

# Beyond Implication of Meaning

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## Abstract

The article is an endeavor to investigate the changes that have occurred into the English Language due to cross nation communication. It also attempts to find out whether these changes are for good and what are the chances of sustaining of these changes?

## Keywords

Implicit, Explicit, Asia, Expression

## I. Introduction

At a arbitrary leisurely walk in a small or large scale company office we see people affianced in reading reports, drafting e-mail messages, attending meetings, conducting interviews, chatting on the telephone, conferring with subordinates, evaluating mails, dictating correspondence or making. Since communication is such an impending and integral part of an organizational constitution, I have attempted to talk about it in the article.

From the conception to the product on shelves, many things happen such as designing the concept and then all the mechanism involved in making it a reality besides further to the effort selling it, on popular basis. Various stages are involved in this chain process and the prime among them is the uninterrupted communication of ideas and processes. Sometimes projects get overdue, targets are overrun, and there is much panic about the results – all due to lack of coordination whose root cause is lack of apposite communication.. This is a widespread problem for corporations that employ people who comprehend the language of research but possess a few skills to prove their stand at the same time addressing the wrong audience at the wrong time. Can they buy their argument in their favor? And that too on time. The only known way to win a communication is to crack the meaning. If one is not able to handle this load of information then all the efforts may go haywire.

Thinking about millions of people involved in the exchange of meaning one thing that supersedes the others is communication confusion. This anxiety generates from the fear and stress associated with certain types of meanings of communications in the business world. A frequent inability to put down on paper or on a computer screen the words or sentences that represent an idea- hence distortion of meaning , leading to this anxiety. To see it from the other perspective lack of critical thinking on the part of the reader/ listener can also mislead the meaning. Severity of the communication error increases when words also have a tendency to carry hidden meanings in the context.

## II. Role of communication

Careful analysis is necessary to transform idea into messages. It is here the meaning of message generates- both on the part of the reader and the writer since the communication process involves both the sender and receiver of the messages. Meaning is the integral part of the decoding process in which we assign value to a word. It is natural tendency to perceive the message communicated with individual stance. Many of the problems allied with business communication can be liable to poor interpretation of meaning. This reduced perception of message along with the nature of words to carry double

meaning leads to the interruption of meaning to a point where cues are missed and information is misinterpreted

Relation between language and theory of mind is ancient infect they both are indivisible. Language and theory of mind have co-evolved, given their close relation in development and their unyielding connection in social behavior. What are the constituents of genuine language? Modern English language is typically described on several distant levels: philosophy, morphology, language rules and semantics. Semantics is the language of signs. On a wider scale we can take implicit and explicit form of expression also under it. There should be rules governing sentence composition under above categories. Language occurs in some context, and must express beliefs, hopes, intentions, etc. While these beliefs and hopes, etc. are no doubt states of the speaker's nervous system, the sentences should also relate to exterior objects and situations. Believing something is in relation to what is being believed: these relationships should be capable of conveying a meaning to the word. But matters are much less clear when it comes to the meaning part of the word. Meaning is real and includes both what the author intended and what is actually said therefore explicit and implicit meaning of words. Since every speaker comes from some cultural background baggage it is almost unfeasible to detach his/her understanding of conversation from this background. Things also take different hues, occasionally completely not required, in cases of high and low context cultures. To decrease the confusion of communication, sentences should be composed of smaller units, each of which indicates the conditions to be satisfied to make each sentence true. When centuries ago Saussure explained how different signs have different meanings and how words change their meaning in the context, he had least idea that he was explaining a perpetual problem of language. It is really doubtful as meaning of words have ever been studied so vigorously by so many persons ( Saussure , Morris etc) from so many point of views. The army of investigators include: linguists, logicians, biologists, psychologists and to complete the list management employees.

