



## THE IMPORTANCE OF NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION AND ITS EFFECT ON TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS

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### Abstract

Language is used as a tool among human beings for expressing their feelings through which one can find and get their basic and advance needs from society. People in society share the same native or other languages used to fulfil each other's needs. Based on these languages it is identified that communication is a key factor between lecturers and students. Lecturers and students exchange their ideas, thoughts, feelings and emotions. Also, this includes not only verbal communication but non verbal communication also. It plays an important role in the process of learning. Transaction and interactive effects with a man have mostly focused on his own words and have lost awareness of what signal is being sent by the body at the same time. The facial expression, tone of voice, posture, eyes contact, gesture, touch and sights are the most frequently used nonverbal communication channels. Nonverbal communication expresses through non-linguistic methods. It includes kinesics cues such as facial expressions, eye movements, gestures and body orientation. Vocalic cues such as volume, pitch, rate and inflection. Proxemics cues such as space and distance. Although, we may send nonverbal messages deliberately or accidentally but its meaning depends on how it is interpreted. Consequently, they fulfil communicative functions. It communicates about messages, clarifying both the nature of our relationship and the meaning of our verbal messages. In fact, researchers conclude that nonverbal cues carry approximately two-thirds of a message's communicative value. Even when used independently of words, as long as an observer derives meaning from it. Of course, the amount of information conveyed varies according to its clarity and how receptive and perceptive the receiver is. Based on interpretations of our nonverbal cues others may decide if they like us. And they will or will not listen to our ideas or want to sustain or terminate our relationship. The ability to understand and respond to nonverbal messages helps unlock meaning's door.

### Keywords

*Language, Communication, Learning, Interactive, Gesture, Vocalic, Pitch, Sustain and Terminate, etc.*

### Full Article

#### **Introduction:**

Non-verbal communication has been recognized as an important technique, which has a positive influence on the comprehension of the students. As a result, it helps in better learning and understanding of the concepts. The core objectives of this study are to examine the importance of non-verbal communication in the process of teaching. Also, this paper will discuss the functions and principles of using nonverbal communication in the classroom and it will show some fundamental ways of using nonverbal behaviours to improve the process of useful teaching as well as the importance of nonverbal communication that could be fully acknowledged by both students and lecturers.

Nonverbal communication is an important form of teaching. The profit for a teacher is to progress a strong sensitivity and capability to interpret student nonverbal communication. Lecturers and



instructors should be good listeners not only to words being spoken but also nonverbal cues which are used in the classroom such as teacher's facial expressions, postures, gestures, touch and eye contact are very important in all cultures. However, some of the cultures across the world have their perception about nonverbal cues in classrooms like some of the students dislike eye contact and gaze, touch and postures.

Human non-verbal communication skills usually develop automatically through the developmental stages of infancy and early childhood. These are skills that are not directly taught instead this is more unconscious learning of how to read people. Spend some time with small babies and see how they easily do the social interaction dance. They respond to the facial expression and tone of voice of others, they can gain the attention of their caregivers with little effort and they can use their facial expressions, voice and body to begin to exert control on the world around them. They have the basic communication skills making the world a comfortable place and allowing them to maintain their sense of safety and well-being. The experts described that nonverbal communication is learned well before a child begins the process of verbal communication. The studies on nonverbal communication have commonly focused on the teaching methods in the classroom which may be used in teaching. Effective teachers use body language to communicate with students build rapport with them and make them feel safe and supported. Nonverbal cues bested many purposes in the communication process and there are many channels of nonverbal communication. The teacher willing to communicate effectively with their students will need to pay attention to their body language, gestures, facial expressions, eye contact and presentation known as the impact of these cues are valuable steps toward success as a teacher. This paper will focus on teacher's nonverbal communication and successful teaching through nonverbal signals. Some important points expressing the importance, necessity, advantages or functions of non-verbal communication are as below:

#### **Reflect Speaker's Attitude:**

Various non-verbal cues of the speaker like physical movements, facial expression, a way of expression play an important role in expressing the inner meaning of the messages in face-to-face conversation and interview. For example the facial expression of the speaker indicates his attitude, determination depth of knowledge, etc.

#### **Know the Status of the Listener:**

On the other side of the communication process sometimes the appearance of the listener and receiver conveys their attitudes, feelings and thoughts regarding the messages they have read or heard. The listeners clothing, hairstyle, neatness, jewellery, cosmetics, and stature of people convey impressions regarding their occupation, age, nationality, social or economic level and job status. For example; students, policemen, nurses, etc. can easily be identified through their dresses.

#### **Communicate Common Message to All:**

In some cases, non-verbal cues can effectively express many true messages more accurately than those of any other method of communication. For example the use of red, yellow and green lights and the use of various signs in controlling vehicle son the roads.

