

Across Culture Communication Style Choices in Western and British Culture in The Leap Year movie.

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Abstract

The different cultures, power distance could be the obstacle in intercultural communication. The aim of this research to identify the types of Cross-Cultural Communication Style Choice between British and American in the Leap Year movie. The researchers attempt to reveal kinds of Cross- Cultural Communication Style Choice between Declan as British and Anna as American for three days. This Qualitative research method analyses data of utterances and are classified into four types of Cross-Cultural Communication Style Choice. The result shows that there are 356 utterances of Anna and Declan. for three days. Anna has 204 utterances with 44,3 % direct style and indirect 5,8 %.. Declan uses 155 utterance with 37 % and 12 % indirect style. British tend to use more indirect styles in expressing their intention to save the interlocutor's face. Meanwhile, American use direct styles to reveal their intentions as they belong to the high culture communication.

Key words: across culture communication, direct style, indirect style

INTRODUCTION

The different cultures can cause same difficulties in communication. Some lexicon and styles choices are used differently in the different language can cause some problem in intercultural communication. The behaviour of the participants also impact the culture. Culture is the beliefs, the way of life and the norm are shared and accepted in particular society. It's accordance with Hall's opinion (1997) about culture "Culture is concerned with the production and exchange of meanings between the members of a society or group." Culture "is what distinguishes the human element in social life from what is simply biologically driven. Culture is also seen as being embodied in more specific groups as well as in societies and each of these cultural and sub-cultural groups has its own culture, its own way of life, its own way of knowing and of seeing, its own world-view, its life force (Ferraro 2002). Ferraro (2002, p.194) further contends that: ...we operate within a web of cultures and sub-cultures, including school cultures, church cultures, ethnic cultures and corporate cultures. These cultures strongly influence the way we think and behave, and they often are radically different from other cultures. By understanding and appreciating the cultural differences and similarities throughout the world, we will prepare ourselves from operating in a world that that is rapidly losing its borders.

Based on these views, culture is something that regulate the certain group to do something, communicate each other and how to behave with the multiple socials belongings. As a consequence, we need to recognize that the classes of social interaction which are examined in studies of Cross Culture Communication are to study interaction between individual and group from difference culture and to examine its impact to their group. Cross cultural communication thus refers to the communication between people who have differences in any one of the following: styles of working, age, nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Cross cultural communication can also refer to the attempts that are made to exchange, negotiate and mediate cultural differences by means of language, gestures and body language. It is how people belonging to different cultures communicate each other.

(<http://communicationtheory.org/cross-cultural-communication/>)

Delving of a cross culture communication style choices in differences culture from sociolinguistics perspective, one should be able to deploy the critical views from the current issue. The distinguish between the American and British culture are reflected in this movie through the way people solve the problem they face in their lives. Leap year movie show the reoccupations of a particular

cultural/social group (American and British). A one hundred minute movie Leap year describe the Irish culture which happen in every leap year. A leap year, also known as intercalary or bissextile year, is a year containing one additional day in order to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical or seasonal year. In the Gregorian calendar (the international calendar system), each leap year lasts 366 days instead of the usual 365, by extending February to 29 days rather than 28 days.

For Anna Brady (portrayed by Amy Adams), that one particular life- changing moment comes during a leap year. Anna Brady plans to travel to Dublin, Ireland to propose marriage to her boyfriend Jeremy on Leap Day. Accordance to Irish tradition, a man who receives a marriage proposal on a leap day must accept it. The universal product movie illustrate typical two strangers meet and are brought together by fate. The plot are revealed in British and American culture communication style.

The issue of Culture communication style choice has seldom been investigated, although it is an interesting topic to study. Jati Arum, D (2003) did the research : *A sociolinguistic Analysis of Cross Cultural Communication Style Choice As reflected in the script of Crash* identifying Cross culture communication style choices from the movie Crash with framework cross culture communication style are originally composed by Gudykunst and Ting-Toomey (in Neulip). The result revealed that there are 68 data from 175 across cultural communication style choice phenomena uttered by the characters in Crash. The different cultures shows different Communication style choices. The direct and the indirect style choices are mostly used in the Script of the Crash. Meanwhile, the communication stylistic differences can be attributed to the different language structures and compositional styles in different culture and it can be a major source of misunderstanding, distrust, and conflict in intercultural communication. (Mainu Lu, 2016).

