

Confucianism



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Confucianism Cross-cultural miscommunication refers to a concept derived from cross-cultural communication. Basically, this involves communication between individuals of two or more cultures. Miscommunication has always been an issue whenever there is a collision of cultures. Such misunderstandings might occur with mannerism, language and other communication aspects. This paper presents a miscommunication case whereby a Chinese (me) and an English man interacted. The cross-cultural miscommunication in this case was politeness. The art of politeness in these two cultures differ a great deal on behaviors such as greetings, addressing and complimenting. Thus politeness being a universal communication phenomenon it reflects particular cultural values that come with or rather which are linked to diverse cultures. Being a relatively vital aspect in cross-cultural communication, politeness enables people from different cultures to establish, consolidate or maintain harmonious interpersonal relations that reduce misunderstandings and conflicts in the society.

A snapshot on various aspects of politeness in the two cultures, Chinese and English, depicts that the rules of communication differ as they are influenced by the values and beliefs of individuals from these communities. For instance, the English people always address others according to their genders; Mr., Mrs., Miss and Ms, followed with a surname, depending on age and marital status. On the other hand, the Chinese address people using a surname and the title of the occupation; “ Wang yi sheng” to mean Doctor Wang, “ Lee xiao zhang” to mean Principal Lee and “ shi fu” can be used to address strangers. In addition, the Chinese culture, especially for children, “ shushu” and “ a yi” are always used to address uncle and aunty respectively.

Another aspect of politeness in the two cultures is farewell and greetings. Whenever the English people meet, they always use phrases like “ Nice to meet you,” “ Good Morning,” “ Good evening” and “ Good afternoon.” For the Chinese, the phrase “ ni hao” is always used whenever people meet. Moreover, when the China people meet their acquaintances, one can say “ qu na li” to ask where one is going or “ chi le ma?” to ask whether one has eaten or not. Thus, whenever an native speaker of English hear the Chinese phrases, he or she might interpret them as invitation lunch or dinner and any other interference in their personal affair.

I met one of my colleagues, an English speaker on my way to a restaurant. I was not fluent in English by then, having learnt a few English words, I opted to use my native language. After shaking hands I asked him, “ qu na li?” to mean “ where are you going?” To my surprise, he replied “ Yes, I don’t mind.” My colleague misinterpreted my question for a lunch invitation. I had no otherwise. I had to buy lunch for two of us. As we were taking our lunch, I opted to engage him in a further discussion. There was a man sitting at the table next to ours, he looked point to where the other man was sitting. My friend replied, “ I know that chief, we always meet in a math class.

In conclusion, cross-culture miscommunication is a serious issue among people from different cultural backgrounds. From the above discussed example, of a Chinese and an English man, various phrases are confused or misinterpreted unknowingly. Therefore, it is clear that a member from a given culture can always suffer from miscommunication not unless he or she attends the basic lessons of other cultures; politeness in every culture is basic for effective communication. If my friend would have an understanding

of the above Chinese phrases, he would not have misinterpreted my questions.