

Language and Communication

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Abstract

Communication is essential for human survival, and language is the most effective tool for expressing thoughts, intentions, ideas and emotions. Communication plays a crucial role in all aspects of daily life.

This paper explores the intricate relationship between communication and language, two fundamental aspects of human interaction. Communication, a process that exists across all living organisms, is the bedrock of human connection, encompassing various forms and types. The paper derives into human communication, examining its core elements, the reasons behind communication and the challenges that impede its effectiveness as well as the strategies to overcome these challenges.

The paper further explores human language, tracing its origins, highlighting its unique properties and its components, analyzing its functions and roles in daily life, social structures, and cultural identity. Furthermore, this paper explores the process of language acquisition, the concept of language universals, and the diversity of languages across cultures. Then the paper provides a comparative analysis between two concepts, language and communication, identifying both similarities and differences.

Finally, the paper concludes by maintaining that language and communication are not the same thing, but they do work together, and are used interchangeably to mean speaking person to person, and to make clear that both language and communication are important for a perfect conversation.

Key words: human communication, barriers, strategies, human language, similarities and differences.

الملخص:

يحتاج البشر إلى التواصل للمساعدة في البقاء على قيد الحياة، واللغة هي أداة التواصل الأكثر فعالية لنقل الرسائل والأفكار والمشاعر والأهداف، ويصبح دور اللغة مهماً على جميع الأنشطة اليومية للإنسان. وتوضح هذه الورقة البحثية العلاقة المعقدة بين التواصل واللغة، وهما جانبان أساسيان من جوانب التفاعل البشري. ويُعد التواصل عملية متأصلة في جميع

الكائنات الحية وهي حجر الأساس للتواصل الإنساني، الذي يشمل أشكالاً وأنواعاً مختلفة. وتتوغل الورقة البحثية في التواصل الإنساني، وتبحث في عناصره الأساسية، والأسباب الكامنة وراء هذا التواصل والتحديات التي تعيق فعاليته، بالإضافة إلى ذكر الاستراتيجيات التي تتغلب على هذه التحديات. كما يتطرق هذا البحث إلى اللغة الإنسانية وتتبع أصولها ويسلط الضوء على خصائصها الفريدة ومكوناتها، وتحليل وظائفها وأدوارها في الحياة اليومية والبنى الاجتماعية والهوية الثقافية. كما يتم التطرق إلى عملية اكتساب اللغة ومفهوم عالمية اللغة وتنوعها عبر الثقافات ويتم ذلك من خلال تقديم تحليل مقارنة بين مفهومي اللغة والتواصل، وتحديد أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بينهما. وأخيراً، تختتم هذه الورقة بالتأكيد على أن اللغة والتواصل ليسا شيئاً واحداً، لكنهما يعملان معاً، بشكل تبادلي مثل الحديث من شخص إلى آخر، كما تؤكد على أن اللغة والتواصل هما حجر الزاوية في عملية التواصل الإنساني.

Introduction

Communication is an essential process among all living organisms, occurring in different forms to support survival and interaction between living organisms. For example, animals have their unique ways of communication by signaling danger or location of food for their mates. Similarly, birds use songs to attract mates and establish their territory. (Catchpole & Slater, 2003). Certain fish use a unique kind of communication through electronic signals (Bullock, 1982). Insects use another kind of communication for example, bees perform complex dances to inform their hive of food locations (Frisch, 1967).

Communication is a universal phenomenon, an essential process that underpins interactions among all living organisms. However, human communication stands out due to its complexity and diversity, facilitated by various forms, including verbal, non-verbal and written modes. This paper examines what human communication entails, why it is crucial, and the elements that constitute effective communication. Despite its significance, human communication is often fraught with challenges and barriers that hinder the exchange of idea and information. Some strategies for overcoming communication barriers will be discussed.

Language is essential to human communication, which is a distinctive feature that sets humans apart from other species. Language is not just a tool for communication, but also a focus of cultural identity, social interaction, and intellectual development. This paper draws the lines of the history and origins of human language and functions. Moreover, it discusses its function in various aspects of life. Additionally, it will super scribe the interconnectedness of communication and language, investigate their similarities and differences.

1. Human Communication

Language is the exclusive and distinct way of conveying information. Humans interact with each other through language and linguistic means. However, language is a kind of a complex system that has made progress over a long period of time, which is non-identical of any other known in natural communication system.

1.1. What is Human Communication?

Human communication entails the exchange of information between individuals among a group of people, and every type of communication requests at least one person to send the message and the other to receive it. Communication can be governed by several factors, such as context, emotions, the medium of communication, and the environment in which it takes place. Moreover, communication is a learned skill that demands continuous refinement and adaptation in several social and cultural contexts. However most people are born with a physical ability to talk well and to achieve that they should make an effort to develop and refine this skill further. Communication is the act of giving, receiving or exchanging information so that the "message" is completely understood by both parties. Many researches have sought to establish an explicit definition of communication. Some of them are the following:

- The core of the word "communication" is the process of sharing information and making it more widely understood. (Weekley, 1967).
- Communication can also be defined as the act of producing and representing meaning. It involves the share of ideas and interactions among individuals or groups. (Giffin & Patten, 1976).
- Communication is a two-way process of reaching a mutual understanding, in which participants not only exchange (encoding – decoding) information, news, ideas and feelings, but also create and share meaning (Daniel, 2013).