Dunkerley, and Robinson, (2016) studied similarities and differences in intercultural communication in the workplace between British and American managers. The data were gained by conducting 26 interiews from 24 categories. The result showed that American managers have a greater selection in completing the task by maintaing the team work. While, the British managers more focus on the proceses rather the social relationship among the workers.

Therefore, the researcher will conduct the research on Cross Culture Communication Style Choices in the movie Leap Year and would like to identify

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the types of cross-cultural communication style choice uttered in the Leap Year movie.

Leap Year Summary

Anna Brady from Boston is a planner that stages apartments for Realtors. Anna has been dating cardiologist, Jeremy, for four years and they are buying a high standard apartment in Davenport together. She hates the story told often to her by her father Jack Brady that there is an Irish tradition that allows women to propose to their loved one on February 29, which is what purportedly got her paternal grandparents together. Anna expects Jeremy to propose to her on a dinner date but he gives her a gift instead, after which he travels to Dublin for a congress.

Regardless, Anna, despite hating surprises, decides to surprise Jeremy by showing up in Dublin where he is attending a conference and proposing to him on leap day. Anna decides to meet him in Dublin on the February 29th and propose to him in accordance with an old Irish folklore tradition from the Fifth Century of leap-year proposals by women. However, her airplane is forced to land in Wales due to bad weather and she is not able to find a connection since the Dublin airport is closed. She tried to find another means transportation. Anna walks to the only restaurant and inn and hires the unfriendly owner Declan ask him to drive her to Dublin. Declan agrees to drive her as he needs the money to pay of his debts but their journey is fraught with many incidents. Largely because of their antagonism, Anna, and Declan get into one misadventure after another, which threatens Anna's arrival into Dublin by February 29 and her planned romantic fairytale proposal. Through their time together, Anna and Declan may find that there are more important things in life to them than having that fairytale February 29 proposal and saving the pub/inn through extortion of Anna respectively.

Cross culture Communication Style Choices

Cross culture communication style choices are originally composed by Gudykunst and Ting-Toomey and cited by Neulip 2009 (Jati A,D. 2013) divide the communication style choice in multicultural society into four types, namely :

1. Direct-Indirect Style (DIS) : The speakers reveal their their intentions through explicit or implicit verbal communication. The style which can be classified into DIS can be differentiated by its directness in The first is direct style. The strategies from the direct style are overt expression of intention, assert self-face needs, clear message, low context and individualistic culture.

The second is indirect style. The indirect style's strategies are saving face, implicit or ambiguous meaning, rhetorical question.

Direct Style - A: *Close the window, please.* (N/2009/227/001)

It means that the way of speaker utters is clear to be understood that the hearer can close the window directly, it is well-known linguistical term as overt expression and assert self-face needs.

Indirect Style – B: You are closer to window. (N/2009/227/001)

This utterance implies that the second person decline the request of the first person to close the window. The implicity relies on this kind of style and in linguistic term, it is called saving face.

Another example of Indirect concerning ambiguous as follow Ryan
: What does my father do about sleeping tonight?

Shaniqua : **I don't know. I'm not a doctor** (J/2013/CC/C/020)

Shaniqua feel annoyed with that question, she answered it by using implicit sentences that is suitable with it needs.

2. Elaborate-Exacting-Succinct Style (EEST) means delivering the message refer to quantity of the talk of the people values : distinguishes the style based on the quality and the quantity of the message transmitted. The elaborate style is indicated by the flashy and embellished language, the exacting style is indicated by the information that is transmitted not less or more than it is needed, while succinct style is marked by the concise statement, understatement and silence.

Example :

Rick: You're seriously jealous of Karen??

Jean: **Hardly. I'd just like to see you get through a meal without calling her, or someone else at your office.**

Jean's answered Rick's question with reason why she complain. It makes her utterances is rather flashy and embellished. (J/2013/CC/C/013) Detective Carr

: You got a smoke?

