

A Study of Relations between Intercultural Communication and Other Disciplines

Hengbo Yang

Professor, Qujing Normal University, Qujing, China

1184603907@qq.com

Keywords: Relations; Intercultural Communication; Other; Disciplines

Abstract. Intercultural communication as a social science began in the 1950s when Edward. T. Hall published his book *The Silent Language*. Guided by this book, intercultural communication has rapidly developed in the United States, in which diversification is the main factor to propel. As a newly-established subject, intercultural communication has its relations with other disciplines like anthropology, psychology, sociology, linguistics, etc. The paper is intended to make a study of relations between intercultural communication and those disciplines for the purpose of exploring the origin and development of this new subject.

Preface

With the globalization, intercultural communication has increasingly become more and more important in every field of society. Intercultural communication does not happen between people to people, but also among nations. Its scope has been beyond our expectations due to the changing situations. Under this background, intercultural communication as a course designed in universities shoulder its responsibilities in order to meet the demands of the world. On one hand, educators should constantly face the challenges in the new times. On the other hand, teachers should be aware of the relations between intercultural communication and other disciplines so that they know how to promote the content of this course.

Intercultural Communication and Anthropology

It is widely accepted that anthropology is the major factor to theorize the intercultural communication. It lies in the following points. First from the essence of anthropology, this social science has influenced the birth of intercultural communication. According to the definition of anthropology, it is the study of humans and human behavior and societies. It is composed of social anthropology, cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology and biological or physical anthropology. These elements are also the content of intercultural communication, which lays a ground for this course. Those anthropologists like Edward. T. Hall, Clyde Kluchohn , Geert Hofstede have made their great contributions to the emergence of intercultural communication. Their books and documents are the theories in constructing the framework of intercultural communication. And in anthropology, archaeology, which studies past human cultures through investigation of physical evidence, is thought of as a branch of anthropology in the United States and Canada, while in Europe, it is viewed as a discipline in its own right or grouped under other related discipline, such as history. Therefore, in the history of human, anthropology is a science closely related to the development and progress of culture, which is the focus of intercultural communication. It is safer to say that anthropology determines the origin of intercultural communication.

Intercultural Communication and Psychology

Firstly, intercultural has its direct links with psychology, which clearly shows the relation between intercultural communication and psychology. Here the definition of psychology proves the fact. Psychology is the science of behavior and mind, including conscious and unconscious phenomena,

as well as feeling and thought. It is an academic discipline of immense scope and diverse interests that, when taken together; seek an understanding of the emergent properties of brains, and all the variety of epiphenomena they manifest. As a social science it aims to understand individuals and groups by establishing general principles and researching specific cases. Psychologists are trying to make a study of human's mind and behaviors, which provides some positive solutions to developing human's thought and mind. They explore behavior and mental processes, including perception, cognition, attention, emotion (affect) intelligence, phenomenology, motivation (conation), brain functioning, and personality. For example, American famous psychologist Abraham Maslow proposed the Hierarchy of Needs based on the human's development that is the driving force for the social progress Maslow stated five stages: physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness needs, esteem needs and self-actualization needs. These needs clearly reflect each individual's aspiration for living and growing together with society. Obviously, positive motivation and personality with thinking ability are the most important qualities to experience each stage of human's needs. Take China as an example, in order to realize the national rejuvenation, the government has called people to stick to the core values of socialism. That is to say, each individual should have noble qualities of being patriotic, equal, free, democratic. With the qualities in each individual's mind, the well-off society and national rejuvenation are sure to be

Intercultural Communication and Sociology

Intercultural communication develops so rapidly in recent years. This is due to the social changes and social development. Society is viewed as a drive to facilitate the forward of intercultural communication. In order to find the answer, let's look at the relation between intercultural communication and sociology.

Sociology is the scientific study of society, patterns of social relationships, social interaction, and culture of everyday life. It is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about social order, acceptance, and change or social evolution. While some sociologists conduct research that may be applied directly to social policy and welfare, others focus primarily on refining the theoretical understanding of social processes. Subject matter ranges from the micro-sociology level of individual agency and interaction to the macro level of systems and the social structure.

From the definition of sociology, it is obvious to see that one of the purposes of intercultural communication is promoting the exchanges of society including social relationship, social interaction and culture of everyday life. From the past to the present, each social reform and change have brought about great achievements for human and world. For example, the worker's movement led by Karl Marx was in relation to the social reform. And worker's movement created the fundamental conditions for the birth of Marxism. In his time, Marx analyzed the problem between workers and their employers from the perspectives of sociology. His famous works *On Capital* is a highlight guiding the progress of society. Nowadays all social reformers are constantly making a deep study of society in terms of social problems, social changes, social innovation and etc. The purpose of doing this is for social development. For instance, with the rapid development of Chinese economy, a lot of social achievements have been made; at the same time, some problems also arise. In order to handle the problems effectively, reformers and sociology should be active to find solutions, such as making a study of people and society, exploring the root of problems and taking some measures. All of these are the content of intercultural communication. Therefore, intercultural communication as a branch of social science has its close links with sociology.

Summary

Through the brief analysis above, it is obvious to find that communication is not an independent discipline, but a multidisciplinary. It covers anthropology, psychology, sociology, which is the core of human development. With this characteristics, intercultural communication as a discipline shoulders its responsibilities and tasks which will broaden our visions and enhance our

understandings of relations with other sciences. More importantly, teachers teaching intercultural communication are required to master wide knowledge so as to reach the aim of this subject. Meanwhile, students will be trained to promote their competence of communication with more knowledge obtained and more skills got from learning, experiencing and educating.

References

- [1]. Brislin, R.W.,&Yoshida, T.(Eds,) (1994) Improving intercultural interactions: Modules for cross-cultural training programs. Thousand Oaks: SAGE.
- [2]. Biggs, J.B.(1996),The Chinese learner: Cultural, psychological, and contextual influence. Hong Kong: Comparative Education Research Center.
- [3]. Gardner,R.C.(1985).Social Psychology and second language learning _The role of attitude and motivation. Victoria, Australia: Edward Arnold.
- [4]. Y.X. Jia,(2010),Intercultural Communication Research. Higher Education Press.