Communication is ultimately defined as the process of sharing and transmitting facts, information, experiences, and emotions between two main parts, which are the sender and the receiver. This can be accomplished through verbal means, such as, speech, writing, and sign language, as well as through non-verbal cues like body language.

1.2. The Main Purposes of Communication

People communicate to foster relationships, share their thoughts, and feel valued. Moreover, people communicate to foster social bonds, to get things done or to make their intentions and feelings known and clear; fundamentally, communications guided by deliberate aims in mind:

First: human communication is absolutely a necessary effort, which allows people to adjust and respond to their surroundings, maintaining societal stability and fostering harmony by making necessary adaptations.

Second, through communication, humans can recognize possible threats to the natural environment, develop strategies to address them, and take action to preserve environmental stability.

Third, communication is essential for distributing the inheritance of socialization, committing members must engage in the exchange of values, behaviors and norms.

- People communicate in order to influence others and convince them to achieve something.
- By using communication skills, people are seeking information, this achieved when a person is asking someone the way to the supermarket, or when the student is asking the teacher for some clarification.
- People communicate to express emotions, such as joy, satisfaction, fear, disappointment, sorrow, or courage.
- People communicate for emotional connection or problem solving.
- People communicate to protest, whether to escape from a situation or to demand some changes,
- People communicate for social connection: attracting attention, expressing greetings, cracking jokes, starting a conversation, forming friendships and closeness with others / building relationships and making them stronger.

1.3. Elements of Communication

McLean (2005) discussed the elements of communication, and proposed that in order to understand communication, it is important to break it down into a series of essential components:

- The source or sender, the sender is the source of the message, delivering the speech and sharing information with the audience. First thing, he should decide what to say, and the way to express it. Then he will encode the message and finally transmits it to the receiver, making sure that it is properly received and understood. Finally, the sender observes the audience's reaction to observe their response.
- The message is the vital part of the communication, which is created by the sender for the audience. It shapes the idea, information, opinion, fact, feeling, and anything that the sender willing to send.

- The channel refers to the means through which the message transmitted from the source to the receiver, it is the means that are used to convey the messages and can include spoken or written channels.
- The receiver is the individual to whom the message is directed by the following processes: the receiver receives the message from the source, analyzes and interprets the message in both intended and unintended by the source.
- The feedback is the receiver's reaction to the sender's message, serving as approval on that the message has been interpreted properly.
- The environment encompasses the physical or psychological surroundings in which the message is transmitted and received.
- The context involves the setting, scene, and expectations of the individuals involved.
- Interference or noise can arise from any source; it refers to anything that disrupts or alters the intending meaning of the message being communicated.
- The effect is the most important goal of the sender's message to bring about a change in the receiver's knowledge and how he feels or believes (his attitude) and what he does.

1.4. Types of Communication

Communication can take various forms, include:

- Verbal communication, whether through speech or writing, it is an effective way to share information which can be classified into interpersonal communication, and public speaking (Aarti, 2011). It is important to recognize that verbal communication reflects an individual's personality and traits. Moreover, communication in this process requires an apprehension of both the context and situation.
- Intrapersonal communication is a form of self-communication, which reflects the process through which we think about our past and present actions and then it can be expressed to others through our responses to certain consequences, including gestures, and facial expressions. (Hanson, 2016)
- Non-verbal communication, this kind of communication reviews the process of conveying meaning through non-word messages, including all information, messages, and ideas expressed without using words, but by using gestures, facial expressions, body language and other forms of expressions that do not require words. (Verderber, et. al., 2014).
- Written communication we can communicate with other people through written words such as text messages, reports, articles and memos. Written communication allows for continuous clarification before reaching the final version, giving it a superior advantage.

- Face-to-face interaction represents a type of communication that takes place between individuals who are physically present in the same space, without the use of technology. It involves direct meeting, where people deliver meaning through both spoken language and non-verbal cues. (Goffan, 1980)
- Visual communication refers to the transmission of information through images, symbols, and design elements such as photographs, traffic signs, and logos. This method is more effectual than verbal or written communication. (Aarti, 2011)
- Mass communication is the process of passing information to the large audience, often at the national or global scale, through various printed and electronic media, such as newspaper, magazines, films, radio, and television, unlike interactive digital platforms, mass communication typically conveys content in a one-way motion. (IGI Global, 2019)
- Cross-cultural communication is another kind of communication, researching on how people from different cultural backgrounds communicate (Bartell, 2003). This kind of communication put different people from various locations, genders and cultures in a group to exchange ideas to be able to demonstrate new good results.
- Telecommunication is style of communication, which allows people through this technology to transmit information over a distance, such as telephone lines, cables, satellite, or whether people are listening to the radio, watching television or reading words in an email, these all are the telecommunication.
- Group dynamics refers to the way communication arises within groups, shaping interaction and sharing processes among members. It plays a crucial role in covering idea generation, as individuals cooperate, exchange views, and provide their thought. This collective engagement enables multiple times to work together, creating meaning and developing new concepts through discussion and interaction.
- Organized communication refers to exchanging and transmitting information between individuals and groups within an organization (Papa, 2007). It is a type of communication within an organization. Which is defined by structure and planning, making words or phrases, and images flow into direction and meaning. It refers to the communication that takes place between people who are working towards common goals within an organization.
- Mediated communication refers to a type of communication, which is performed by using information and communication technology, and can be compared to face-to-face communication (Crowley, 1994). This kind of communication was not accruing very often much rarer than face to face communication, but has expanded in modern times.