## III. Cultural context and meaning

Coming back to the cultural context of meaning of words we see that America is considered to be a low-context cultural land, in terms of language also. Whereas in Europe- specially France- there is the predominant environment of high context culture. In a high- context culture, there are many contextual elements that help people to understand the rules. As a result much is taken for granted. This can be very confusing for a person who does not understand the unwritten rules of the culture or language. Thus the implicit meaning remains a conundrum for the outsider. American context as well as Asian context of language are low- context, hence the communion in these places tend to be longer in order to explain the details. Highly mobile environments where people come and go need lower-context communication. With a stable population, however higher context language may be used.

While seeing the high dependency on the language in conducting business one fact becomes apparent that cultures like America use event and explicit messages that are simple and clean yet this kind of usage of explicit language may fetch the desired

businesses but this usage does not guarantee long term business associations or loyalties. In the high context cultures like European, heavy dependency is on the usage of implicit expression since they tend to work under close knit implicit usage of language. Members of communitarian cultures place less importance than individualists on relationships with outsiders, such as strangers or casual acquaintances. Boundaries around relationships tend to be less porous in communitarian contexts like Japan, where attention is focused on maintaining harmony and cohesion with the group. In the individualist setting of the United States, by contrast, "friendly" behavior is directed to members of in-groups and strangers alike. This difference can lead to misunderstandings across cultures, since the U.S. American behavior of friendliness to strangers may be seen as inappropriately familiar by those from communitarian settings, while U.S. Americans may find social networks in communitarian settings very difficult to penetrate. Though this entire practice of using implicit language may obstruct their business dealings, Thus to promote the global participation in business low- context / explicit usage of language is appreciated. While screening an overview of Asia we see that it poses the most potential threat for cross cultural language understanding. However Asian professionals are well educated in doing business with the West and they try to understand the high/ low context language. Due to its bulky population and its diverse usages Asians have developed a very vague form of expression. The communication logic behind this is that by avoiding direct or explicit statements one has a better chance of not causing offence. So surprisingly enough, if Japanese can be an implicit communicator at the same time an Indian can be an explicit one. Such mixed usage of language is an impending challenge in business world. HIGH CONTEXT (HC) LOW CONTEXT (LC)

### Association

- Relationships depend on trust, build up slowly, are stable. One distinguishes between people inside and people outside one's circle.
- How things get done depends on relationships with people and attention to group process.
- One's identity is rooted in groups (family, culture, work).
- Social structure and authority are centralized; responsibility is at the top. Person at top works for the good of the group.

### Association

- Relationships begin and end quickly. Many people can be inside one's circle; circle's boundary is not clear.
- Things get done by following procedures and paying attention to the goal.
- One's identity is rooted in oneself and one's accomplishments.
- Social structure is decentralized; responsibility goes further down (is not concentrated at the top).

### Interaction

- High use of nonverbal elements; voice tone, facial expression, gestures, and eye movement carry significant parts of conversation.
- Verbal message is implicit; context (situation, people, nonverbal elements) is more important than words.
- Verbal message is indirect; one talks around the point and embellishes it.
- Communication is seen as an art form—a way of engaging

someone.

- Disagreement is personalized. One is sensitive to conflict expressed in another's nonverbal communication. Conflict either must be solved before work can progress or must be avoided because it is personally threatening.

### Interaction

- Low use of nonverbal elements. Message is carried more by words than by nonverbal means.
- Verbal message is explicit. Context is less important than words.
- Verbal message is direct; one spells things out exactly.
- Communication is seen as a way of exchanging information, ideas, and opinions.
- Disagreement is depersonalized. One withdraws from conflict with another and gets on with the task. Focus is on rational solutions, not personal ones. One can be explicit about another's bothersome behavior.

### Territoriality

- Space is communal; people stand close to each other, share the same space.

### Territoriality

- Space is compartmentalized and privately owned; privacy is important, so people are farther apart.

