



EXTENSIONAL AND INTENSIONAL USE OF LANGUAGE MEANS COMMUNICATION

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Abstract

We must always remember that communication is a willingness to listen, an honest attempt to put oneself in another's place in an effort to understand him. It is a habit of looking to the advantages, benefits, and possible effects of proposals before arriving at judgments on their merits. It is also a deep interest in talking with people rather than at or to them. It is a feeling for and an understanding of the dignity of each person as an individual, and a concern for his welfare, Hence, a prime pre-requisite to communication between man and man is an emphasis on humaneness. That emphasis is still very much alive among college students and hence our hope to work with man to solve his problems lies in communication.

Keywords: *extensional, intentional, language, communication.*

INTRODUCTION:-

Though language is a social activate, it is also a means of communication. It is true that the primary use of language is to establish comradeship; however we cannot establish comradeship unless we gain mastery on language as a tool of communication. We often come across the expression like 'the language of the eyes' the language of the body' the language⁴ of flowers' or 't the language of painting' It is said that some Red Indian tribes convey message through what are called 'sign languages' We also hear of finger-language which is used by deaf and dumb persons. WE often come across the term 'animal communication' and say that dogs communicate through barks and birds through bird-calls. It indicates that even animals and birds have their ways of communicating messages. Even monkeys and birds utter a peculiar sound as they sense the approach of threat in the form of man or other animals. It suggests that birds and animals to have their own languages in which they communicate. However the term 'language' used rather loosely for the systems of animal communication has got a very broad meaning and does not possess the characteristic of language as we understand the term. When we refer to the term ' language' , we mean natural languages or human languages such as Marathi, English,

Bengali, Hindi, Greek, French or Tamil. They are called human languages because they are spoken by human beings alone. Language is a special gift of human beings. We must note the fact that all human beings have language and only human beings have language.

Body –Language :-

It would be apt to also examine the term ‘body-language’. Allan Pease describes body-language as communicating without words. Body-language can be described as non-verbal communication which includes certain gestures, postures, position and distances, Non –verbal communication is , however, a complex process involving people, words, tone of voice and body movements. Most of the basic communication gestures are the same all over the world. When people are happy, they smile; when they are sad or angry, they frown or scowl. Nodding the head generally indicates ‘yes’ or affirmation whereas shaking the head from side to side indicates ‘no’ or negation. When a baby has had enough milk, he turns his head from side to side to reject his mother’s breast. The shoulder shrug is also a good example of a universal gesture that is used to show that a person does not know or understand what you are taking about.

Symbolic Language :-

What is symbolic language then ? It is the language which separates the men from animals. It is man’s unique ability to make things stand for other things. It means that language is a symbolic system and it makes use of words, and words are symbols. A symbol is essentially a concrete sign which stands for a relatively abstract idea or meaning.

Words as Symbols :-

Such words offer us a major advantage. They can indicate things when the things are into around to point at. When we say the word ‘horse’, we understand its meaning even though the ‘horse’ is not around to point at. If you are in Chennai and want to buy an orange, perhaps you can get one by pointing to it and holding out some money’ but if you can say ‘orange’ in Tamil, you can get one even when there is none in sight to point to. It is the same with all our word ‘orange’ you can point to an orange by way of definition. So it is with ‘telephone’, ‘motor-car’ ‘railway-engine’, or clock’ There is linguistic convention of a culture by which these words represent or symbolize certain objects, or classes of objects; they can be defined by direct reference to the objects represented.

Features of Linguistic Symbols :-

Linguistic symbols are primarily vocal symbols and language is primarily speech and it is writing only secondarily. Speech makes use of sounds and these sounds can be represented in the written form by means of letters. And therefore, writing is only a way of recording speech. Even today there are certain preliterate societies for which speech is the only manifestation of language because these language have no script. Though we live in literate societies, we also use speech more often than writing in our daily lives. Thus the linguistic symbols are composed of speech sounds and they are arbitrary. Hence, what we call ‘cat’ in English is called ‘billi’ in Hindi in Hindi, Bakku in Kannada, ‘majar’ in Marathi etc. It indicates that the relation between the word and the things or idea conveyed by it is almost entirely arbitrary. Further, these linguistic symbols have a definite structure; that is, speech sounds in them come in a specific order;

