**I need 200 words response to this two-discussion forum**

Respond substantively to a minimum of two peers by Day 7 of Week 2. Inquire about your fellow students’ resources and discussion pertaining to the cultural differences conveyed through nonverbal communication.

Forum 1

What have you learned about cultural variance in nonverbal communications?

I have learned that non-verbal communication differs from culture to culture. Therefore, non-verbal communication varies from person to person. A person’s communication is defined by their cultural backgrounds. Since the non-verbal communication differs between different communities, people end up offending each other without even meaning it. Some facial expressions, such as happiness, sadness, and anger are universal and may not cause miscommunication. However, there are those that vary completely, and when one uses them to a person of a different culture, they may end up offending them, making them feel uncomfortable, or communicating a completely different message (Adams, 2014).

In our country, eye contact is interpreted as confidence, trustworthiness, and attentiveness. However, in some countries, women are not expected to maintain eye contact with men because it would be disrespectful of them. It is also associated with sexual interests. In America, it is easy to spot a couple holding hands, hugging, or even kissing in the streets. It is normal for us, and some of us will even comment, "Such a cute couple!" However, in countries like Iraq, public display of affection is not accepted. Therefore, if a people from the western culture portrayed affection towards each other in public while in Iraq, then they could annoy society and seem disrespectful. Therefore, variance in non-verbal communication can cause miscommunication or conflicts between people, even if it was not intentional.

What have you learned about the categories of nonverbal behaviors?

Some of these non-verbal behaviors include eye contact, gestures, touch, appearance, body posture, facial expressions, and proxemics. These categories carry deep meaning but can be interpreted differently by different people. Therefore, it is important to consider people around us while we are using them. Faial expressions can be used to convey a ton of emotions without using words. For instance, they can convey joy, anger, worry, or fear. Proxemics varies with the closeness of the relationship (Adams, 2014). For instance, one will not mind their lover being too close to them, but when a boss oversteps the personal space, then things get uncomfortable. The same applies to touch; friends will hug and hold each other's hands, but no one will appreciate if their boss keeps laying hands on their shoulders or back as it conveys a totally different message. Categories of non-verbal behavior, therefore, carry deep meaning and depend on the people using them.

References

Adams, K. L. (2014). Communicating in groups’ applications and skills.

Forum 2 Discussion

Each of us has studied someone’s demeanor in our interactions and interpreted their non-verbal behavior. It would be nice if we could always be accurate when we attempt to read other non-verbal behavior. Non-verbal behavior refers to communication that is not verbal. Non-verbal communication can refer to many things such as; the tone of the speaker's voice, whether it is loud or soft, the rate of speed the speaker talks whether it is fast or slow, and facial expressions of the speaker give listeners messages about how the speaker may feel. Non-verbal communication can also consist of body movements such as eye contact, and hand gestures. Some cultures use their hands when they talk to help explain the message they are trying to convey. In addition, the total body movements like how someone is standing, if the arms are folded or open, and if they are moving or standing still while communicating. All these little things function to convey messages from one person to another. The challenge with non-verbal communication is non-verbal communication can be misinterpreted. Another challenge is that non-verbal communication can be misinterpreted based on cultural differences. One of the bonuses of Non-verbal communication is that messages can be transmitted without one word and without even speaking the same language. A smile non-verbal gesture that transcends even language. A smile can make a person feel welcomed and put them at ease. In the corporate world, meetings are started with greetings and smiles that set the tone for the entire meeting and the non-verbal communication can lay the groundwork for the overall outcome of the meeting.

According to Butt and Shatiq non-verbal research, a smile, like facial expression, is a powerful tool in the hands of a teacher, which can develop the understanding of the students by attracting their attention in the classroom and creating interest in learning. On the other hand, anger, as a facial expression, can be used in the classroom when students are not interested in the teaching-learning process or lose attention. (Butt & Shatiq 2013). This non-verbal research transcends different fields other than teaching.

Even though there are times when we read behavior inaccurately, there are far many times when we accurately read someone’s non-verbal language. I have learned that non-verbal communication is subject to cultural variances. One of my friends from one ethnic group uses her hands to convey messages. I am sure there are many exceptions to this, but I have known many people whose culture plays a role in their non-verbal communication. I have learned that there are many different categories of non-verbal communication.

References

Adams, K., & Galanes, G. (2017). Communicating in groups: Application and skills (10th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill

Rashotte, L. (2202). What Does That Smile mean? The Meaning of nonverbal Behaviors in social Interaction. Social Psychology Quarterly. Vol. 65, No. 1 (Mar. 2002), pp. 92-102 (11 pages).

Butt, M., Shatiq, M., (2013). Significance of Non-Verbal Communication in the Teaching-Learning Process. FWU Journal of Social Sciences; Peshawar Vol. 7, Iss. 1, (Summer 2013): 27-32.

Cockburn, K., Miller, V., Barrett, J., (1978). Non-Verbal Communication. British Journal of Occupational Therapy. Vol. 41, 2: pp. 61-63., First Published Feb 1, 1978.