1.5. Effective Communication

Effective communication is extremely an important skill that lets us to become involved with others and express our thoughts and information clearly and accurately. Communication drives the world, and issues with communication can greatly influence our lives. Overcoming communication barriers is crucial for carrying out success and build relations with other people. Moreover, effective communication is necessary to successfully building relations with other people. It is a powerful skill that can be learned and improved with proper guidelines and practice.

1.5.1. Communication Barriers

It refer to anything that obstructs or descripts one of the communication channels, which can obstruct the effectiveness of sending or receiving message explicitly in both personal and professional interactions. Perceiving the key types of communication barriers is significant in order to identify effect strategies for overcoming them. Communication barriers can be organized into the following categories:

- Content barriers are things that create devastation during communication; this process distorts, blocks the exchanging information between the sender and the receiver. Some content barriers are: anger, group diversity, unrestrained behavior, personal neutrality, lack of confidence, improper priority, organizational structure, and position differences (Smith, 2015).
- Semantic or Language barriers, arise from unsuccessful communication between the sender and the receiver, often due to poor message quality and ambiguous information. These barriers lead to miscommunication matters, such as misunderstanding, misinformation, confusion, mistrust, uncertainty, frustration weak or incorrect feedback, and in some cases, even extreme consequences like tension, conflict, violence or death.
- Physical barriers, communication derived from various environmental factors that interrupt the flow of information. These include external elements like loud noise, poor lighting, or extreme temperatures, as well as internal factors, such as faulty technology or equipment mal-functions. Additionally, physical barriers can be caused by obstructed spaces, like closed doors or private cabins, which may restrict the chance, such barriers may lead to an overall breakdown in effective communication.
- Emotional (psychological) barriers, often emerge when personal emotions influence how a person figure out the subject or individuals involved in communication. These emotional responses can distort the message, hinder understanding. When emotions get involved in

communication, it becomes difficult for individual to pay attention to the content of the message, and this leads to misunderstanding and breakdown in effective interaction.

- Cultural barriers these barriers drive from differences in a variety of categories, such as religion, language, traditions, and power.
- Cognitive barriers in communication arise from combination of emotional and cultural factors that impact how a message is interpreted.
- Systematic (organizational) barriers these barriers happen when there is a lack of clear structure in an environment, they are common in work places where responsibilities are not well-defined or communicated effectively

1.5.2. Effective Strategies for Overcoming Communication Barriers

It is important to know how to overcome with the above-mentioned communication barriers to construct effective communication. The following are tips that help to navigate:

- Checking whether it is a good time and place to communicate with the person, and respecting the person's desire if they do not want to communicate.
- Communicating in a location that is free of distractions.
- Communicating one thing at a time.
- Avoiding grammatical and spelling mistakes.
- Avoiding ambiguous words and regional dialects.
- Confirming, understanding, and explaining confusing messages to the others to make sure that the person understood you correctly.
- Encouraging feedback by acknowledging any emotional responses that the person has to react.
- Do not make any judgments about what someone may be experiencing, always do ask.

Here, we will explore some practical tips and strategies to improve communication skills:

- Active listening by paying attention and trying listening. People want to know that they are being heard. And ask for clarification to avoid misunderstanding.
- Body language matters for face-to-face conversations and meeting. So make sure that you appear accessible, so have open body language. And be aware of other person's body language.
- Think before you speak. Not saying the first thing that comes to mind. Pay close attention to what you say and how you say it. This will allow you to avoid embarrassments
- Questions to get feedback. Feedback, both giving and receiving, is essential for growth. Constructive feedback helps us understand where we can improve, while positive feedback reinforces good behavior deeper.

- Be aware of non-verbal cues, which include body language, facial expressions and tone of voice. These cues, both in ourselves and others, can provide a deeper understanding of the message being conveyed.
- Review thoroughly before sending or writing anything.
- Maintain a confident voice, particularly in presentations.
- Be concise and specific. It is important to keep your message clear and concise so your audience understands your point, and does not get lost in unnecessary details.
- Make an effort to exhibit positive body language to reinforce your verbal communication.
- Keep a positive attitude and smile, as your optimism will be evident and the other personal will perceive it
- In short, affective communication is a skill that can be learned by applying the tips mentioned above, and then it will be easy to enhance the ability to communicate effectively.