#### **Easy to Understand the Handicapped People:**

Non- verbal cues of communication greatly help in communicating with the handicapped people. For example; the language of communication with the deaf depends on the movements of the hands, fingers and eyeballs.

#### **Helps Illiterate People:**

Communication with illiterate people through written media is impossible. There may also be some situations that do not allow the use of oral media to communicate with them. In such situations non-verbal methods like pictures, colours, graphs, signs and symbols are used as the media of communication. For example- to indicate danger we use red sign.

### Quick Expression of Message:

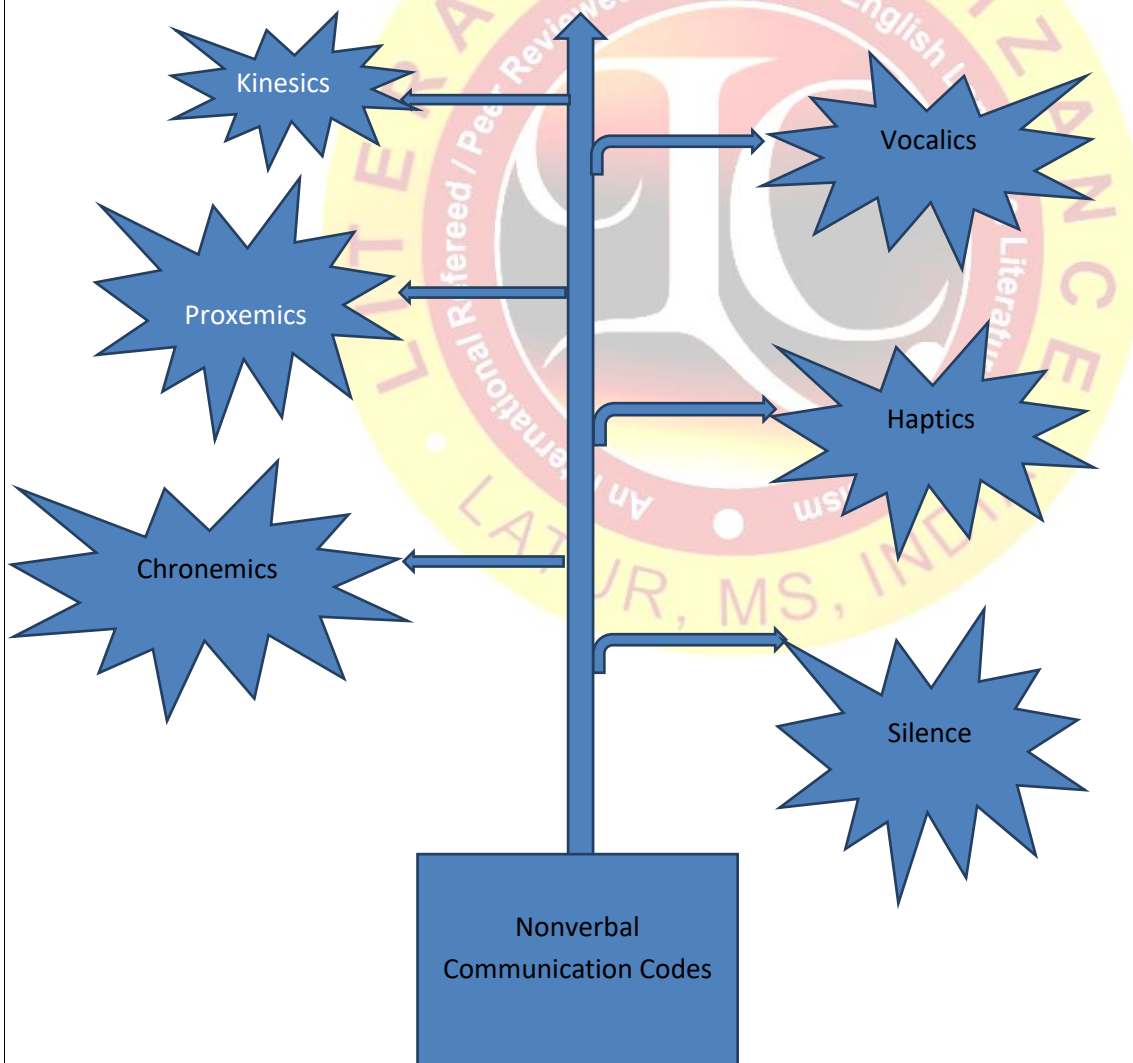
Non-verbal cues like sign and symbol can also communicate some messages very quickly than written or oral media. For example-when drivers of a running vehicle are to be communicated that the road ahead is narrow or there is a turn in the road ahead, we generally use signs or symbols rather than using any written or oral message.

