

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

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Abstract

Human communication is the essence of the interpersonal connections expressed by the ability to permanently decipher the meaning of the social contacts realized by means of social-general symbols and meanings, in order to establish some individual or group behavioural changes [1].

Keywords: *communication, information, social, human, interaction.*

In a very broad sense, communication refers to any process through which some information is sent from one element to another, these elements being of biologic nature (we are talking about the communications in the nervous system), technological (telecommunication processes) or social [2].

The general theory of communication studies the characteristics and the relations between general factors that facilitate the transfer of such a quantity of information from one object to another and, based on the use of operational methods; it recommends ways of establishing some optimal flow of information regimes in different types of systems [3].

Interpersonal communication is based on a set of specific human psychomotor processes, the language, where a special place comes to the conscious part, meaning the thinking [4].

In social life, communication takes place as a result of some certain needs and circumstances and between certain boundaries. The problem of the communication structure can be tackled either on terms of cases, or on terms of dimension and variable location. There would be less confusion if the material was organised according to the second criterion [5].

The etymology of the word is based on the Latin word *comunicare*, having the meaning of “putting together”. Any communication is composed from 6 necessary elements:

- Transmitter or speaker;
- Earpiece or speaker;
- Statement or message;
- Code;
- Interference;
- Feedback [6].

To communicate means “to put on the map, to let people know, to inform, to tell” or – about people, social communities etc. – “to interlink, interrelate with”, “to talk to”, as well as “to be related to... to lead to ...” (DEX, 179) [7].

The linguists have identified different taxonomies of language functions, compared with the performance criteria of speech [8].

In order to be communication, there are required several *sine qua non* prerequisites: an intention, an interlocutor, a situation (space-time), a context (linguistic), a code (a language), a message and a verbal clear and constructive interaction [9].

Communication implies interaction of some categories of factors that are not related only to the ability of expression, but brings together psychological, social and situational elements. The main factors are [10]:

Psychological factors:

Cognitive: knowledge, specific knowledge on a subject, interlocutor, situation, context, general abilities, intelligence, memory; level of intellectual development, training degree; level of mastery of the linguistic code, the cultural code; conscious and unconscious intentions;

Affective: general attitudes, specific attitudes to the subject, the interlocutor, the situation or the context; personal feelings towards the subject, the interlocutor, the situation, the context...

Behavioural: personality, character, general experience, verbal, oral, written and audio-video experience ...

Interpersonal factors:

Linguistic: code (language), registers, norms, contexts;

Social: social status, general role, current distance, cultural code, common baggage.

Objective Factors:

Situational: physical place; time; era; space; distance; number of interlocutors...

Context: communication subject, communication content (the information), the formal distance in code (registers), presentation form (style) [11].

Reception strategies (of the messages) cover the identification of the context, knowing the reality that they represent and the processes it impose according to some similar schemes. These two actions, in turn, trigger the expectations on the organization and the content of what will follow (*the framing*) [12].

In oral reception activities, listening or oral comprehension, the person who uses language as auditor receives and deals with a spoken message produced by one or more speakers. In each of these cases, the user can listen to understand: global data, certain information, detailed information or implicit of the speech [13].

When the communication is between two people, it implies a higher dose of subjectivity and affectivity. In this case, to achieve active listening:

You do not talk about yourself;

You do not change the subject;

You do not give advice, not diagnose, not encourage, not criticise, not harass;

You do not think before at what you are about to say;

You do not ignore or deny other's feelings etc.

In conflictual situations there are three distinct uses of the active listening abilities: information, confirmation and irritation [14].

Empathy (in communication) can be defined as “sympathetic intuition” (Henri Bergson), as *affective identification* (Th. Lipps, M. Scheler), as transposition. It is different from sympathy, this being a conscious emotional state, consisting in “feeling”, tending to, living the emotional life of another [15].

Empathy has an important role in opening or blocking communication. It is blocked by the manifestations of domination, the tendency to manipulate, to undermine or deny communication by one party.

Communication, to be developed, must comply with the following rules:

You respect your interlocutor as your equal and not try to dominate the dialogue;

You respect each other's right to opinion and will not try to manipulate him or to make him see things in your way;

You respect the decisions and not try to sabotage or underestimate your interlocutor;

You respect his values and experience.

Communication is that fundamental psychosocial interaction way without that people could not become people and cultivate their values. Human communication facilitates not only the transfer of something from one another, as would move an object from one place to another, but is deeper, determining and acquiring all or part of what it is addressed [16].

References

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