

## GESTURES IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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### ABSTRACT

Teaching grammar is becoming very debatable issue in recent days, because as Stephen Krashen (1982) said "there is a great deal of effect on the language use of the learner and this effect is peripheral and fragile". It is known that there are three different approaches to teaching grammar and they are teaching grammar as a product, teaching grammar as a process and the last one is teaching grammar as a skill, below we will focus on each separately.

**Keywords:** Grammar as Product, grammar as process, grammar as skill, mean, deductive teaching, integrated skills, communicate, symbolic.

Think of gestures which may be acceptable in one society but impolite or meaningless in another. What do they communicate or express, if anything? Are any gestures intrinsic in meaning and universal? Are they symbolic, where meaning may well change between cultures? Consider a nod of the head; pointing; putting hands on hips; putting thumb on nose; the two finger gesture; raising the eyebrows quickly, or slowly; a sniff; a yawn; smiling with the mouth closed; guffawing with the mouth open. Would you consider it part of your duty as a language teacher to teach what gestures may mean in an English culture? Language is the expression of ideas, and system of communication. Language constantly creates new phrases and new structures. Language is an exception to gesturing. Every country has its different kind of gestures for example In some European countries they use OK sign. It is preformed by connecting the thumb and index into a circle, and holding other fingers straight or relaxed away from the palm.

Beckoning sign comes here from central Asia. It is one of the worst signals in the Philippines as they think it's so rude and offensive they only use it for dogs. You can even get arrested for using this gesture. This is also considered a rude gesture in many parts of the world including Singapore, East Asia. Standing with arms crossed is considered as arrogance in Uzbekistan and in many other countries. In some Arabian countries Pointing your left index finger at your right hand while grouping all fingers on the right hand together. It means someone has five fathers this is the so insulting way of saying your mother is ... This insult is extremely offensive. People have a language ability that Is not available in other animal species. We know from the history humans used gestures in the process of communication with other people. Some of them unchanged. Gestures are called silent language. We always use our head and hands to express our needs and thoughts. The same gesture means unpleasantness and disrespect towards a person of another country.

There are amount of gestures and which gestures do we use the most? As a teachers of English language ,we have the duty to provide students with the amount of information about the culture ,customers ,traditions of the language we are learning. In some countries the usage of gestures and expressions more than the other countries. As a ESL teachers it is important using gestures during the communication. Therefore, using gestures at the lessons will help our students to communicate better. Almost all sign languages combine hand shapes, movement,

and position in relation to the rest of body. Head movements used to acknowledge others and communicate interest or attentiveness. Head movements, head nod is a universal sign of acknowledgement where the formal bow is used as a greeting. And the most common gesture is thumbs up, that has been used for thousands of years. The gesture is for approval or agreement is commonly found in European and American cultures as a sign of approval. Therefore, it is important to understand the meanings of gestures before you travel to various countries. The British are hardly famous for using their body much during communication. Point up with your right index finger and touch the right side of your nose so that almost all of your index finger is touching it. From the top to the bottom of your nose. Tap the side of your nose around three times. This means I'm not going to tell you something. Make peace signs on both sides of your head with the middle fingers and index fingers of both hands in V shapes. Make sure that you have your palms facing towards the other person so you are not making rude V signs. Bend all four fingers down towards your palm and then point them almost straight up again about four times, finishing with curved fingers. This gesture is supposed to make the shape of quotation marks. There two neck cutting gestures with very different meanings. The softer and more common one is done with your whole hand. With your elbow bent and held in front of your stomach, hold your right hand at the level of your neck with all the fingers pointing towards it and your palm down. Twist your wrist clockwise and anticlockwise about three times, without changing the position of your arm. Your hand should make a cutting motion as it twists in front of your neck. This gesture means "Stop talking" and or "Times is up"

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