

Cross-Cultural and Language Understanding of IAIN Takengon Students

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history

Received 29 January 2022

Revised 10 March 2022

Accepted 21 May 2022

Keywords

Keyword_1 Cross

Keyword_2 Culture

Keyword_3 Language

Keyword_4 Understanding

ABSTRACT

Understanding culture and language is a communication instrument that is often used in communicating with other people, especially when we speak a foreign language with foreigners. Good communication will be seen when we talk with good words. This study is to know the understanding of 6th and 2nd-semester students regarding cross culture and language. The research used a qualitative descriptive method with an observation and interview approach for 6th and 2nd-semester English Language Study Program students at IAIN Takengon. The results that can be concluded show that students' understanding of cross-cultural language is in a position of knowing enough. Students in semesters 2 and 6 believe that communication is important, culture is important, and language is also essential to learn and understand. Because learning culture, and a foreign language makes it easier to communicate with foreigners, not only easy but allows us to not have any complications with people because of the misunderstanding of other people's cultures.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Humans are social creatures to know each other and must establish excellent and correct communication interactions. One of the requirements for interaction is communication because communication plays an essential role in building interactions. Communication is a series of processes of exchanging information with the people we will interact with directly or indirectly. The communication process aims to build mutual understanding between the two parties, but few people feel that the communication is not going well because of a misinterpretation that makes them feel wrong to respond. It is influenced by the diversity of humans, each of whom has its own culture.

Culture is something produced by the human mind. Therefore, every human being must have a particular culture where the culture has different socio-cultural values that are embraced by the community. The influence on their cultural importance is seen when they behave because if the cultural value is high, they will have good behavior. Therefore, everyone has a different cultural background as social beings who live in groups and communicate.

Intercultural communication is communication carried out by two or more people who come from different cultures. But every culture is different, of course, in communicating also found differences starting from the language and the accent used. However, not a few people respond to other people's cultures with responses that are

considered to worsen interactions. Therefore it is better to maintain communication carefully in speaking, never responding to foreign accents or other people's languages.

Intercultural communication is not only in the general public but also occurs in the educational environment, one of which is on the IAIN Takengon campus, especially in the faculty of education, because in the faculty of education, there are two language departments, namely Arabic and English. Moreover, the English department has students of several cultures, some from Aceh, Gayo, and even Java, and each student has a different cultural background. Therefore, when they first enter college, students will interact with friends who do not necessarily come from the same culture. Thus, interacting with friends establishes good communication and meets information needs. The more communication we build, the more knowledge about other people's cultures we know, for example, their language, their accent, their art and culture, and so on. This study will show how far the cross-cultural and linguistic understanding of the second and sixth-semester English education students of IAIN Takengon will be.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Communication

Communication comes from Latin, which means to make together or build togetherness between two or more people. "communis," the root of the word "communico", means to share. As social beings, we need each other, so communication is something that everyone cannot avoid. Communication is the activity of giving or receiving information from ourselves to others or from others to us, which consists of the elements, goals, and concepts of the things we have. Rogers and Kincaid (1981) state that communication is a process in which two or more people form, develop, obtain, and maintain the exchange of verbal and non-verbal information between each other, which in turn occurs in deep mutual understanding and support.

Shannon and Weaver (1949); Janis and Kelley (1953) stated that communication is a form of human interaction that influences each other and the process through which someone conveys a stimulus to change or shape the behavior of others. Furthermore, according to Berelson and Gary (1964); Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (1977); Forsdale (1981) is a process of transmitting information, ideas, emotions, skills, etcetera, and using words, numbers, symbols, pictures, signs, behavior, and signals that operate together according to rules. Meanwhile, according to Gode (1959); Ruesch (1957); Firmansyah (2020), communication is a process that makes something from what was initially owned by someone (a person's monopoly) stimulates someone about a piece of information, as well as a symbolic process transaction that requires people to regulate their environment with other people.

Then communication, to Lasswell (1960); Widjaja (2017), is a process that explains who says what, with what channel, to whom, and with what results or consequences, such as with one person or in groups. And according to Nofrion (2016) is sending messages from someone and received by others with immediate effect and feedback. This communication is unique, namely the psychological relationship process that results in influence. Therefore, a good message sender must pay attention to the media used in communication.

Drawn from the experts' opinions above, we can conclude that communication is a process of exchanging information and interactions using words, numbers, symbols, and others to one person or group based on explaining what, how, and who, which can affect the interlocutor. Therefore, we must pay close attention to the communication that we convey.

