connecting one context with one another. That is communication is not only the use of symbols that stands for beliefs, feelings, identities or symbols or even events. It is also a way of bringing beliefs, feelings, identities into the present context.

The way in which we think about the world is directly influenced by language we use to talk about it. The real world is, to a large extent, unconsciously built up on the language habits of the group. No two languages are even similar that they represent the same social reality. The world in which different societies live are distinct, not merely the same with a different label attached. Therefore, to speak is to assume a culture, and to know a culture is like knowing a language. Language and culture are homologous mental realities. Cultural products are representations and interpretations of the world that must be communicated in order to be lived.

The problem lies in what happens when cross-cultural interactions take place. Language can mark the cultural identity, but it is also used to refer the other phenomenon and refer beyond itself, especially when a particular speaker uses it to explain intentions.

Culture is a fuzzy set of attitudes, beliefs, behavioral conventions, basic assumptions and values that are shared by a group of people and that influence each member's behavior and each member's intention.

## Language and culture linkage

Culture is intrinsic to language. Language relates common experiences and backgrounds and these histories in turn create words specific to our culture. The inside makes you feel excluded and shows

how the shared experience of culture affects meaning. The relationship between language and culture is symbiotic, with language reflecting culture and culture shaping the language.

Culture tells you how to interact with others and helps to shape values and ethics. Besides, it keeps you close to like-minded people, and thus the sense of belonging strengthens your bond with society. On the other hand, language is a tool using which you express your culture. In fact, cultural ideas and beliefs are transmitted via language.

Furthermore, both the language and culture allows us to peek into the past and shape our ideas. Speak and interact with others around us is determined by our cultural values. Likewise, language also impacts human thoughts. Language and culture continue to evolve and so does our personality. As we meet people belonging to different cultures, we get to learn more and explore more and interaction with them can impact your personality as well. cultural ideas and beliefs are transmitted ahead via language.

In the end, from all of the above discussion, it is clear that language and culture are closely related to each other. None of them can be represented alone. One of the famous quotation related to culture and language.

“if culture was a house, then language was the key of front door, to all the rooms inside”

(Khaled Hosseini)

### Summary

Through language we create and share with others our ways of doing thing and our ways of being in the world, our culture. Language is a tremendous tool for the organization of particular realities, including a wide variety of social relationships and social systems. Through language we are continually socialized, we build or resist authority, we worship, argue and imagine. We name and give meaning to aspects of experience from particular perspectives. For example, members of different cultures can have quite different and local notions of self and strategies of interpretation including who are authorized speakers and hearers. Language and culture are linked in the transmission of knowledge, in the construction of social life, and ideologies about language use and its relation to human behavior.

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