2. Human Language

Language is so fundamental to human life; it is hard to imagine what life would be like without language. Although all species have their methods of communicating, humans are the only ones that have mastered a cognitive tool (language) which allows them to share information, thoughts, ideas, and feelings with others.

2.1. What is Human Language?

Language has attracted various definitions from a variety of scholars. These definitions are highlighted below:

- "Language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of system of voluntarily produced symbols" (Sapir, 1921, p.7).
- "A language is an artificial and consciously organized method of control by the use of symbols or conventions, which involves the notion of meaning" (Wilson, 1972, p.1).
- "Language is a system of meaning – a semiotic system -" (Halliday, 2003, p.2).
- "Language is a finite system of elements and principles that make it possible for speakers to construct sentences to do particular communicative jobs" (Fasold & Connor-Linton, 2006, p.6).
- "Language is a communication system composed of arbitrary elements which possess an agreed-upon significance within a community. These elements are connected in rule-governed ways" (Edwards, 2009, p.53).
- "Language is foremost a means of communication almost always takes place within some sort of social context"; "Language is a rule-based system of signs" (Amberg & Vause, 2009, p.2).

2.2. The Origin of Human Language

There has been a great deal of discussion regarding the origin of language. Whilst there have been evolving theories to describe the origin of language, 4 theories have been regarded as a cornerstone in language evolutions.

- Firstly, onomatopoeias theory focuses on the words that describe the sounds. For example, words such as 'Meow' and 'Roar' are used to represent cats and lions respectively.
- Secondly, expressive theory or 'Pooh-Pooh' theory, which hypothesized that words are originated from the expression of emotion or inner thought. For example, 'Ouch!' is used to refer to pain.
- Third theory, which is called 'a learned vocalization system', indicates that language can be acquired through experience and imitation rather than inherited. For example, when a child mimic the sounds that their parents produce or parrots that mimic words that they hear from surrounding environment.
- Finally, a gesture theory explains that primitive creatures used to use hands as a sign language to communicate before complex vocalization develop. For example, infants start communicating with parents using their hand motion before sounds are developed.

There have been many attempts in the history to link between theories so the full picture of human language development can be drawn. As such, in seventeenth century, Darwin explained that complex human language is a result of natural selection. In essence, humans started communicated by imitating natural sounds and animal voices then evolved to include gesture and eventually to expressive complex language. In modern world, Darwin theory have been studied further, and two further theories have been speculated. Firstly, it is claimed that language was the result of development in the human brain, at which point, humans gained the capacity for language. Secondly, the language developed generally as humans developed, it is thought to be a result of the evolution of the brain, nervous system, and vocal cords.

In Twenty Century, Chomsky (1957) and Saussure's (1959) studied the human language development further. Whilst these studies have been conducted only 2 years parts, the conclusions were different.

- On one hand, Chomsky's origin of language: claims that no one knows the origin of language and the God has gifted humans with complex language. He even went further claiming that studying the evolvement of language from apes and other animals is a waste of time; arguing that apes and humans language are different. Therefore, Chomsky support the idea that language

developed through mutation in human brain which gives humans a capacity to formulate and communicate in such a complex way that we see now. (Chomsky, 1957).

- On the other hand, Saussure's origin of language: convinced that language cannot be born from no where and it must have evolved gradually over centuries to reach such complexity that we observe nowadays. He claims that in modern days, we hardly hear about a new language has emerged and he insists that language is the only the product of past generation (Saussure, 1959). On the same line, Ulbaek proposed that the development of language takes different forms (Ulbaek, 1998):

- Continuity theory: This theory again supports Darwin theory that language development is a spectrum rather than discrete points and it added that language is so complex that it must have evolved from our primate ancestors and interaction between living things.

- Discontinuity theory: this theory disputes the above theory and claiming that human language is too complex to be evolved gradually through communication over period of time. This theory supports the idea that such language complexity has been emerged suddenly through development of human brains and hence it is called “language Organ”.

(<https://sabarishedn.blogspot.com/2022/04/language-across-curriculum-dialect.html?m=1>)

Therefore, while it is impossible to know exactly when or how the first human language has emerged, one thing is certain – language has been a powerful tool for connecting people for centuries.

2.3. Properties of Human Language

While humans speak different languages across the globe, they share common characteristics and properties. This makes it unique and different from animal language. The following are the most important properties:

- Language is human: It emphasizes that humans create the language through interacting in society and without humans, no language exist.
- Language is conventional: It indicates that human language is well organised through drawing agreement between society on how to communicate. Without such agreement, the human language can be disorganized.
- Language is arbitrary: It explains that there is no ground link between the sound of words and their meaning and instead such a relationship has arisen spontaneously. This has been evident by Plato in twentieth century when he explained that the communication between Hermogenes and Catylus over 2300 years ago was based on arbitrary words and meaning. (Plato, 1961). In

addition, this idea has been supported by (De Saussure, 1916, Hockett, 1960) when highlighted that human language is a symbolic system that consists of a group of signs and words that are not linked to particular meaning but instead they arbitrary attributed to symbols of alphabet for which the current language has evolved from.

