Introduction to Linguistics, Language and Communication

Unit 1, Class 1

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Today's plan
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Models of communication
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Functions and characterstics of communication
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Types of Communication
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Section 1

Today's plan

The plan

- Know each other
- Class rules
- Syllabus discussion
- What is communication?

Know your instructor

Pratik Bhandari, PhD from Bhadrapur (Chandragadhi), Jhapa

Let's agree

To:

- Ask me questions, a lot of questions
    - in class or email
- Answer my questions
- Notify at least two days in advance to postpone the class
- Submit assignments on time
- Engage in constructive discussion, not just listening to the *lecture*

Class and syllabus

- Basics of **Linguistics** will be covered in this course
- Nepali and Nepali languages
- A paper to read and an assignment after every alternate unit
- Paper discussion

What do we have in Unit 1?

1. Define communication and describe nature and types of communication
2. List out differences between human language and animal communication systems
3. Define language and describe nature, properties and functions of language
4. Describe sub-systems of language
5. Explain relation between language and society
6. Define linguistics and describe branches and scope of linguistics

What is communication?

- Origin: Latin verb *communicare*, which means "to share" or "to make common"
- When we communicate, we make things common

What kind of things?

Today's plan
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Models of communication
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Functions and characterstics of communication
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Types of Communication
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Define communication

- Exchange of information, idea, or *message* between two (or more) entities, individuals, or groups through a **common** system of symbols, signs, or behavior
- Components:
    - Sender
    - Receiver
    - Medium (or channel)
    - Message

Communication: Discuss

- Does communication take place across more than two entities?
- Can unintentional transmission of information be considered communication?
- How do audiological and speech-language disorders affect communication?
- Are there components of communications other than sender, message, medium, and receiver?

Today's plan
Models of communication
Functions and characterstics of communication
Types of Communication

Section 2

Models of communication
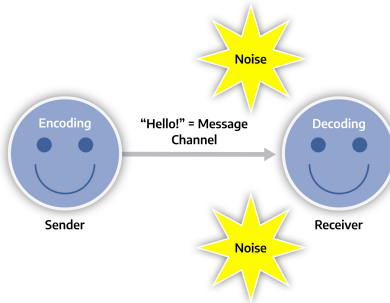
Linear model

Figure 1: Representation of a linear model.

Linear model

- Message travels from sender to receiver through a medium, e.g., Shannon's noisy channel model (Shannon, 1948)
- Message is *encoded* by a Sender before transmitting it to the Receiver, who then *decodes* it on receiving
- Meaning is encoded in the message
- *Noise* in the medium or channel of transmission can impair communication
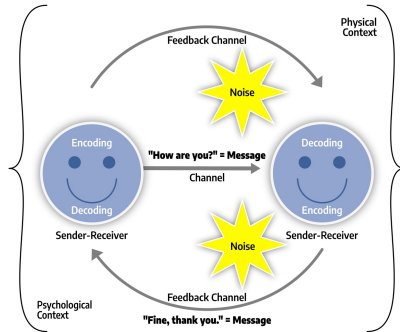
Interaction model

Figure 2: Representation of an interaction model.

Interaction model

- Receiver and Sender change roles
- They provide *feedback* to each other
- Interaction creates meaning
- Meaning is located not just in messages but in the social context, e.g., Schramm's model (Schramm, 1960)
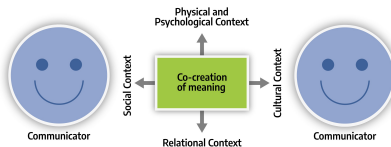
Transaction model

Figure 3: Representation of a transactional model.

Transaction model

- Instant feedback while sending message(s)
- Sending, receiving, and responding are simultaneous processes
- Social, relational, and cultural contexts give meaning to the message

Section 3

Functions and characterstics of communication

Functions: Why do we communicate?

1. Physical or health needs
2. Instrumental needs
3. Relational needs
4. Social needs

Physical or health needs

- Alerting others, e.g., babies cry to signal their discomfort, pain, and hunger
- Good interpersonal communication $\rightarrow$ lower level of depression and anxiety (Hargie, 2011)
- Not communicating during emotional trauma (e.g., after a loss) $\rightarrow$ physical symptoms like weight changes and headaches (Greene et al., 2006)

Instrumental needs

- To get things done to achieve short- and long-term goals
- Play a key role in influencing others, gathering information, and seeking support (Burleson et al., 2000)
- Most of our communication is to fulfil instrumental needs

Relational needs

- Help us form, maintain, and end social bonds and interpersonal relationships (Altman & Taylor, 1973)
- Closeness and intimacy may vary, but all individuals have relational needs, which communications helps to fill and form
- Providing support, encouragement, celebration, and so on builds relationships

Characteristics of communication

1. Success is rare
2. Occurs verbally and nonverbally
3. Is continuous
4. Has ethical implications
5. Is culturally specific
6. Reflects personality

Section 4

Types of Communication

Based on settings

1. Intrapersonal communication
2. Interpersonal communication
3. Small group communication
4. Public communication
5. Computer mediated communication

Intrapersonal communication

- Communicating with oneself
- May not fit the definition of communication but affects all other types of communication

Do you hear yourself commenting on this definition?

Interpersonal communication

- Most common form
- Two people communicating with one another
- Basis of human relationships and self-image

Group communication

- Generally works together to complete a goal (Powerll, 1996)
- Requires acceptance, not necessarily agreement
- Ideally, all members (should) have equal power
- Members form coalition and may hinder or promote communication
- Ideal group should not have more than 5 members (Bormann & Bormann, 1980)

Public communication

- *One-to-many* with speaker carrying higher responsibility for a successful communication, i.e., sending information to the audience (Beebe & Beebe, 2021)
- Limited verbal feedback from the audience
- Unidirectional communication

Is this lecture public or small group communication?

Computer mediated communication (CMC)

- Occurs through the use of computer and information technology
- Communicate globally in virtually any language
- Cognitive consequences in attention

What percentage of your communication CMC?

Based on party involved

1. Sender-based communication
2. Receiver-based communication

Sender-based communication

- Sender acts egocentrically
- Assumes that - their way of communication is appropriate for everyone - what is said is communicated - miscommunication is others' fault
- Sender-based listener assumes how they interpret the message is how the sender intended it
- Absolute, self-centered, and non-adaptive approach to communication

Receiver-based communication

- Sender customises the communication for specific receiver
- They work to offset misunderstandings and misinterpretations from the beginning
- They can move among a broader range of relationships (e.g., children and older adults), adapting to diversity far more effectively

Self-reflexive?

Based on species & entities involved

1. Human communication
2. Animal communication
3. Plant communication
4. Human-animal communication
5. Machine to machine (M2M) communication

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