### Preciseness:

Sometimes quantitative information on any issue may require a lengthy written message. Such lengthy message creates confusion to readers. So this quantitative information can be presented easily and precisely through tables, graphs, charts.

### Non Verbal codes of communication:

Now, closely look at the different communication codes regarding non-verbal Communication:



### Kinesics:





Kinesics is also known as Body language, is the most widely used communication medium by us. Many times, these messages are involuntary. It is important to understand what these messages are and how they are interpreted. Both the sender and the receiver understand the meaning of these body movements in the particular cultural environment that they share. Emotions like anger, happiness, sadness, joy or restlessness find expression more through body language than by verbal language. Some of the more dominant body language that we encounter is given below. There are many ways in which we can improve our self-esteem using our body language. Some of them are:

Making eye contact while talking.

Standing straight.

Keeping our chin up.

Greeting others with a firm handshake.

### **Vocalics:**

Vocalization is an attribute that is displayed by the vocal cords in the mouth. Each and every person has their own individual sound, depending on the pitch and intensity of the words formed with the mouth. The person does not have to be physically present, yet, his/her attribute can be detected by sound. The words vocalized in speech are quite important; on the other hand, characteristics such as rhythm, pitch, intensity and nasality are more sensitive to the ear of the listener. The intonation and intensity seem to give valuable information to its listener. From an early age, babies respond to expressions of their parents and to the sounds of their parent's voices. When a baby cries, a mother can often distinguish whether or not the baby is hungry, wet or in severe pain. The mere interaction of parent and child provides the transmission of information and responses to the messages.

### **Proxemics:**

It deals with territorial boundaries that we set, to decide whether to allow or not to others join. Depending on where you are from, proximity seems to vary slightly. In most cultures, when two people communicate, there is a tendency to move towards things that are of interest to them and avoid things that are unpleasant. Encountering a stranger, there may be discomfort. Both communicators will keep their distance from each other until communication has been established. Nonverbal communication is affected greatly by the degree of comfort between two people. Once communication is established and the communicators feel comfortable in each other's presence, the distance between the members will diminish and the degree of eye contact and direct body language will increase.

### **Haptic:**

If someone is not close enough to see nonverbal behaviours, it is hard to establish their importance. One such attribute is that of touching. Often touching signals have been used to communicate a message. The technical term for touching is that of haptics. Haptics is communication by touch, which involves hundreds of sub microscopic nerve endings serving as tactile receptors and detecting pressure, temperature texture, pain, stroking and tickling. Haptics is basically concerned with the effects of touch on people. For haptic, the members must be within close proximity of each other.

### **Chronemics:**

The Communication conveyed through a sense of time is called Chronemics. It deals with the manner in which we structure our time. Some of us are preoccupied with time, while others regularly waste it. Some of us are typically early, while others are chronically late. Some of us approach life with a sense of urgency, while others prefer a more leisurely pace. Individuals not being on time for meetings, interviews give the impression that the person is inefficient and cannot



manage things on time. It reveals the character of the person. Chronemics is the ability to project time as a dimension of orderliness, discipline, sincerity, reliability, seriousness of purpose and punctuality. In India being late for meetings or appointments conveys that the person is very important and busy.

### **Silence:**

The strategic use of silence is one of the powerful non-verbal tools. This is a passive nonverbal communication but at times can convey much more than words or actions. When a person becomes silent it can communicate many things for example the person is sad, mentally upset, angry, helpless, fearful, respectful and ignorant. It is a very effective tool to communicate the above-mentioned emotions. It can also be interpreted as shyness. It allows students to process information, encourages reflection and can be used to emphasize key points.

### **Relation between Nonverbal Communication and Teaching Learning Process:**

Nonverbal communication refers to a form of communication without using words to express oneself. Nonverbal communication is very basic and teachers tend to take it for granted and always ignore it in classroom teaching. For achieving the goal of teaching and improving teaching quality and efficiency in the classroom, the improvement of the teaching method is a very important factor. However, nonverbal communication does exhibit a central part of human behaviour; it remains far from being well understood. English teachers want to be a focused on English grammar and vocabulary, ignorant of the practical usage of nonverbal communication, the students will think and feel that the teacher's and lectures are boring and they are frequently absent on purpose.

If a teacher can use nonverbal communication correctly and at the correct time, it will be very helpful for students to understand commands over knowledge in the classroom and it is much easier for students to memorize something soon. Teacher's eye contact can be an effective tool for the stronger relation between teacher and students, which can help a teacher to manage his students.