- Language is dynamic: As humans and technology evolve over time, the language evolves as well. This dynamic feature enables humans to communicate effectively and cope with stressing environment. As such, new vocabularies have been added to dictionary that are related to evolving technology. For example, the word “GIF” which stands for ‘Graphic Interchange Format’ is added to Cambridge dictionary to refer to moving images.

(<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gif>)

- Language has forms: language has different forms whether a spoken form which is exhibited by all languages across living creatures or fine forms such as written or signed forms that represent high functional intelligent creatures.

- Language is adaptive: A special feature of human language is that the style of communication can be modified or adapted to match with social situation. Therefore, formal, informal, colloquial or derogatory styles have been evolved. For example, the word ‘inflate’ which indicates expansion such as inflating a balloon is formal word but in common plain English the inflate can be exchanged with the phrasal word “blown up”.

(<https://www.uts.edu.au/current-students/support/helps/self-help-resources/grammar/formal-and-informal-language>)

- Language can be learned: A child can pick up messages from their environment without being taught. This indicates that people can learn a language in different teaching sitting whether formal or informal. Therefore, this indicates that there is no limit on the number of languages a person can acquire and how to learn them.

- Language is pluralistic: It means that within one language, there are multiple, dialects, expressions and accents can be used. Notably, this evolves from social context for example social class or geographical location such as the differences between English spoken in the United Kingdom and United State of America. Nonetheless, the core meaning of abstract words and sentences are the same and people can understand each other to some extent.

([https://carap.ecml.at/Translations/CARAP-in-Malta/Malta-English-version/Pluralistic-Approaches-to-Languages-and-](https://carap.ecml.at/Translations/CARAP-in-Malta/Malta-English-version/Pluralistic-Approaches-to-Languages-and-Cultures#:~:text=The%20term%20Pluralistic%20Approaches%20to,simultaneously%20during%20the%20teaching%20process)

Cultures#:~:text=The%20term%20Pluralistic%20Approaches%20to,simultaneously%20during%20the%20teaching%20process)

- Language can be cultivated: Language is malleable and individuals, groups, or societies can shape the language to fit with their identity, culture and belief. This feature most notably during mass migration such as for agriculture in human history.
- Language is compositional: It indicates that sentences in language can be formed from adding and linking small words together. For example, Speakers use subjects, verbs and objects to create meaningful sentences to express their thought while using grammar to convey the period whether past, present or future.
- Language is referential: Language is used to describe or refer to things (i.e. descriptive language). These things can be object, living organism, concept or even idea. This allows humans to convey information about them to others.
- Language is cultural transmission: Humans inherit physical traits from their parents, but language is not one of them. Instead, individuals grow up in diverse cultural environments and learn different languages. Language is acquired within a cultural setting through interaction with other speakers, rather than through genetic inheritance. The transmission of language from one generation to the next plays a vital role in the language acquisition process. While humans are naturally inclined to learn language, they are not born with the ability to speak a specific one.
- Duality of patterning is unique to human language, which evolves when a growing number of meanings need to be expressed, so that combinatorial structure helps to keep signals distinct (Hockett, 1960).
- Displacement: This feature is unique to humans. It enables us to formalize high complex social interaction through communicating and telling stories that are no longer exist at the same time or place. For example, humans can use their imagine to create stories or to talk about events that happened in the past or to talk about people who are no longer share the same location.
- Creativity is another important feature of human language, which means language is rich and adjustable for evolving situation. For example, there are large number of **words, which in** different combination can even produce different meaning such as the use of phrasal verbs. Therefore, human language is open-ended and productive.

Chaer and Agustina (2004) suggested the following features:

- Language depends on auditory path way to preserve and interpreted vowel sounds.
- The sounds of spoken language spread in all directions, making it perceivable from various directions.

- Sounds are presented in the written form of sound recordings. People are always seeking ways to protect language symbols from rapid loss.
- During communication, individuals can simultaneously act as both the sender and the receiver of symbols
- In human communication, language serves as a form of a complete feedback that mean when a person speaks, they can hear their own sounds, allowing them to monitor and adjust their speech in real time.
- People can convey their messages through speech alone, without needing physical movements to support the communication process.
- In communication language, sound symbols represent specific meanings and certain concerns.
- The meaning of language symbols is not determined by any natural or inherent connection to what they represent, instead it arises from a mutual agreement among speakers who recognize these meaning within their community.
- Human language is presented in sentences, words, morphemes and phonemes.
- In communication language, we can refer to events that have already happened, thinks that will occur in the future, objects or places that are far away.
- Human language is flexible, allowing new speech symbols to be created and adopted to meet the needs of communication.
- Skills to master the rules and customs of human language are derived from learning process.
- Human language can be learned.
- Language is uniquely human in its ability to be used for deception or lying, a skill that other species do not possess.
- Language is made up of two primary systems: the system of sounds, and the system of meanings.

