# Stumbling Blocks in Intercultural Communication

This passage mainly introduced six stumbling blocks on the way to successful intercultural communication.

The first is assumption of similarities. There are so many similarities that we simply believe interaction is easy. Disappointedly, through Darwin’s theory, it is found that culture difference determines the emotion expressing. Without being aware of possible differences between diverse culture, people will be easily deceived and apt to get in trouble.

Language difference is the second stumbling block. A word or phrase may have variable meanings, especially when people add inflection and tonal qualities.

Nonverbal misinterpretation is the third stumbling block. People from different cultures and different sensory use their own personal world of recognition to comprehend the things that we meet. Being short of body movements is a huge communicate obstacle and easily results in misunderstandings.

The fourth stumbling block is the presence of preconceptions and stereotypes. Stereotypes have the advantage of reducing the threat of unknown by making the world predictable. But them also block intercultural communication because of their interference with objective viewing of stimuli. People can hardly overcome stereotypes by themselves.

The fifth is the practice of immediate evaluation. Immediate evaluation means that someone always consider himself as right, proper and natural without completely comprehension. When feelings and emotions involved, communication will be cutoff dramatically by immediate evaluation. In this occasion, listening with understanding is urgently needed.

The six stumbling block is high anxiety. Moderate anxiety is good for people who stay in foreign country, while high anxiety will result in many problems. They may have defenses to foreigners because of the feeling of strange and vulnerable. These defenses have bad effect on intercultural communication.

Knowing the six stumbling blocks can help us to improve our ability of intercultural communication.