



Ways Language Prevents or Promotes Communication with Particular Reference to Interpersonal Communication

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ABSTRACT

The study seeks to explore ways Language Prevents or Promotes Communication with Particular Reference to Interpersonal Communication. We love to talk; people usually say Nigerians are widely known as talkative. Talk, talk and talk but no one has really put into consideration that most times when we speak, we do not communicate, that is why, we are now as a country. The purpose of this research is to expose us to the fact that communication is not always reached when we speak. It also reveals the reason why there is bridge in communication. The study reveals that language to a large extent promotes communication. The study therefore recommended that we must use language in a way that it will promote communication. We should avoid the use of Jargon, slang, ambergis words and so on so as to aid, communication.

Keywords: Language, Interpersonal Communication, Reference, Communication

Introduction

Definition of Terms

Language

Language is the human ability to acquire and use complex systems of communication and a language is any specific example of such a system. – Wikipedia. It can also be defined as a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood their meanings. – Merriam Webster online. Language is an abstract system of symbols and meanings.

Communication

Communication is a purposeful activity of exchanging information and meaning across space and time using various technical or natural means, whichever is available or preferred – Wikipedia.

Communication is the exchange and flow of information and ideas from one person to another, it involves a sender transmitting the idea, information or feeling to a receiver (U.S. Army, 1983).

Prevents

This means to keep something from happening.

Promotes

This means to support or actively encourage a cause, venture etc; to further the progress.

Background of the Study

We use language to communicate to each other in all sorts of ways. We try to sell each soap and cars, real estate and swim suit. We say one thing but we do so in a tone of voice that may clearly tell our listeners something very different. This is where communication comes in. the basic function of language is as a tool for communication. The use of language would be useless if communication is not achieved. Here also, the big question, does language prevent or promote communication comes in. is there a way the use of language will actually prevent communication? Does language always promote communication? Each of the questions identifies an element in understanding how the use of language affects communication.

Research Question

The major research question is whether language promotes or prevents communication? How does it promote communication? How does it prevent communication? By the end of this research I hope to answer these questions with convincing, reliable and undisputed examples.

2. Literature Review

Is English a Killer Language or an Interantonal Auxiliary?

Its uses and function in a global world by Nick Ceramella University of Trenton. In his work, he deals with the importance of speaking one's own language as a way to assert one's identity. He also talks about the death of our native language because of the immersion of English language. He focuses on the given importance of native languages to mankind. "According to UNESCO report, out of the 6,000 languages which are currently spoken in the world, about 50-90% may be superseded by the dominating ones by the end of this century".

He stresses that "when a language passes away a whole culture will be gone". According to him, our native languages enables easy communication and not only that, it reflects our inner selves and our socio-cultural background. A few find the reduction of languages in the world to be good news owing to the fact that "fewer languages mean more human beings speaking the same one. Hence they will make communication easier and faster with all the benefits that can derive from that in a world heading fast towards globalization in every field". In my own opinion, speaking out native languages enhances in many ways' interpersonal communication. I see no need for the reduction of languages in the world because of abandonment. I totally agree with Akara on this "when we lose a language, we lose a world view, a unique identity, and a storehouse of knowledge (Akara Y. Yamamoto, 2009:34).

Language and Communication – Social Boundaries and Temporal Borders – by Elsevier

This study focuses on the origin and growth of language in communities. This study recognizes that immigration, culture contact a now in this modern age affects survival of various languages. This study also displays works of different researchers who have studied various communities to identify their level of interaction or communication with each other and with the world. These researchers called these communities “speech communities” (Bloomfield 1933:40).

This study recognizes the fact that when communities, the same language, they can communicate with each other more and they form this personal bond with each other.

The Language of Advertising by Jana Lapsanska 2006

This study centers on the language of advertising. It explores the principles, strategies employed in the language used in advertising. It provides the analysis of language of advertising from a linguistic point of view and especially linguistic means used in advertising texts. The researcher also talks about advertising as a kind of communication. He shows various ways in which the language of advertising uses to communicate to its audience. Companies use this language to persuade the consumers to buy a product. This also discusses in detail the communication that takes place without words in advertising. This happens through billboards, magazines, newspapers etc.

Language Barriers: A challenge for Optimal Health care Abroad by Dr. Heidi Kaspar

This study centers on the problem’s doctors face communicating to patient and patients to doctors. She emphasized language barriers, which may include medical jargon, or in the case where the doctor and his patients speak different languages. She discussed the importance of language in Healthcare. As a result of this, the use of interpreters to break the barrier language poses to the medical doctors. For example, a 350-bed hospital in Delhi NCR employs around twenty interpreters mostly from Arabic and other languages. The use of interpreters is one way this issue of language barrier in healthcare is resolved. She also enumerated other ways in solving this problem in her study.