From the above explanations, we can conclude that human being is superior to every creatures on this planet, and the language he speaks is no doubt of unique properties that are of much complexity.

2.4. The Components of Human Language

Linguists have analyzed language in terms of several subfields of study. These include morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and phonology. Language is made up of these components:

- Phonetics is the study of the sounds used in language, focusing on identifying the distinct sounds that can be produced and assigning specific symbols to represent each sound.
- Phonology is the ability to distinguish and create the sounds of language (Bloom & Lahey, 1978). Phonemes are the smallest units of language, representing individual sounds. For phoneme example, consider the English words "pat" and "bat". The initial sounds /p/ and /b/ represent distinct phonemes, because substituting one for the other changes the meaning of the word. The word dog has three phonemes: /d/ /a/ /g/.
- Morphology is a key aspect of language, focusing on the study of morphemes, which are the smallest units of meaning. These include both base words and affixes. Morphology examines the rules that govern how these morphemes are created and how they interact within a language.
- Syntax examines how words and their smallest meaningful components (morphemes) are put together to form sentences. It involves the set of rules that determine how words can be arranged to create grammatically correct phrases and sentences. (Syntax English Dictionary, 2020.)
- Semantics: Lexical Semantics is concerned with exploring "how people understand words and what cognitive processes interact with this understanding to produce meaningful communication" (Ellis, 1999, p.60). Semantics is the study of how a language and sentences. It is the study of linguistic meaning. It examines what meaning is, how words get their meaning, and how the meaning of complex expression depends on its parts.
- Pragmatics: is the study of how context influence meaning in language. It examines how people use language in social situation considering factors like the speaker's intentions, the listener's interpretation, and the surrounding circumstances. (Agustina, 1962).

2.5. Functions of Human Language

Language has many functions, such as the following:

- Informative function: when humans use language to communicate any information, the function is to inform others being able to state facts clearly.
- Expressive function: verbal communication helps people in various means to express themselves. It helps people to convey their observations, thoughts, feelings, and needs (McKay, Davis, Fanning, 1995).
- Directive function are utterances that try to get another person to do something. They can range from a polite ask or request to a more forceful command (Hayakawa, 1990). This function

helps people to direct or command and gives the ability to know what to do in any given situation.

Pranowo (in Halliday, 1996) classifies the function of language into seven functions as follows:

- Instrumental function: where the language is used to fulfill personal needs such as food or drink. This usually starts with 'May I have or can I have'
- Regulatory function is used to impose control or influence others' behaviors and ideas. This usually achieved through commands, orders or setting up rules
- The presentational function is used to convey information, idea or opinion in structural way
- The interactional function focuses on interpersonal skills and fitting with the society through communication and socializing.
- The heuristic function is used when someone is exploring and learning new concept or knowledge. This usually starts with asking questions or formulating query. For example, in a child when exploring new environment or learning new skills.
- Personal function is the use of language to express feelings, emotions, personality, attitudes, and etc.
- Imaginative function is language that is used to create fantasy or to tell stories beyond reality.

2.6. The Role of Human Language

Language forms main part in humans' life as many aspects of daily activities depend on language. Some of these roles are discussed below:

- Human language as a communication device: by speaking, writing or using sign language, humans share experiences on a profound level. Through language, people are able to express unique perspectives and engage in meaningful conversations, conveying thoughts, feelings and desires to others.
- Human language in daily life: humans use language in day-to-day activities to communicate with each other, establish relationship, and express their opinion or to describe things. In addition, humans use language to complete tasks, perform jobs and achieve their potential, which also help them to build prosperity and survive. As much as humans depend on language on daily activities, also language depend on these activities to evolve. For example, the more experience the person have, the more enrich their language is. This can be achieved through learning another language or modifying language to fit with evolving technology.
- Human language in social life: Humans by nature are highly sociable creature; therefore, they need language to build bonds between individuals. In doing so, many words have developed to

break the ice when two individual meet for the first time. For example, the usage of greetings and introduction to break the hostility or unfamiliarity atmosphere.

- Human language, society and cultural identity: Language is used as a symbol that reflects someone's or group of people culture, history or identity. Moreover, language and culture are interlinked, and many research studies have conducted which demonstrate that culture influences the language and vice versa.

By considering each term on its own, culture is defined by (Le Page and Tabouret Keller, 1985) as a lifestyle of a community in which members share same behavior, interaction, belief, values and more importantly, the way they communicate. On the other hand, language shapes the way that people view others and themselves which is influenced by the culture they live in. Therefore, language is sometimes considered as a heritage that convey society traditions and values, and in doing so, it plays a role in their values and identity. Additionally, some cultures use certain language and ritual vibe to celebrate their heritage and to share their stories and beliefs to others.

Moreover, some can argue that languages symbolize different cultures and in turn can be utilized to create music, literature or poems to represent that culture. For example, the national anthem that each country has. Moreover, language can be used as a marker or a sign of which social group belong to. To complicate things further, language is also influenced by gender, age, class and ethnicity, not just culture. Therefore, the link between language and culture is never seen as just a simple linear relationship. In order to understand the culture and language properly, full study of other factors such as age, gender and class are required and this called sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics focuses on the impact of social and cultural on language. In doing so, many dialects have been documented in every language, which reflect the culture, and society it arose from and represent their educational, economic, social and historical circumstances (The Free Dictionary).

