

Language Promotes Social and Cultural Integration

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Abstract

In recent years, there has been a revolution in communication and technology that has transformed the world into a global village. As a result of the revolution in globalisation and communication, we observe a variety of changes in socio-cultural life. Due to this global village, we usually come across a variety of societies and their cultures. Language has the potential to bring together the beliefs, habits, practises, and values of all civilizations and societies, allowing everyone in this global village to live in peace and harmony. The culture and cultural ties of a community are communicated through the language of that community. The current study demonstrates that language can serve as a tool for social and cultural integration.

Keywords: Culture, Language, Language and culture, Cultural Integration

Cultural Integration

Cultural integration is when members of one group (culture) acquire the beliefs, practices, rituals, and essence of another community (culture) without compromising their own cultural features. Apart from that, there is another aspect of cultural integration in which members of other communities introduce the qualities of their own culture to the new culture. The qualities and elements of one's own culture are often seen as comforting and beneficial. When a person moves to a new place and is confronted with a new culture, it is normal for him to bring elements and characteristics from his own culture that he is familiar with. This can be seen in their religious beliefs, way of life, arts, cuisine, and other aspects of their culture. From this perspective, we may extrapolate that integrating culture entails the mixing of beliefs and practices from many civilizations to create a multicultural community, but each culture retains its own distinct qualities, features, and values. Cultural Integration involves material and non-material culture and these cultures are interrelated and have impact on each other. So, the question arises that what is material culture. The physical part of social reality rooted in the objects and structures that surround people and is referred as material culture. Tools, weapons, machines, ornaments, towns, schools, churches, structures, written records, religious paintings, clothing, and any other significant object made or used by people are all examples of physical aspects. Non-material culture refers to non-physical concepts such as a society's standards and values, as well as behaviors, ideas, and beliefs that contribute to the overall culture of a society. Cultural integration is essential for a community's harmony and stability to be maintained. It aids in the trade and sharing of similar beliefs and values in a social system, as well as the lessening of social conflict. Taking all of these factors into account, cultural integration is crucial. And when different cultures come together, we define it as a multicultural society.

Culture

Culture according to Brown (2007a, p.122) might be defined as: "the ideas, customs, skills, arts, tools which characterize a given group of people in a given period of time." A culture is a set of values, conventions, or social practices associated with a particular field, activity, or societal characteristic of a social group. Culture can be defined as 'the values and practises that regulate the life and existence of a community and for which a distinct language serves as the medium of expression. The manner people respond or act in response to specific occurrences is influenced by the culture to which they have adopted. It illustrates the guiding ideas, hopes, and laws and restrictions of their surroundings and upbringing. As a result, people's perspectives are influenced by culture, which has a significant influence on them.

Language

In his documentary "We Still Live Here: Âs Nutayuneân" in January 2011, Noam Chomsky says, "A language is not just words. It's a culture, a tradition, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It's all embodied in a language." Language allows you to communicate your emotional state and feelings, encourages communication, and allows you to share information and knowledge to each other. Edward Sapir, in his "Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech." (1921), defined language as "a purely human and noninstinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols" (p. 7). Culture and human behaviour are both influenced by language. Language allows a person to convey his or her own thoughts, opinions, conceptions, beliefs, and convictions. Furthermore, language discloses patterns of human behaviour and conduct. A language reflects the views, standards, beliefs of a culture and our perceptions of

the surrounding. Language serves as a conduit for understanding the distinctions between the two cultures, and these differences are expressed in their respective languages, which aids in effective interpersonal communication. In a nutshell, language facilitates cultural integration.

Language Transmits Culture

Language and culture had an extensive connectivity with each other and we cannot underrate the linkage between language and culture. Culture and cultural links are communicated and expressed through language. Language and culture are inextricably linked to each other. Ken Hale, a well-known linguist, believes that when a language is lost, we miss a part of the culture. In this regards the view of Davis is very important, "As languages disappear, cultures die. The world becomes inherently a less interesting place, but we also sacrifice raw knowledge and the intellectual achievements of millennia" (Davis. W, 1999).

