

## **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.

### 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.