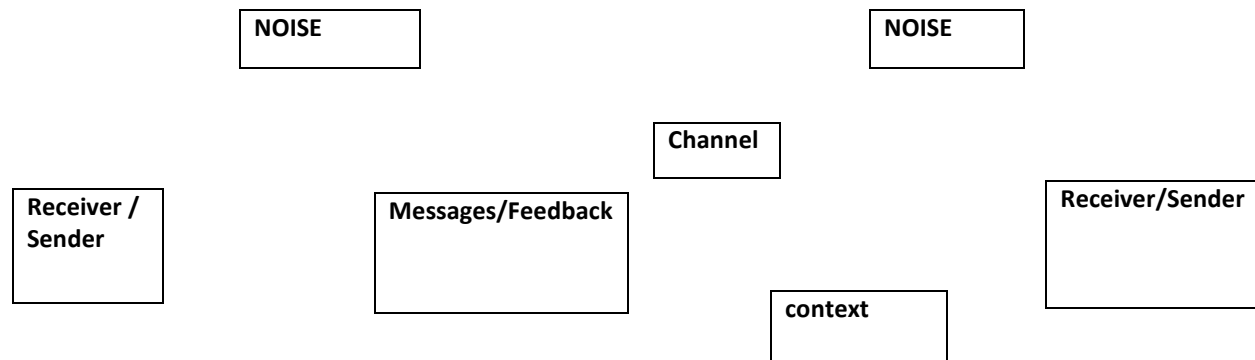
Interpersonal Communication

Interpersonal communication can be defined as what occurs between two individuals when they are close in proximity able to provide immediate feedback and utilize multiple senses (Miller 1978). Interpersonal communication includes communication that is personal and occurring between people who are acquaintances. (Peters 1974).

Interpersonal communication includes communication used to define or achieve personal goals through interaction with others (Canary, Cody and Manusor, 2003).

Process of Interpersonal Communication

The Process of Interpersonal Communication is viewed from a general communication perspective provided by Claude Shannon and Wenten Weaver. This mode includes the sender, the message, the channel and the receiver. Noise provides an additional component.



The first two components of interpersonal communication are the sender and the message. The sender mentally composes on message to relay to another person, considering the reason, or intention, for sending the message. Perhaps it is meant to persuade, or to inform. The act of transferring this message from thought to words is called encoding.

The channel in this model refers to the mode of communication used to a day the message; familiar channels include television, radio and newspaper. However, interpersonal communication differs from mass communication in this respect because the channel used is face-to-face communication in which messages are relayed through verbal interaction at one location.

The fourth component of this model is the receiver. This person is responsible for taking the sender's message and decoding it. The action of decoding results in the assignment of meaning by the receiver.

Language Use in Interpersonal Communication

This involves the varieties of language we use when we communicate with one another. This variety of language is largely classified into two which is formal and informal language. In formal language we talk about language use between employees and their employers, a leader and his subjects etc. In what is very much obtainable in this part of the world. It is used between friends, classmates, young people, in the market, on the street etc.

Also, this study will look at the different dialect we use in communication. In a country where one language is used, communication is easy but, in a country, where different languages are spoken, communication becomes a little harder. In this case, the issue of an official language or lingua Franca comes in to promote communication between people in the country.

Languages Uses in Interpersonal Communication

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Language Use in Promoting Interpersonal Communication

1. The good use of language promotes interpersonal communication in relationships: Effective communication is a crucial variable in determining the success of interpersonal relationships (Alexander, 1973) Mufstein 1972). The strength of relationships can only be determined by the level of communication which is achieved through the use of language.
2. It allows for effective communication between leaders and followers: Leader communication consists of layered, expanding skills from core strategy development and effective writing and speaking to the use of these skills in more complex organizational situations. As the manager's perspective and control expand, he or she will need to improve the core communication skills to become effective in a large, more complex organizational situation. (Barret 2006: 386).
3. It aids effective communication between employees and employers. A.F. Smith and S.A. Hellineg found in 1985 that, employees are more satisfied with their work when communication between subordinate and supervisor is good.
4. It promotes a peer communication: Peer communication involves communication between friends, classmates, coworkers etc. This is an important interpersonal facet in everyday organizational life. It encourages friendship, support, job satisfaction and commitment.

5. Language promotes communication between family relations: Parents need to communicate with their children and vice versa. The use of language becomes indispensable. Communication is very important in family relation because communication promotes love in families. Also, the parents need to know what the children needs and vice versa, this will not be possible without communication.

Ways Language Prevents Communication

1. Professional Jargons. Some professional causes have its own different jargon which it is known for. For example, in the law profession uses a lot of Latin makings e.g. *modus operandi*, *obiter dictum* which means a word in passing and so on. In this case, it will be hard for a client to understand what the lawyer is trying to say.