Sapir and his predecessors are aware of the close relationship between culture and language because each culture is reflected in and influences its languages. Moreover, anthropologists argue that in order to understand other society language properly, someone needs to learn their culture first.

Conversely, Whorf believed that the opposite is also true. As such, language also affects culture by influencing their thought process. He hypothesized that the words and structures of a language influence how the speaker behaves and feels about the world and ultimately, the

culture itself. The following quote is used most commonly to characterize the Sapir – Whorf hypothesis: "Human beings do not live in the objective world alone... but are very much at the mercy of the particular language, which has become the medium of the expression for their society. The worlds in which different societies' life are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached" (Sapir in Mandelbaum, 1963, p.162).

In a word, language is an expression of society, culture and identity.

In summary, the way we speak can be seen as a fingerprint of who we are and with whom we belong to. Indeed, as social creatures, we exist in different cultures and social classes but yet use our language as a way to convey our identity and heritage whilst curious to learn and know about other cultures.

Therefore, language serves as a vital tool for communication, identity formation, cultural expression, and historical preservation. It enables individuals to engage with society, uphold human rights, and shape their future. Through language, communities safeguard their traditions, memories, and distinctive ways of thinking. Additionally, language plays a crucial role in promoting human rights, good governance, peace building, reconciliation, and sustainable development. Indigenous languages are essential for fostering social, economic, and political progress, as well as ensuring peaceful coexistence and unity within societies.

2.7. Language Acquisition

All humans have the capacity to learn language. This led the linguist Noam Chomsky to propose the concept of universal grammar. He suggested that the foundation for language is built into our genetic communication make up. He believes that all languages follow a shared set of fundamental principles, and humans do not learn language simply through reinforcement, like rewards and repetition, but rather stems from an innate ability that humans are born with to acquire language. Chomsky explained that the human brain has ability-in capacity for language, which included natural limits on the possible structures a language can have. Therefore, infants are born with an innate sense of universal grammar, which guides their language learning. (Chomsky, 1957).

The language acquisition device is a specific, genetic human program, which allows children to learn and use the language, regardless of the degree of the difficulty of the language (Lara & Piers, 2014). By the age of five, most children learn to speak, which suggested that they are born with the necessary brain structures for language learning, however, children who grow up in complete isolation from human interaction do not develop language on their own. This highlights the importance of social interaction in language acquisition.

There are several theories about how children learn language, some propose that children acquire language by imitating others, and that is acquired through positive reinforcement. Children seem to learn grammar gradually, starting with simple rules, and gradually progressing to more complex ones as they begin to generalize and apply these rules.

Fromkin and Rodman (1993) outlined stages in language acquisition:

- Pre-linguistic stage (babbling stage) (birth to six months): in the early months babies start experimenting with sounds, making cooing and bubbling noises. However, they do not form words; they are practicing the basic of sound production, and resembling the sounds of human language.
- Single-word stage (holophrastic stage) (12-18 months): around their first year, toddlers begin using meaningful words that often stand as sentences. For example, saying "water" which can mean they want water.
- Two-words stage (18-24 months): children start combining two words to express more complicated ideas, such as "want milk", which refers to phrases that reflect their growing understanding of word relationships.
- Early multi-word stage (24-30 months): by age two, children begin forming short sentences using basic grammar rules, like subject + verb + object structures, such as "I want cookies."
- Later multi-stage (30+ months): as their language skill matures, children begin creating longer and more grammatically complex sentence, incorporating auxiliary verbs and more vocabulary, enabling more detailed communication.

2.8. Language Universals

Refer to the shared features presented in all human languages, regardless of their diversity. Halliday argues, "When people ask about universals, they usually mean descriptive categories that are assumed to be in all languages." (Halliday, 2002, p.12). The following are key language universals:

- All human societies possess language which is used as a mean of communicate. Additionally, all languages evolve over time, mirroring the constant changes within cultures.
- Every language is governed by a system of rules, and while languages may vary, they are all equally intricate and capable of expressing any idea or message in their language.
- Language functions as a symbolic system in every culture.
- Every language has a basic structure, organized key elements like subject + verb + object in a consistent order.
- Common grammatical categories, such as nouns and verbs, are presented in every language.

- All spoken languages consist of distinct sounds, which are classified into vowels and consonants.
- The fundamental structure of language is based on pattering duality that allows speakers to convey and understand any message in their language.

Many scholars view the statement of universals as a starting point in discovering the principles behind language acquisition. They aimed to comprehend the patterns and mechanisms that generate them. They acknowledged that the discovery of language universals is crucial for developing a biological prescriptive on human language.