2.2 Language

Language, according to Francis (1958); Finocchiaro (1974); Syamsuddin (1986); Chaer (2003); Sumarjan and Partana (2002), is a tool used to form communication that is often considered a social or cultural product, where language is defined as a system of vocal sounds used by a group of humans to carry out their activities. Furthermore, according to Nababan (1991), language is something that distinguishes between humans and other creatures. Another understanding of language, according to Tarigan (1989); Wibowo (2001); Chaer (2003), language is a communication tool in the form of symbols, which are arbitrary, odes, symbols used by members of the community.

Meanwhile, according to Syamsuddin (1986); Walija (1996), language is a communication tool to convey ideas, messages, intentions, and opinions that can influence other people as well as signs of good and bad humans. Furthermore, the meaning of language Panggabean (1981); Santoso (1990) is a series of sounds spoken by humans consciously and a system that expresses what happens to the nervous system. Therefore, the conclusion that can be drawn from the above understanding is that language is a communication tool in the form of sound symbols carried out by every human being. Language is also what distinguishes humans from other creatures. With our language, it is easy to express opinions to others.

2.3 Culture

According to Edward Burnett Tylor (1970); Clifford Geertz (1992); Roger M Keesing (1971), culture includes the customs, beliefs, arts, morals, and laws that exist in every area of society. Furthermore, according to Koentjaraningrat (1976); Krueber (1952), culture is used as a learning platform for the community that guides one's behavior in a community, and with this, learning can show one's habits. Therefore, the conclusion that can be drawn from the explanation above is that culture is something that is owned by every region, where culture is an inheritance passed down by people before us.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Methode

The research methodology is descriptive and qualitative, with an interview approach. Data were collected by observing and interviewing students of IAIN Takengon majoring in English in semesters 6 and 2. The data taken included understanding how important it is to study cross-cultural communication as a student.

4. FINDINGS

4.1. Observation Results

From our observations, we found several answers to cross-cultural and linguistic communication. According to IAIN Takengon students, intercultural communication is communication between people of different cultures, such as ethnic groups, social groups,

classes, and others. And other students also said that intercultural communication is when there is communication between people with cultural differences such as race, ethnicity, and customs to achieve common communication goals. Other students also understand intercultural communication as a process of interaction and communication between communicators and communicants, as well as reciprocity from different tribes and ethnicities. And that is expected from intercultural communication, and some say communication is a process of exchanging thoughts and meanings between people of different cultures, guiding human behavior and limiting it in carrying out its functions as group members.

4.2 Interview Result

Based on interviews with students of IAIN Takengon semesters 6 and 2, we asked several questions about cross-cultural communication, how important it is for them and how they communicate with each other with their friends who have different cultures and languages. From the interviews, we can take an explanation of how they think about intercultural language communication that they understand or do not understand about cross-cultural communication. Some conclusions from the answers to the questions posed to students are as follows.

1. Students' understanding of communication across cultures.

Most of them understand and know what cross-cultural communication is.

2. What are the benefits of understanding communication across cultures for students?

They know how to communicate well with other people's cultures and know how important it is to learn foreign languages. In addition, by studying foreign cultures, they will understand what can and cannot be done in a foreign country.

3. What does not understand about communication across cultures?

Some can speak foreign languages, but some do not fully understand the cross-cultural communication material. Most of them only understand the outline of what communication, language, and culture are.

5. DISCUSSIONS

When conducting interviews with IAIN Takengon students, we can see students' interest in understanding cross-cultural communication, and some do not clearly understand cross-cultural language communication. Some of them know what communication is, but some do not realize what intercultural communication is. Likewise, culture and others understand what language and culture are, but some do not understand culture and language, only the outlines they know.

And there is also an understanding of the advantages obtained when students study cross-cultural and linguistic communication, and the benefits can be in the form of communicating well with other cultures and knowing how important it is to learn foreign languages. By studying the culture, and the foreign language, they will understand what is allowed and what is not allowed in a foreign country. More students are interested in studying foreign cross-cultural communication, so some are serious about learning foreign cultures and languages for their academic understanding. But some check it without deepening their knowledge.

6. CONCLUSION

The results of research interviews with students of IAIN Takengon semester six and semester 2 prove that communication is important, culture is influential, and language is vital to learning and understanding. Because studying culture and foreign languages makes it easier to communicate with foreigners, it is not only easy but also allows us to get friends or relatives from abroad. If we are familiar with strangers, it is fun, but it is fun if we are not wrong in choosing friends. Therefore it proves that a good communication language benefits us in interacting. If the way we communicate is good, it will be nice to influence other people. Students also prove that there is no harm in studying foreign cultures and sharing with foreign cultures.

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