

Assignment 4



Non-intrusive breaching experiment: Singing in a Bus Every society has some established norms about the public behaviour. It is not necessary that the norms observed in one society may be observed in another society.

However, there are certain social norms which are observed universally. For example, singing inside a public carrier like bus is an unaccepted social behaviour. People may respond to this behaviour in different manner. This paper analyses a non-intrusive breaching experiment; singing inside a bus, conducted by me and the reactions of the passengers inside the bus. The bus which I used for this experiment was filled with many passengers. Some foreigners like Indians and Pakistanis were also there inside the bus. I was seated at the middle portion of the bus. Immediately after the bus was started to move, I started to sing loudly. The person sitting next to me was an American and he asked me to stop singing. The driver also looked back and shown signs to stop singing. I did not obey and continued my singing. All the passengers inside the bus looked at me with different facial expressions, body languages and gestures. Some of the Indians and Pakistanis inside the bus enjoyed my performance along with some of the Americans and they took this incident lightly. However, some other passengers, mostly the Americans have shown signs of agony and discomfort. Some of the passengers approached the driver and asked him to stop the bus and throw me out of the bus. Some others murmured that I have some mental disorders. Surprisingly, after five minutes, everything started to stabilize. My fellow passengers started change their attention from me and focussed more on outside sceneries and sights. Even though, I tried to vary the volume of my sound very much in order to irritate my fellow passengers, many of the passengers did not care and I stopped singing after some time. Suddenly

people again started to look at me. They were watching my expressions and movements with curiosity. I told them that I have no problem and I was conducting an experiment to study their responses. The above experiment taught me many lessons about the social behaviour. The first lesson I learned from this experiment was that any behaviour which is unacceptable to a society may be treated differently by different people. Some people may show harsh signs of response whereas some others may respond moderately. A third segment of people may take such behaviours lightly if it does not cause any physical harm to anyone. Different people may exhibit different responses to unacceptable social behaviours. In many cases, the responses of the people towards unacceptable behaviours are short lived if the behaviour is not causing any physical damages to others. The initial discomfort shown by the public against an unacceptable social behaviour may be disappeared after some time when they accustomed to it. In short, my experiment taught me many valuable lessons about the public reaction to unacceptable social behaviours.