

THE IMPACT OF BODY LANGUAGE IN LEARNING LANGUAGE

Ismoilova Zahro Shuhrat qizi

*1st Year student of Uzbekistan State World Language Of University
Faculty of Foreign Languageages and Literature 1st English faculty
ismoilovazahro@gmail.com
+998 88 350 99 12*

Annotation: *This article dicusses the use of body language in teaching foreign languages, particularly in the context of learning English. It examines the role of body language in the process of asquiring new languages and the participation of both teachers and students. The article also emphasizes the necessary of conducting lesssons in a way that actively involves students.*

Key words: *cognitive, expressive, linguistic, proxemic, discursive, paralinguistic, gesticulation, , eye contact, personal space, pantomimie, cultural understanding*

Nowadays, it is essential to use new methods, espicially in language teaching .Learning a new language involves more than just mastering words and grammar ; nonverbal communication , particularly body language, plays a vital role in effective interaction. Body language includes gestures, facial expressions, posture and eye contact, all of which greatly influence a learner’s ability to understand and communicate in a new language and supports language learning and enhance overall communication skillls.

Moreover, one could argue that body language has en even great influence. When combined with spoken words, it can strebngthen a message or, alternatively , create confusion or disengagement in the audence. The most effective communication happens when the significanse of body language in teaching is recognized. When nonverbal signals align with verbal expressions , they generate a seamless and effective communication flow .

In lesson setting, positive body language anhances the effectiveness of teaching. It not only boosts the teacher’s confidence but also reassure students about the instructor’s knowledge and expertise . Furthermore, it fosters a sense of security among students , encouraging them to participate more actively in assimilation.

Most language learners primarily concentrate on acquiring vocabulary and mastering grammatical structures. However, the frequently encounter challenges in spontaneously conversations. On significant factor contributing to do this difficulty is the influent focus on non –verbal communication. Effective language acquisition extends beyond verbal proficiency. Non verbal elements play a cruical role in

facilitating clear and natural communication, enhancing both comprehension and expressive abilities.

Several researchs have explored this topic. For instance, ALBERT MEHRABIAN (1971), a pioneer in the study of nonverbal communication, found that only 7% of a message is conveyed through words, while 38% comes from tone of voice and 55% from body language. Also, facial expressions are essential in expressing emotions and intentions. Other different cultures interpret expressions differently, basic emotions such as happiness, sadness, and confusions are universally recognized. PAUL EKMAN (1972) studies prove that understanding facial expressions helps language learners grasp emotions behind spoken words. Smiling conveys happiness, while frowning may indicate confusion or concern, making communication more effective.

Maintaining eye contact is essential in English communication, as it demonstrates confidence and attentiveness. In many English-spoken cultures, direct eye – contact is considered a sign of engagement and honesty, while avoiding eye contact might suggest nervousness or lack of interest. Learners who practise with eye contact when speaking English can develop stronger conversation skills and make their interaction more effective. In the world, MICHAEL ARGYLE, a British psychologist, ADAM KENDON an anthropologist and psychologist, and other scientists studied at non verbal conversation, eye contact and its role, the communicative importance of eye contact and body language.

Hand movements and other gestures complement spoken words, learners should concentrate on using body language, enriching the meaning of communication. RAY BIRDWHISTELL, a leading researcher in kinesics, emphasized the close connection between gestures and language. According to him, gestures are not merely supplementary tools but rather an essential component of communication. In the process of learning new language, understanding gestures from a cultural perspective is crucial, as misunderstandings in conversations. For example, gestures for approval or rejection may differ across cultures, making it essential for language learners adapt socially and communicate more effectively.

Different cultures have varying norms for personal space in communication. EDWARD T. HALL (1966) introduced the concept of proxemics which explores how people use space in communication. He analyzed how interpersonal distance varies across different cultures. According to this research, each culture has its own unique norms regarding closeness and spatial relationship. For English language learners, understanding various cultural proxemic norms is essential. Being aware of these differences allows them to navigate conversations more effectively and ensures smoother interactions. By considering these variations in their communication, learners can make their conversations more natural and adaptable.

By studying these forms of body language mentioned above, using game-like activities such as pantomime and ‘silent voice’ during lessons can also help reveal and develop the learner’s nonverbal skills. Besides, language learning is not solely about memorizing vocabulary and grammar it also involves mastering nonverbal communication. Expressive gestures, proxemic, gesticulation gestures contribute more effective and natural interactions. By paying attention to these aspects, English learners can enhance their cognitive, expressive, linguistic, discursive, paralinguistic skills and develop a deeper understanding of the language in real-world contexts.

In conclusion, body language serves as a useful assistance in language learning. It helps comprehension, communication and confidence. It allows learners to better grasp meaning, learn by heart new words and improve more natural speech. By using gestures, facial expressions and other non-verbal actions students and teachers can create a more dynamic and effective learning atmosphere. So, people in learning environment

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