

It group, people often  
choose to sit

Literature, Russian Literature



It is widely agreed that personal space is highly valued and people tend to feel uncomfortable, angry, or anxious when their personal space is invaded; and according to Engleberg & Wynn (2006), permitting a person to come into personal space and entering somebody else's personal space are indicators of perception of those people's relationship.

Moreover, clearly, no matter the culture, the distance zones that we choose for different groups and people can communicate our feelings towards them in very powerful ways. Intimate distance is obviously the space set aside only for those who we trust, love and consider the most important in our social spheres. If such people are present in our most inner circle, we, of course, enjoy their presence, but to other uninvited existence, we will shut down and try to retain somehow our comfort zone. This explains why we feel uneasy, embarrassed or even furious when a person we are not familiar with gives a sudden hug or kiss.

The confusion and panic caused by one's exposure to unwelcome invasion of his/her personal distance can be usefully exploited in some cases. "For example, one of the popular interrogation techniques is to intimidate the suspect by getting very close to invade his intimate zone. Then, while he is helpless, try to exploit this vulnerability and discomfort to extract information" (Tarakanov, n.

d.). People that we feel at ease around and have a good relationship with are accepted in personal zone, which is an easy and relaxed space for "talking, shaking hands, gesturing and making faces" (Tarakanov, n. d.

). Depending on personal preference and affection, this zone may contain some smaller divisions but the main point is that the more we like someone, the closer we tend to sit or stand to him/her. This is the reason why people of the same group have a tendency of sitting in same table when they attend parties and even in the same group, people often choose to sit next to the person they share more things in common and feel comfortable to talk to.