

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 - 😡 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:

- Excited: "WOW! 🤩"
- Unimpressed: "wow... 🙄"

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!"

 Playful tone

Expressing amazement and joy

"I can't believe you did that!"

 Angry tone

Expressing disappointment or anger

Body Language – A Key Paralinguistic Feature

Key Components

- Facial expressions
- Gestures
- Posture
- Eye contact

Common Examples

- 👍 Thumbs up: approval
- 🤝 Handshake: agreement
- 🤔 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

