Paralinguistic Features in Communication

Going Beyond Words to Convey Meaning

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What Are Paralinguistic Features?

Non-verbal parts of communication that help express:

- Emotions
- Attitudes
- Intentions

Example: Think about how "I'm fine" can be said with:

- 😊 Happy tone - 😰 Sad tone - 8 Annoyed tone

"I'm fine"







Why Are Paralinguistic Features Important?

- Help understand true meaning
- Add depth to words
- Can change entire sentence meaning

Example:

"Wow!" can mean different things:

- Unimpressed: "wow... 😔 "







Types of Paralinguistic Features

Tone of Voice

- Emotional quality
- Example: "Good job!" (supportive vs. sarcastic)

Pitch

- High: excitement
- Low: seriousness

Volume

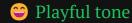
- Loud: anger/enthusiasm
- Soft: shyness/sadness

Pace

- Fast: nervousness
- Slow: calmness

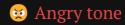
How Paralinguistic Features Affect Meaning

"I can't believe you did that!"



Expressing amazement and joy

"I can't believe you did that!"



Expressing disappointment or anger

Body Language – A Key Paralinguistic Feature

Key Components

- Facial expressions
- Gestures
- Posture
- Eye contact

Common Examples

- **d** Thumbs up: approval
- S Handshake: agreement
- By Hand on chin: thinking
- Open arms: welcoming









Paralinguistic Features in Everyday Life

Daily Usage

- Casual conversations
- Professional meetings
- Social interactions
- Digital communication

Benefits

- Better understanding
- Avoid misunderstandings
- Stronger connections
- More effective communication

"It's not what you say, but how you say it"

Why is Paralinguistic Competence Important?

Recognition

Understanding non-verbal cues

Application

Using features effectively

Results

Better relationships

Example: Looking away while saying "I'm fine" might indicate otherwise

Key Takeaways

Main Points

- Non-verbal cues add depth
- Multiple features work together
- Context matters
- Practice improves competence

Benefits

- Better communication
- Stronger relationships
- Fewer misunderstandings
- More effective expression

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

Feel free to ask any questions about paralinguistic features



