

## The Relationship of Language and culture

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Language and culture are two of most important elements in all societies, because they help what it means to be member of that society. Language is a fundamental way that people communicate with one another, while culture is the shared values and traditions of a particular group.

Language can be used to express ideas, feelings, and emotions as well as to create new words and phrases. Because language is so central to human life.

What is culture? Chi-Kim Cheung [Chi-Kim Cheung:56] defines “culture” as the customs, values, laws, technology artifacts and art of a particular time or people. Some scholars define culture as an “integrated pattern of human behavior that includes thoughts, communications, languages, practices, beliefs, values, customs, courtesies, rituals, manners of interacting and roles, relationships and expected behavior of a racial, ethnic religious or social group; and the ability transmit the above to succeeding generations” [Kramsch:23]. This means that language is not only part of how we define culture, it also reflects culture. It can be said that cultural content is a key for effective teaching and learning a second or foreign language. Necessarily, students cannot master the language unless they have mastered the cultural contexts in which the language occurs. The culture produces similar behavior and thought among most people in a particular society. Culture is any way of life, simple or complex. It includes religion, food, clothes, style, language, marriage, music table manners, greeting manners and a million other things.

Cultures differ in their details from one part of the world to another. For example, everywhere has its own dressing culture. So, what they wear, when and how they wear is different from culture to culture.

Culture change when something new (railroads or smartphones) opens up new ways of living and when new ideas enter culture. Cars, airplanes, vacuum cleaners, lamps, radios, telephones and televisions were all new inventions. Inventions may shape culture when people use them in place of older ways of carrying out activities and relating to others, or as a way to carry out new kinds of activities. Their adoption reflects cultural values, and their use may require new forms for new situations.

Today, a common culture of all human beings is emerging because people travel widely, and television has spread throughout the world. In addition, many types of music, sports, and industrial processes are the same in all areas of the world. Language and culture are interconnected so that they complement each other. The language is described as a primary vehicle by which culture emanates its beliefs, values and norms. Similarly, language is influenced by culture “If there is no culture, language will be like water without a source or a tree without roots” [Chi-Kim Cheung:6]. Thus, the connection between language and culture must be considered in foreign language teaching because as it has been mentioned before the main purpose of learning a foreign language is to learn the customs and traditions of the speech community, and to become competent for communication with speakers of the foreign language. The relationship between language and culture can be seen in two ways: first they are both important part of society; secondly they are both part of individual’s personality. Language and

culture have a complex relationship in society. The way that language is used is influenced by the culture in which it is used. For example: In Western society we use the word "hello" when we say hello to a person we don't know, but in some other cultures this would be considered very rude. So, as you see in some cultures choosing the right word and being polite plays an important role even when we are greeting.

Language and culture are related in many ways but they are also distinct. Language is a means of communication, while culture is a set of values, beliefs, norms and practices.

When we learn language, it not only involves learning its alphabet, the word arrangement and the rules of grammar, but also we have to learn the specific society's customs and behavior. When learning or teaching a language, it is important that the culture where belongs be mentioned, because language is much connected with the culture. When we interact with another language, it means that we are interacting with the culture of that language. We can't understand one's culture without accessing its language directly.

Language is used to communicate with people from different countries but it cannot fully communicate their values or norms. For example: if a person from one culture spoke to someone from another culture about the value of family ties, they would use language such as "family is important" or "family members should support and help each other", these phrases may not accurately communicate how important family ties are to that particular culture because it does not explain why they hold these value. The same goes for other aspects of their cultural identity, they may not use language to explain why they believe certain things like having respect for elder people or being proud of their heritage.

Culture can be passed down through generations so that an individual's behavior is influenced by what has been taught by their parents and grandparents before them but it does not mean that one's actions will always match up perfectly with what was taught by their ancestors. Language is a very important part of culture. Without language and the ability to communicate we would not be able to interact with other people. I think language also allows us to create a culture around ourselves by sharing our ideas, values, customs, traditions and beliefs with others.

Language and culture can be divided into three categories: communication, meaning and knowledge. Communication refers to how we speak to one another, while meaning refers to what we say and how we say it and knowledge

refers to everything else- art, music, beliefs, values, customs that help us understand who we are as a society and how we fit into the world around us.

We can say that language and culture are inseparable and they are closely related to one another. In fact, they are intrinsically linked to one another. Language is culture and culture is language is often mentioned when language and culture are discussed. Rossi-Landi, a philosopher from Italy said that young children learn their language and culture from the society they were born in. In the process of learning, they develop their cognitive abilities as well. These are learned and passed on from generation to generation. In my opinion language is the most important aspect of culture.

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