

# Culture

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Culture is the characteristics of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts. Culture is something that is learned and is passed on from generation to generation. According to Damen, L. (1987). *Culture Learning: The Fifth Dimension on the Language Classroom*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley. " Culture: learned and shared human patterns or models for living; day- to-day living patterns. these patterns and models pervade all aspects of human social interaction. Culture is mankind's primary adaptive mechanism" (p. 367).

Culture is a very important aspect of life. Through culture people are able to make connection with each other. People are able to acquire ways of living that helps them day-to-day to survive. From birth, culture is learned from the surrounding and environment around people. Culture shapes our values, beliefs, orientation, traditions, structures, behaviors, and thinking. In Chapter 3 on Culture, differences and similarities were discussed from every side of the world. One of the most significant differences in cultures are the languages.

There are roughly 6, 500 spoken languages in the world today. Interestingly, even with all those languages spoken around the world, people from different sides of the world are still able to communicate with each other, through symbols, face expressions, and body language. Through that difference, a similarity is found. That in the midst of the language barrier, when its truly needed, we all are going to have to use some body language, some face expression to get through another person. In America, nearly

every region of the world has influenced the American culture, as it is a country of immigrants.

Although, the American culture is a mixture of different regions, there is still a noticeable difference in Americans way in approaching success, Americans, as the sociologist Robin W. (1965) in 12 Core Values Statement, “ Americans place a high value on personal achievement, especially outdoing others. This value includes getting ahead at work and school and attaining wealth, power and prestige. ” Or what we call individualistic, a culture that values individual needs and accomplishments. While most Asian cultures tend to be collectivistic, which values success and need of a group, value harmony in their groups.

Religious practices is another difference all cultures have. Americans in Chapter 3 is said to be religious, while in the communistic countries, they subjugate their citizen's to the government's will thus, other organizations or activities such as Church has decreased power or no power at all. American's way of approaching science and technology is rather aggressive,. American's constantly are finding and building new creations, new functions of things, better versions of gadgets, with that being said, its citizen's also accept this quite well as it is part of the culture.

Thus, in other cultures that are high-context, technology will have less usefulness in their perspective. High-context individuals prefer less coded message, they will most likely seek to know more about the message by other traditional means implying more physical cues such as facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice. Subsequently after reading the culture chapter in the book, learning of differences in cultures like Japan, <https://assignbuster.com/culture/>

British, Europe, Bulgaria, I began to explore a little bit more towards what makes the world much the same and I realized that humans have more in common than they do differences.

In Maslow's pyramid or Maslow's Hierarchy, all humans have basic physiological needs such as food to eat, clothes to wear, sleep. All humans needs to feel safe, and this could be family, property, housing, employment and Maslow called it safety needs. Humans also share a significant need to be loved and to belong. And the last two in Maslow's Hierarchy are self-esteem needs and self-actualization. We, humans all need some degree of self-esteem, confidence, respect, morality, achievement and so on to survive.

This means that humans must have these needs to survive and all cultures share these needs no matter what environment we are in, no matter what differences we have as a culture or subculture. Due to different approaches and solutions to the problems of existence or cultural variabilities, cultural relativity, and environmental differences, these cultural differences arise in all the corners of the world. Differences though, is rather a gift than it is a barrier. Differences brings people together and through that we find that as humans, we have more similarities than we do differences.