Extensional and Intentional use of Language :-

The trouble, however, starts when we come across words that are supposed to mean something that cannot be pointed at. It is a stage where a word has a meaning to

the speaker, but all too often quite a different meaning to the listener. Language that refers to objects that can be pointed at is called Extensional. Such expressions have different meanings to different listeners or readers. It might mean one thing to tourists whereas to farmers or merchants it might mean quite a different thing. What they convey to A is different from what they convey to B. The meaning differs according to past experience or associations of the listeners or readers. The dictionary further describes communication as 'the art of expressing ideas, especially in speech and writing; In other words, communication amounts to sharing of each other's feeling, thoughts, ideas and beliefs between two persons and requires mutual inter-action. William Newman and Charles Summer define 'communication as an exchange of facts, ideas, opinions, or emotions by two or more persons' whereas according to Birvenu, 'Communication is the process of transmitting feelings, attitudes, facts, beliefs, and ideas between living beings'.

Communication – a Social Affair :-

As Colin Cherry says, "communication is essentially a social affairs." Its function is to enable man to associate with one another and to work together cooperatively for the common good. It is, therefore, that the efficiency in communication is essential without which the relation of man to man would be indeed seriously handicapped. We have now come to realize that mere knowledge is not enough to get ahead in this world; one must also be able to think clearly, to speak effectively, and to listen sensitively. In other words, communications is practical. The difference between the successful man and the unsuccessful man is frequently the superior ability of the first to communicate, to talk well, to write well and to listen well. The skill in communication is not something that just comes naturally. In fact, it comes more readily and consistently from intensive study of the principles of communication followed by experience in them.

Scope of Communication :-

We must always remember that communication is a willingness to listen, an honest attempt to put oneself in another's place in an effort to understand him. It is a habit of looking to the advantages, benefits, and possible effects of proposals before arriving at judgments on their merits. It is also a deep interest in talking with people rather than at or to them. It is a feeling for and an understanding of the dignity of each person as an individual, and a concern for his welfare, Hence, a prime prerequisite to communication between man and man is an emphasis on humaneness. That emphasis is still very much alive among college students and hence our hope to work with man to solve his problems lies in communication.

The Process of Communication :-

There is no doubt that communication has got very crucial importance in the modern world and has got great significance to the individual and to society. However, we are still quite ignorant about the process of communication. Fundamentally, Communication may be interpreted to mean simply 'that information is passed from one place or person to another, and whenever communication occurs, the of component parts involved in the transfer of information comprise a communication system.' This is true of speech-communication which is a continuous, two-way, on-going process, and may be defined as follows: "Speech-communication is a transactional process in which the communicator-speaker interacts with communicator-listener(s) in the attempt through words and signs to influence behavior." One of the dictionary meanings of Transaction is 'mutually profitable exchange' and this is the basic idea behind the process of communication. The word process suggests a continuing, on-going, and developing activity directed toward

some process suggests a continuing, on-going, and developing activity directed toward some end. The definition highlights the fact that both speaker and listener are active participants in the process of communication. Thus what is essential for communication to occur is the cooperation between two parties, one active or at the giving end (the sender) and the other passive or at the receiving end (the receiver). The definition highlights the fact that both speaker and listener are active participants in the process of communication.

Difficulties :-

Unfortunately, the struggle to communicate is not just one existing between two persons speaking different languages' it is one affecting any two or more speaking the same language. For instance, in talking about the generation gap, we often say with considerable truth that old and young "do not speak the same language. "or we often come across a situation in which a highly educated person finds it difficult to find the right words for communication with a workman or a farmer with little or no education. Our common complain is 'cant find a word if ' which correctly indicates that the person is held captive within the bounds of this own language. It implies that he feels handicapped by what he does not know about his own language - because of course no one has complete command over English. It clearly means that our language is not merely a reproducing instruments for voicing ideas but rather is itself the shaper of ideas. How well we shape them depends on us. We often use our language so carelessly and inaccurately that any two of us might just as well be taking two languages! We must always bear in main that communication is the basis of understanding, for cooperation, and for action. Whenever we are with other people, we communicate in some manner, and usually n more ways than one.

The Essentials of Good Communication :

Usually one thinks of communication as a single step : transmitting an idea. Actually, communication starts with clarifying an idea in one's own mind, possibly with the help of others; then transmitting it to the persons concerned; and finally, motivating these persons to take action. These are, in face, essential of good communication with is the life-blood of organization. It takes many forms such s speaking, writing, and listening, though its purpose is always to convey a message to recipients. One should, therefore, use it to handle information and improve relationship. It is always a tow-way process- there are always at least two parties involved in any communication, each of whom may have different wants, need, and attitudes.

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