

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

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**Annotation:** *Communication is an indispensable part of any community where people feel the need to interact with each other for certain reasons. It is by means of the notion of language that people can communicate with number of speakers in variable situations. Nevertheless, while communicating, people need to consider items beyond words. Language users are supposed to follow some conventions according to which their conversation will be not only meaningful but also appropriate. In view of that, the present chapter aims at examining the relationship between language and culture, and clarifying the concepts of culture and pragmatics.*

**Аннотация:** *Общение является неотъемлемой частью любого сообщества, где люди испытывают потребность в общении друг с другом по определенным причинам. Именно с помощью понятия языка люди могут общаться с несколькими говорящими в различных ситуациях. Тем не менее, общаясь, люди должны думать о вещах помимо слов. Им нужно знать, как что-то сказать, а также когда, где и кому. Число функций, которые имеет язык, многочисленно. Пользователи языка должны следовать некоторым соглашениям, согласно которым их разговор будет не только осмысленным, но и уместным.*

**Keywords:** *communication, pragmatics, culture, language, meaning, symbols, society, expression, interaction, cross-cultural acts, transmit, imply.*

**Ключевые слова:** *коммуникация, прагматика, культура, язык, смысл, символы, общество, выражение, взаимодействие, межкультурные акты, передача, имплицит.*

Language is basically a means for communicating with others. However, its usage requires not only the knowledge and understanding of a large number of words or the mastering of grammatical rules, i.e. language is more than lexis and syntax. It involves in addition to knowing what to say, knowing when, where, how, and why to say it. Language, a system of conventional spoken or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture express themselves. Sapir's most known definition about language: "Language is purely human and system of non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires means of a voluntarily produced symbols." What we can derive from this quotation is that language is specific to human beings because only human have the capacity to produce words and utterances to communicate as well as to refer to different things and times.<sup>1</sup> He adds that "Every cultural pattern and every single act of tool of communication is language. In other words, language is the shared linguistic system in a given speech community, which is said to be

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<sup>1</sup> Sapir.E. An introduction to the study of speech. New York: Hartcourt, Brace, 1921.

# INTEGRATION OF PRAGMALINGUISTICS, FUNCTIONAL TRANSLATION STUDIES AND LANGUAGE TEACHING PROCESSES

not only a code but also involves social practice interpreting and making meaning, i.e. we use language in many ways, however, we should conform to some social rules such as formality and politeness. The way language is being used and the type of language used is largely dependent on the situation, environment. In other words, on the context in which it is being used. In this regards, Kramersch states that: Constructing a speech event means not only having a choice of grammatical and lexical features, but deciding which to choose from, depending on one's assessment of the whole situation of communication, and expectations raised in the speaker and the listener by that situation.<sup>2</sup> Language is used to transmit messages, information, knowledge, ideas, attitudes, beliefs, opinions, and feelings. From the mentioned points, it can be said that there is a relationship between language and culture in general, and a specific language and its culture in particular. In other words, language is the symbolic presentation of a culture. An understanding of the relationship between language and culture is important for language learners, users, and for all those involved in language education. Edward Sapir, in his studies with Benjamin Lee Whorf, recognized the close relationship between language and culture, concluding that it was not possible to understand or appreciate one without knowledge of the other. However, Wardhaugh reported that: "The structure of a language determines the way in which speakers of that language view the world, as a weaker view, the structure does not determine the world-view but is still extremely influential predisposing speakers of a language toward adopting their worldview." Wardhaugh also adds that "The culture of people finds reflection in the language they employ, because they value certain things and do them in certain way, they come to use their language in ways that reflect what they value and what they do". It is generally agreed that language and culture are closely related. Since language can be viewed as a verbal expression of cultures. It is used to maintain and convey culture and cultural ties. In fact, language provides us with many categories that we use to express our thoughts. Besides, it is natural to assume that our thinking is influenced by the language which we use. The values and customs in the country we grow up in shape the way in which we think to certain important extent. Indeed, culture is embedded in every language use, "How language works, how we make sense in language, how we mean things to each other – all take place within specific contexts, and in these contexts, cultures are in play as habitual patterns of interaction routine forms of social practice... culture is implicated in every instance of language in use" Friedrich argue that "Culture is part of language just as language is a part of Sapir shares the same view of Friedrich, that language is a part of culture".<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Kramersch C. Language and culture. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

<sup>3</sup> Friedrich. "Teaching Culture". Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008

## INTEGRATION OF PRAGMALINGUISTICS, FUNCTIONAL TRANSLATION STUDIES AND LANGUAGE TEACHING PROCESSES

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