

Interpersonal Process, Day 1

2019-08-23

Course(s) Used:

- Interpersonal Communication

Goals and Objectives:

- Students can describe the transactional model of communication.
- Students can list characteristics that separate Interpersonal Communication from other types of communication.

Rationale: This lesson lays the foundation for the study of communication as a field, the location of interpersonal communication within that field, and the major concepts used in modeling the process of communication.

Materials Needed

Materials:

- None

Technology:

- Classroom computer and projector

Outline of the Lesson

1. Review of previous session's content
2. A hard question: "What is Communication?"
 1. Transactional (a coordinated action, like dancing)
 2. Intentional *or* Unintentional
 3. Irreversible
 4. Unrepeatable (Neither you, them, nor the situation are the same)
 5. Includes Content *and* Relationship dimensions
3. Misconceptions about Communication
 1. Communication doesn't always promote understanding.
 2. Communication isn't always beneficial.
 3. Not all problems can be solved by communicating.
 4. Communication is a learned skill, not a natural ability.

4. What makes communication “Interpersonal”?
 1. Unique. It is customized according to who is involved.
 2. Interaction is interdependent.
 3. Interpersonal messages involve self-disclosure.
 4. Interpersonal communication is *intrinsically rewarding*.
5. Significant models of Communication¹
 1. Aristotelian Model²
 1. The oldest model known, circa 300 BCE.
 2. Doesn’t really focus on most communication.
 3. A transmission model.
 2. Bell’s Model³
 1. Inserting technology into interpersonal communication motivated study on its process.
 2. Studies communication from the perspective of another field (engineering).
 3. A transmission model.
 3. Shannon’s Model⁴
 1. Builds on Bell’s model.
 2. A transmission model.
 3. One of the most famous models of communication.
 4. Lasswell’s Model⁵
 1. Unique because of its memorable sequence of phrases.
 2. A transmission model.
 5. Schramm’s Model⁶
 1. The first model that included a concept of different perspectives in the model.
 2. Still a transmission model.
 6. Osgood & Schramm’s Model⁷
 1. The first model that displayed communication as an ongoing, reciprocal process.
 7. Berlo’s Model⁸
 8. Transactional Model⁹
 1. Barnlund’s model has spawned several transactional models, but these are the dominant form used today.
6. Hands on group work
7. Lesson closing

¹ VA² Image retrieved from <https://www.communicationtheory.org/aristotle%E2%80%80communication-model/>³ Bell Family Papers, Library of Congress. Retrieved from <http://memory.loc.gov/mss/mcc/004/0001.jpg>⁴ Shannon, C. E. (1948) A Mathematical Theory of Communication, *The Bell System Technical Journal*, 27, 379–423, 623–646. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1538-7305.1948.tb01338.x>⁵ Laswell, H. (1948). The structure and function of communication in society. In L. Bryson (Ed.), *The communication of ideas*. New York: Harper.⁶ Schramm, W. (1954). *The process and effects of mass communication*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.⁷ Schramm, W. (1954). *The process and effects of mass communication*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.⁸ Berlo, D. (1960). *The process of communication: An introduction to theory and practice*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.⁹ Barnlund, D. (1970). A transactional model of communication. In K. K. Sereno & C. D. Mortensen (Eds.), *Foundations of communication theory*, 83-102. New York: Harper.

Limitations

This lesson is likely to run over. This is a lot of content for the class time allotted.

Variations and Accommodations

Follow guidance from local accommodation authorities.