2.8.1. Universal Grammar and Noam Chomsky

Chomsky defines universal grammar is "the system of principles, conditions, and rules that are elements or properties of all human languages..." (Chomsky, 1975, p.29). He argued that children are born with an innate ability to acquire language, means that they have a biological foundation that enables them to learn language naturally. Chomsky revived the term "universal grammar" to describe the inherent linguistic capacity. He also emphasized its crucial role in the creative aspects of language, allowing individuals to generate an infinite number of expressions and share new ideas in various situations.

2.9. The Diversity of Human Languages

Languages differ so fundamentally from one another at every level of description (sound, grammar, lexicon, and meaning) that it is very hard to find any single structure property they share. This diversity of languages is a fundamental part of its biological foundation directly influence how humans acquire and pass down language through cultural learning and social interaction. Moreover, the diversity of human language can be explored from multiple perspective, including genetic, developmental and cultural historical influences. It is essential to take into account that the rich diversity of human languages is considered as a treasure, enriches our world with huge perspectives, insights, and the way of thinking.

3. Language and Communication: A Unified Interrelation

Language and communication are closely connected, but they are different concepts, yet they complement each other, often people use the two terms interchangeable, considering both refer to spoken interaction between individuals, however, communication is a broader process of sharing information through various meaning, including gestures, facial expressions and written texts. Whereas language is structured system of words and rules, and it is a specific tool used

within that process. Interacting with others is a fundamental part of human life for a healthy and fulfilling life. In our increasingly interconnected world, the ability to communicate a common language is more important than ever.

Sometimes, language and communication show a very complex process, and we have to understand several key factors at the time of communicating and using language. These factors are:

- In language and communication, both the sender and the receiver must give a great importance to the context and situation. If they fail to do so, the message maybe be misunderstood, or may lead to unintended meanings which may end to serious problems.
- Feedback plays a crucial role in communication, as it comes from the receiver and helps confirm whether the message has been understood. It can take various forms, including verbal responses, like words agreement or clarification, as well as non-verbal cues, such as nodding, facial expressions, or body language. Without feedback, communication becomes one-sided way and it may lead to misunderstandings or lack of engagement.
- Channels in both language and communication refer to the medium, through which messages are transmitted. They determine how information is sent, received, and interpreted by individuals or groups. Channels can be categorized into different types, based on sensory perceptions and technological medium, and verbal and non-verbal channels. The most important thing is to select the convenient channel at the onset of communication.
- Understandable: Communication must be clear and comprehensible to both parties, as understanding is a crucial aspect of effective communication. If one part of communication fail to comprehend the exact message, then communication loses its purpose and significance.
- Emotional awareness: if somebody is in bad mood, and you "as a speaker" do not understand his situation, and continue speaking, good communication does not happen. So, the receiver's mood should be considered before starting any communication.

4. Key Differences between Language and Communication

Language and communication are often so closely linked to extend that distinguishing between them can be challenging for some. Yet, there are fundamental differences that set them apart. In the following, we will explore these distinctions:

- Language is an organized method of communication that utilizes spoken, written symbols to express thoughts, ideas and emotions. In contrast, communication is the broader process of

sharing information between people, focusing and delivering an understanding the message effectively.

- Language serves as a tool for communication, this enabling the expression of thoughts and ideas, while communication is the overall process of transmitting messages from one person to another.
- Language is constantly evolving with new words being invented and added to dictionaries over time. Whereas, communication remains stable, as its fundamental steps and processes do not change.
- Language is mainly transmitted through auditory channels, shaping our perception through sounds. In contrast, communication utilizes all sensory channels, allowing an effective communication process to engage many senses, such as sight, touch, and even smell.
- Language is less complicated than communication, because it does not demand making decisions based on situations or context. On the other hand, communication is a highly complex process, as it needs considering multiple elements, such as the situation, context, and audience.
- Language primary focuses on words, signs and simples, as they aid in understanding. Meanwhile, communication centers on delivering and interpreting the message effectively.

In summary, communication encompasses a broader scale than language, as language is the foundation of communication, and is essential for its existence. Additionally, both language and communication are fundamental for meaningful and effective conversations.

Conclusion

In summary, communication in the natural world is diverse, with different species employing unique methods to interact and convey information. This paper has focused on the distinctiveness of human communication, particularly through language, as Chomsky (1965) argues; human communication is uniquely characterized by the use of language, which is a complex, rule- governed system that enables expressions and thought. Throughout this paper, the essential elements of human communication have been explored, including the need to convey information, express emotion, and build relationships in daily life. Then, the historical evolution was traced, highlighting its development into a sophisticated tool for communication. This paper has manifested the complexity of human communication, the challenges it faces, and the strategies that can be practiced to overcome these barriers. It has also explored its critical function in society as well as understanding and improving communication skills.

Moreover, this paper briefly addressed the processes of language acquisition, demonstrating how individuals developed language skills and the concept of language universal versus diversity. The discussion has underscored the importance of understanding language as a fundamental component of human identity and culture, with its ability to bridge gaps among people. A comparative analysis has been conducted to show the similarities and differences between language and communication, taking into consideration that language and communication are frequently used synonymously, typically to describe verbal interactions between individuals. However, there are essential and logical differences between these two concepts.

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