THEORETICAL ASPECT OF INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

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ABSTRACT

'Intercultural competence', is a term which has become essential in teaching pedagogical science nowadays, it has affected other subjects – and has been used in modern societies in general. In the past twenty years, intercultural communication has been studied by the researchers from different disciplines as a way to make globalization work and not affecting the local cultures and preserve diversity and understanding among the countries all over the world.

Keywords: Intercultural awareness, intercultural competence, bilingualism, intercultural studies, interculturality.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of 'intercultural competence', which has become indispensable within language teaching, as well as being widespread in other subjects - and in society in general. It is one of the modern concepts that have become widely used nowadays, with everyone using it for their own particular purposes. In the past twenty years, intercultural communication has been studied by the researchers from different disciplines: cultural anthropologists, cross-cultural and social and sociolinguists. However, very few studies have researched children's intercultural experiences and their development of intercultural communicative competence. As an introduction to the topic, we would like to present some of the considerations as the concept can be understood in our specific context.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In many situations, there will be quite a considerable difference between the Colombian and the Japanese as regards perspectives and ways of doing things, even if they have roughly the same social status and are of the same sex. How much more complex will the situation not become if we bring different social groups together, e.g. a Colombian female student and a Japanese male financier? The point is that the social differences can be at least as important in a cultural respect as the national-cultural. Communication between social groups also calls for intercultural competence [2].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

At first we could say that intercultural competence is the ability of successful communication with people from different cultures. This ability can be acquired in someone at a young age. Earlier experiences are considered, free from prejudices; there is an interest and motivation to continue learning. Intercultural competence can also be learned, developed and improved. The bases for a successful intercultural communication are emotional competence together with intercultural sensitivity. A person who is interculturally competent interacts and understands people from foreign cultures, their specific concepts in perception, thinking, feeling and acting.

Another term recently introduced by researchers is Cross-cultural competence; this term has been used for inter-cultural competence. Interculturality itself has generated its own share of contradictory and confusing definitions, due to the wide variety of academic approaches and professional fields attempting to explain it for their own ends. One author identified no fewer than eleven different terms with some equivalence to intercultural competence: cultural savvy, astuteness, appreciation, literacy or fluency, adaptability, terrain, expertise, competency, awareness, intelligence, and understanding [3].

As part of a larger research project that examines the short-term and long-term impact of children's experience in a multi-cultural summer camp on their intercultural communicative competence. This study was carried out by, University of London, United Kingdom under the title: Children's Intercultural Interactions at an International Summer Camp. The research seeks to address the research question that what communicative strategies children from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds use to communicate with each other when there is disparity in the proficiency of their shared language.

Naturally occurring child-child and child-adult interaction data was videotaped in an international children's summer camp held in UK. The camp participants, 40 children in total and aged11, came from 10 different countries including Japan, UK, Jordan, Philippines, U.S.A., Netherlands, Portugal, Norway, Spain and Germany. In this paper the researchers focus on the children's multi-party interactions in the games and activities organized by the camp. The analysis of the data shows that children employ a range of communicative strategies (e.g. code-switching, gestures, translation) to understand the rules of the activities and negotiate and achieve agreement on action despite the diversity in their language and intercultural competence. Meanwhile, the authors conclude that multi-modality is an important feature in children's intercultural interactions. Furthermore, this study sheds some light on how children negotiate and construct their roles and identities during their interactions in the multi-cultural setting.

The perception is different and often selective [4]:

- Behavior and gestures are interpreted differently:
- Hence, you must take the time to know how to read faces when conversing with people. However, you must refrain from staring too long because this might cause discomfort on the other person's part.

Facial features reveal the differences in personality, character, strengths or weaknesses of a person. Oftentimes, your current state of mind or feelings is greatly reflected on your face. Permanent lines and features are etched deeply on your face depending on the degree of your

emotion. This makes it possible to interpret your feelings and thoughts at a particular moment.

Face readings and interpretations can be subjective; but still, these are supported by scientific studies. Facial features provide you with a better understanding of a person's mind roadmap. For example, the forehead reveals a person's thinking style. Hence, you might notice that some people have more lines on their foreheads. These lines can be crooked or straight. To some extent, these show how a person thinks. Others argue that deep facial lines are results of inherited genes.

CATEGORY	STRATEGIC COMPETENCE	STRATEGIC COMPETENCE	MEANING OF THE VARIABLE USED OR INTERPRETED
Comprehension	Reading people faces	Staring too long	• Facial features reveal the differences in personality, character, strengths or weaknesses of a person. • Your current state of mind or feelings is greatly reflected on your face. • Permanent lines and features are etched deeply on your face depending on the degree of your emotion.
Responses	Feel comfortable	cause discomfort	• Facial features provide you with a better understanding of a person's mind road map. • the forehead reveals a person's thinking style • You can also learn how to read faces through the eyes and lips

You can also learn how to read faces through the eyes and lips, as they are also expressive features in a person's face. If you can see white between the lower eyelids and the iris, then it signals that the person is worried. And if the white can be seen above of the iris, then it is likely that the person will respond fiercely about the situation. Lastly, lines on the sides of the eyes show someone who often smiles or a generally happy person [5].

CONCLUSION

A final consideration for the teachers who are teaching in a bilingual context, consider the importance of training our students on the intercultural competences for the sake of being competitive in this globalized civilization; and also that they will have an intercultural awareness for the language skills do not break down into application of stereotypes of a group of individuals. Because the goal is to promote understanding between groups of individuals that, as a whole, think somewhat differently. It may fail to recognize the specific differences between individuals of any given group. These differences can often be larger than the differences between groups, especially with heterogeneous populations and value systems. But if a speaker of a given language knows the all about of another language speaker´s culture he could talk, interact more freely or negotiate with the ideal hearer.

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