### Temporality

- Everything has its own time. Time is not easily scheduled; needs of people may interfere with keeping to a set time. What is important is that activity gets done.
- Change is slow. Things are rooted in the past, slow to change, and stable.
- Time is a process; it belongs to others and to nature.

### Temporality

- Things are scheduled to be done at particular times, one thing at a time. What is important is that activity is done efficiently.
- Change is fast. One can make change and see immediate results.
- Time is a commodity to be spent or saved. One's time is one's own.

### Learning

- Knowledge is embedded in the situation; things are connected, synthesized, and global. Multiple sources of information are used. Thinking is deductive, proceeds from general to specific.
- Learning occurs by first observing others as they model or demonstrate and then practicing.
- Groups are preferred for learning and problem solving.
- Accuracy is valued. How well something is learned is important.

### Learning

- Reality is fragmented and compartmentalized. One source of information is used to develop knowledge. Thinking is inductive, proceeds from specific to general. Focus is on detail.
- Learning occurs by following explicit directions and explanations of others.
- An individual orientation is preferred for learning and problem solving.

Speed is valued. How efficiently something is learned.”

#### IV. Significance and adaptability

We ordinarily say that a fact is conveyed explicitly if it is expressed by the standard meaning of the words used. If something is conveyed but not explicitly, then we say it has been conveyed implicitly. It is common to both sources of implicitly concerns supporting facts that are necessary for the explicit part to have the meaning it has. Thus the more explicit the research, more explicit the gain. The research out to foster learning for that reason one need to have some element of implicit meaning in the research so as to stimulate the thoughts. The emphasis might be on helping the reader to move along. Since many people believe that instead of uncovering true, deeper beliefs and values, peoples' attitudinal expressions are the result of often distorted, temporary constructions created on the spot. Now this approach for implied meaning leads to further research which is good in more than one way. But for this also every researcher should understand the danger and complexities involved in the various meanings of words or implied meanings.

#### V. Conclusion

In business world where shifting priorities take place on daily routine, discrepancies generated by communication gap poses a potential threat to the harmony of business whereas in written communication the focus should primarily be on conveying the relevant business information. Oral and written communications about business are seen primarily as opportunities to convey information. They are generally taken at face value and are not examined for possible hidden meanings or for what they might convey about the amount of trust among the employees hence problems of Implicit and Explicit meaning. In places like US people gauge the trustworthiness of their colleagues by the directness of their message. Canadian have slightly different balance of language and they are more formal and they use less humor in their communication. The Canadian showcase low-context moderate instrumental and direct orientation to language which means more and more heavy dependency to the explicit form of communication. While taking example of Indians' usage of language it is imperative to say there is flair of casualness. Hardly attention is paid to the implicit meaning of the words or to the tendency of words to carry dual meanings.

The social patterns have their role in forming such mindset of casualness towards language. The less serious one is about the task at hand the more casual approach will be revealed towards the expression – let's say expression through written communication. There are rare instances where implicit meaning is weighed to the total outcome of expression. The working reason behind this premise is the belief that we all are same. Although we share a common human nature, culture channels are common needs, yet assuming that these similarities predominate when engaging in written communication carries a greater risk. Due to this reasoning we often engage in wrong meaning of words.

A consistent and deliberate chain of efforts needs to be put into the communication process to develop a habit of using a correct word in the correct context especially avoiding dual nature words. This shows the importance of these two interrelated starting points, individualism/ communitarianism and low/high context. While there are many exceptions to cultural patterns and all of us use different starting points depending on the context, noticing the intersections of ways

of making meaning is often a useful window into conflict dynamics.” A conscious effort is required to write neutral language so that there is decreasing danger of implicit meaning and one can communicate effectively through what is written without creating any further confusion. But a lot of practice and training is required from early stages of academia to instill this practice and make it natural. The world is becoming a global market for upcoming mushrooming of business. If companies want to provide an efficient and effective communication then they must not only appreciate the culture of the other country but also analyze their communication strategy.

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