The teacher must know about the impact of nonverbal communication and he/ she should be an expert in communication because it follows that they must know about nonverbal communication which is also referred to as body language. The experts described that every teacher must be known as a nonverbal communicator for two primary reasons, first to become a good receiver of student's messages and second to use the capability to send students positive signals that fortify learning. Besides that, many teaching method experts have been proving that every student's nonverbal expressions serve as an important source in the formation of teacher's impression, treatments, beliefs and bilateral behavioural expressions. Much more is communicated by nonverbal means, like feeling and importance. To be a better receiver of students' messages, all teachers must be known as many of these delicate nonverbal cues. The researcher will be much stress on five important aspects of nonverbal communication in the classroom, these five important aspects can explain nonverbal communication in the classroom, such as teacher's eyes contact, teacher's Facial expressions, teacher's postures, teacher's Gestures and teacher's touch some students in the classroom.

### **Eye Contact in the Classroom:**

Every individual communicates through eye behaviours initially. Whenever eye behaviour is often studied under the category of kinesics, the face and eyes are the most important point of focus during communication. Along with our ears and eyes we can take most of the communicative information in the classroom. Eye signal represents an important part of facial expressions and give us the ability to know the student's behaviours and read their thoughts. The eyes are the window of the soul. Everyone is significantly accurate in judging the way of another person's





gaze. In college, from an observation of where a student is looking the teacher can infer what the student is looking at and also can consider what he is interested in. Hence eye movements can be a much more important channel of nonverbal communication in the classroom.

### **Facial Expressions in the Classroom:**

The human face is the most expressive part of the body. The most of the emotional information is carried in the shape of the mouth and eyebrows. The human face is extremely expressive able to express countless emotions without saying a word and unlike the forms of facial expressions that are universal, the facial expressions for happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, fear and disgust are the same all over world. A relaxed and smiling facial expression is an indication of teacher satisfaction with his current environment. Facial expressions between teacher and student are a very important part of nonverbal signals in the classroom. The lively facial expressions can progress a supportive and non-threatening classroom environment which aids students' positive treatments and corresponding achievements. While a teacher asks a question gently the expected expression indicates to cheer students to think carefully and respond actively. The teacher's bright and smiling face conveys warmth and encouragement in all cultures.

### **Postures in the Classroom:**

It is one of the impressive codes of nonverbal communication. The good posture means standing upright with shoulders straight; slightly head up with eyes facing the front. As well as these nonverbal signals begin at birth, even before a baby can know that it has a corresponding meaning. Scholars described that babies shake their heads from side to side to reject their mother's breast and later shake their heads to deny attempts to spoon-feed. For teachers sitting or standing in a relaxing and professional manner is a positive posture which can stimulate students' positive attitude.

### **Gestures in the Classroom:**

Gestures of humans are the most common form of nonverbal communication. The gestures are usually made with the hands and arms. It is an expressive motion or action with the head or even the whole body. A spokesman uses gestures for some purposes to strengthen an idea or to describe something well. Some teacher may be considered boring, stiff and inanimate if he fails to use gestures while speaking. Comparatively, a lively and animated teaching style captured students' attention and makes the material much more interesting. In process of teaching hands and arms movements are often employed to physically depict conceptual, intellectual or narrative elements of teaching.

### **Haptic in the Classroom:**

Touch is very necessary for human beings social progress. It can be welcoming, threatening or persuasive. There are several kinds of touches, including functional-professional, social-political, friendship-warmth and love-intimacy. It is observed that how touch can tolerate someone in a moment of sadness when words alone cannot express feelings. Every person, know that a pat on the back can mean a touch of friendship or a cue of cheering. It is not common for a College teacher to touch students except in some special situations such as cheering and encouragement. Touch with cheerful words can be much better than just words.

### **Conclusion:**

To conclude, this paper discussed the main ideas related to nonverbal communication with a special emphasis on aspects of nonverbal communication that relate to teaching and learning in the classroom. Lecturer's nonverbal signals create a comfortable and relaxing environment for students and this enables them to have self-confidence which leads to increase in participation and contribution to the lesson. Non-verbal communication signals encourage students to engage and



interact during their lectures. The impact of non-verbal communication in teaching is profound, serving as a pillar for enhancing educational effectiveness. This study underscores the pivotal role that facial expressions, body language, gestures and other non-verbal elements play in the teaching and learning process. The ability of educators to harness non-verbal cues effectively can transform the educational experience, fostering engagement, understanding and positive teacher-student relationships. As technology and teaching methodologies continue to advance there is an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen the impact of non-verbal communication. Virtual reality, video conferencing and other technological tools offer new avenues for educators to refine and augment their non-verbal communication skills, especially in the context of evolving educational landscapes. In essence, the study affirms that non-verbal communication is not a mere supplement to verbal interaction but a dynamic force that shapes the very fabric of the educational journey. Its impact ripples through classrooms, influencing student engagement, participation and overall academic success. Through the enhancement of non-verbal communication we pave the way for a more holistic and effective educational future.

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