On the other hand, we must say that culture is significantly encoded in language. The ability to communicate in a foreign or other language improves one's comprehension of a culture and its people. In simple words, the knowledge of a language enhances the understanding of a culture and its people. Regarding this context, Emmitt and Pollock (1997) claim that even if people come from similar backgrounds or live in similar social and cultural situations, they may have different world views if they speak different languages. Languages have their own set of restrictions. As a result, perceptions of the world may differ among people who share the same culture but speak different languages. Nevertheless, roots of the language are entrenched in culture, and culture is passed down from one generation to another generation through the medium of language (Emmitt & Pollock 1997). If you wish to master a language, you must realize the culture. Besides to understand a different culture, you should learn the language concerned with that culture. Because of their close linkage, we can't grasp a culture without direct access to its language. The concept of societal propriety is inextricably linked to the concept of cultural propriety. A child from a certain community, for example, learns to adapt to the norms and standards of that certain culture. Therefore, a language is also learned and used in such a context, from the culture. Henceforth, culture leads the standards, practices, beliefs and traditions of the same demography, as language does for a community. The culture of a specific community is represented through the particular language. Mastering a language entails not only having knowledge about the foundations of the language, such as its alphabet, knowing the meanings of words, grammar rules, and sentence structure, but also understanding and mastering the behaviour of a social group and its cultural practises. The process of human communication grows difficult as most of our information is delivered through paralinguistic communication. These communication mechanisms are culture-specific, and when the larger cultural framework is ignored, communication while confronting with people from other community or social groups is troubled with the threat of misinterpretation. During a person's upbringing in a certain civilization, he learns to utilise gestures, looks, minor variations in intonation or speech, and some other secondary devices of communication to change or enhance what they say and do. We adopt these communication techniques which are culturally specific for a number of years a result of our observation and imitation. Culture is manifested through communication that is assumed by a certain speech community. Rossi Landi says, "the totality of the messages we exchange with one another while speaking, a given language constitutes a speech community, that is, the whole society understood from the point of view of speaking" (Rossi Landi, 1973). He went on to say that all children learn their languages from their civilizations, and that in doing so, they also learn about their cultures and develop their perception and observation skills. Language is a medium through which culture expresses itself, and culture expresses itself via language. Michael Silverstein believes that culture's communicative power helps not just to depict parts of reality, but to connect one context to another. To sum up, communication entails not only the use of cyphers or symbols to represent views, emotional state, identities, or events, but also contributes in the transmission of those views, beliefs, emotions, and identities into existing contexts. Cross-cultural interaction is likely to occur when two persons from different cultures or two speakers of different languages communicate with each other. As a result, there is more contact between different cultures, which is good for anyone who wishes to understand and be friendly with people who have different thoughts and origins than they have. The consequences of this may result in social and cultural integration.

As a certain language represents the culture of a certain social community, it reflects the values, ideas, and meanings that individuals of a certain society share as a result of their upbringing. Because language and culture learning are intertwined, we might define language learning as cultural learning and language teaching as cultural teaching. When you learn a language, you are also learning the behaviour and cultural practises of a specific civilization that is tied to the language you are studying. According to Taylor, "An individual language speaker's effectiveness in a foreign language is directly related to his or her understanding of the culture of that language" (Taylor, 1979). While teaching language, the teacher

must pay reverence to the culture and cultural values to which that language is associated. Teaching a foreign language also entails teaching a foreign culture, therefore a language instructor must keep in mind that his or her knowledge or teaching of something is subject to interpretation. He shouldn't stop at explaining the language's meaning; he should also explain the cultural context in which it is spoken. To promote understanding, language teachers must explain in culturally relevant teaching approaches and find culturally based linguistic differences in order to avoid misconceptions and prejudices. Policymakers in charge of second language education must be sensitive to local or indigenous languages and they should avoid making policies that will make them inferior to the second language. These policies should take into account the cultural values of the societies where the languages originated and are taught. To short, policymakers must take into account the cultural ideology of all parties involved, including students, teachers, and the culture in which the second language is taught. The integration of language and culture learning through the use of language is a medium for students' ongoing socialisation, not a replica of native-speaker socialisation. In Fengping Gao's view, this integration aims to transform students' cultural competency into intercultural competence from its current state

Conclusion

Finally, we conclude that language and culture are inextricably linked and that one cannot exist without the other. The words we speak are influenced by society and culture, and these words shape social and cultural characteristics. Language is commonly utilised to express a social group's views, rules, customs, and cultural values, resulting in cultural transmission. In a nutshell, language serves as a bridge between two or more cultures and their distinctions, allowing for cultural integration and transformation to occur, hence assisting in the maintenance of societal harmony and stability.

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