2. Sign Language. The use of sign language also prevents communication. Human beings ordinarily are expected to speak a particular which other can understand. Not everybody can understand sign language. For example, the dumb use sign language to communicate and sometimes, it can be hard to get what they are saying KERO 23 AGC News reported that Baby Sign language bridge communication gap because most times, their mothers do not understand what they are trying to say.

3. The use of Ambiguous Language. Many educated people just to show that they have achieved some educational qualification use "big grammar". People hardly understand them and this prevent communication.

4. Existence of Different Languages in a Community. The existence of too many languages/ dialects in a country, nation or community makes communication very hard. For example, in a country like Nigeria where more than 500 dialects exist, it's quite hard to communicate inter ethnically without an official language. "Fewer languages mean more and more human beings speaking the same one. Hence, they will make communication easier and faster with all the benefits that can derive from that in a world heading fast towards globalization in every field" (Nick Ceramella, 2012:10).

5. The Use of Slang. In our everyday discussion with people in our age group we use words that are similar to us. These words might be a variable of the main word or a short form. These words are known in groups. When we use them in large context or gathering, nobody will understand us and this prevents communication.

3. Research Methodology

To further authenticate this work, vigorous research was carried out majority of the content of this work came from online research. This includes teaching writing published online articles or books in their PDF. Materials were also gotten from Wikipedia, the online, dictionary and a few other online dictionaries. Another major source of information was the notes I made in class and using the New horizon English textbook.

Objective/Significance of Research

We love to talk; people usually say Nigerians are widely known as talkative. Talk, talk and talk but no one has really put into consideration that most times when we speak, we do not communicate, that is why, we are now as a country. The purpose of this research is to expose us to the fact that communication is not always reached when we speak. It also reveals the reason why there is bridge in communication.

Scope and Limitation

This work covers the various definitions of language and communication. The definitions were picked from different sources all in a bid for us to understand the meaning of language and communication. It also covers the review of various works produced by different writers on language and communication. This work discusses the various ways in which language can promote communication or prevent it with prominence given to interpersonal communication and the language used in advertisement. In interpersonal communication, this work recognizes, communication between people that speak the same language, those that speak different language and communication between babies and their mother. At the end of this work I hoped to have covered everything, relating to how language promote or prevents communication and due to higher research questions will have been answered.

4. Analysis of Language Use in Interpersonal Communication

Taking into cognizance our previous discussion on interpersonal communication, we know that there is no interpersonal communication without language. We cannot communicate when people do not understand what we are saying. There is no day that we do not communicate amongst ourselves. Employers need to communicate with their workers.

According to Meyer and Herscovitch, 2001 and Tsnaky and Cohan, 2001 Managers communicate daily with their subordinates. We also have so many languages in the world with which we communicate with others. In our world today, the language has been promoted because a large majority of the world can communicate with it. It gives us a typical example of language promoting communication. We now use English to speak to other parents and relate to each other effectively.

Analysis of Language Use in Communication with Relation to Nigeria:

It has been proven that Nigerian has more than 250 ethnic groups and more than 500 languages. Also we communicate to people of the language very well; we are bound to make contact with people of other ethnic groups. We cannot communicate with them if we do not understand them; once again English comes to the front line. In our gatherings, group discussions, we need a language that we all will understand. Not only do we use English in Nigeria to communicate almost of our diversity, we also use pidgin, Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba which has been chosen as our 3 main languages, now we can also say the use of language appears indispensable.

Analysis of Language use in Communication; a World View

Research has shown that there exist about 6,000 languages, which are currently spoken in the world (Nick Camella, 2012:10). Also, we may understand the language we speak when it is spoken but what about international interaction. Language is known to facilitate international interaction. Language is known to facilitate international communication but not all language does this. While some promotes communication on the world scene, some promotes it but still, the indispensability of language cannot be over emphasized because we still use language to communicate. In the international scene have languages that are popularly spoken, for instance, French, English, German, Spanish, etc. over 50% of the world speak English 15% of the world speak French, 9% German and 5% Spanish (Nick Caremella, 2012:15).

This research is based on those that use these languages a sound language without taking recognizing the native speakers.

5. Recommendation and Suggestion

Although there are a number of ways languages prevent communication, the fact still remains that communication cannot exist without language. Language is a necessity in trying to communicate ideas. Language is also a human attribute. The best way to minimize the ... use of language which prevents communication is to stop using them. We must use language in a way that it will promote communication. We should avoid the use of Jargon, slang, ambergis words and so on so as to aid, communication.

6. Conclusion

This study has effectively discussed what communication and language is all about, ways language prevents or promotes communication with particular reference to interpersonal communication. This study has also tried to answer our communication? In my own words, recognizing our previous research in this study, language to a large extent promotes communication.

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