Graham : **Quit**

The dialogue above implies the succinct style as Graham answered the question too brief. It includes as a concise statement strategy so it seemed Graham did not answer the question. (J/2013CC/C/005)

3. Personal Contextual Style (PCS) categorizes the style based on the situation, context and intimacy of the participants, the personal style has several strategies, such as the use of first person pronoun, informal language, and the consistent across culture. Then for the contextual style, the strategies are the use of the personal pronoun and usually the topic being discussed varies across culture.

Contextual with Personal Style can be found in this short dialogue

Cop : Ma'am, wait on your vehicle.

Kim : Stop in the middle of street! Mexican! No know how to drive! She blake too fast! (J/2013/CC/C/003)

Kim used contextual, since she call someone's nationality ("Mexican") to refer the cop and used "she" indicated as the personal pronoun.

4. Instrumental-Affective Style (IAS). classifying the style based on the orientation, goal and process of the conversation itself. The instrumental style are indicated by the sender based, goal outcome and the occurrence of influence or persuasive language, while affective style is an affective type that usually indicated by the occurrence of the receiver oriented and process oriented.

Example

Jean : I want the locks changed again in the morning.

Rick : Honey, why don't you go to bed. Did you check on James?

Jean : Of course I checked on James, I've checked him every five minute since we've been home, don't patronize me! I want the lock changed again in the morning.

Rick : Shhh, it's okay. You just need to lie down. (J/2013/CC/C/034)

In this dialogue, Rick tries to change the topic to distract her worried. It showed an affection to Jean by asking her to calm down and lie down. It is indicated as instrumental affective styles.

Based on the theory above, Cross culture Communication Style Choices have four styles and eighteen strategies describe how to communicate each other in the group or society. The interaction with direct styles makes the participant respect the people feeling by conveying the explicit information. Meanwhile, the community with indirect style implying some ideas with emphasis on saving face. The way the member of the group/society use the language related to their cultural background. In this research, the researchers focus on the the four styles ofcross culture communication and the strategies will be discussed for further explanation yet it is not the main focus.

A low-context and A high context culture

According to Liu (2016), the communication styles are differentiated a high-context communicator and a low-context communicator in intercultural communication settings. For example : A high-context communicator is characterized by using unambiguous utterance about his or her true intentions to show the real direct message with assumption that interlocutor will understand the definite verbal language. Likewise, a low-context communicator is characterized by using indirect styles considering the messages that are potentially face threatening, when communicating with someone from a high- context communication culture, with the understanding that the other person is more oriented toward relational harmony and face save. Furthermore Liu (2016) argued that the concept of high-context and low-context communication which is created by Hall (1977) was inspired by by Bernstein's(1966) divided into restricted code and elaborates code. Restricted code means transmission of messages through verbal and nonverbal channels. It includes The utterances with implicit cues, using jarghons, succinct, simple assertion. Meanwhile the elaborates code is utterances with expressive language in transmitting the meaning.

Implication British and American Culture

British and American are both English speaking countries which famous for condensed tradition they have differents aspect in culture .Martinez (2000) argued

American communicate with the strangers are more friendly than British. They like small talk and they are opend minded by talking the personal thing to their friends even a friend that have just met. Otherwise, those things are very awkward for British. Because the British appreciate their privacy highly. It leads them difficult to get a new acquaintance. They will have a new acquaintance by having the same activities, e.g in pub, in some sports court or in gym. The openness character of American leads to their direct communication style. It is also stated by Dunkerley and Robinson (2002) about the perception and evaluation of communication styles between British and American in working places are :

1. Americans will emphasize that communication must be efficient; it must achieve goals in the most direct and expeditious ways possible. Such a concern will encourage the use of speech that renders the goals, intentions, ideas, and opinions of speakers transparent and explicitly relevant to the tasks in hand.
2. Although the British may also express a concern for efficiency, the style they use will reflect the influence of preferences to delay decisions and to defer to ascribed status.
3. Misunderstandings are likely to occur between American and British managers working together in a UK-based organizational environment, with consequent dislike and denigration of the others' preferences. Language is not the barrier between the American and British. However, the differences characters, intention and culture between them lead to misunderstanding in intercultural communication in the workplace. American put forward the communication and maintaining the relationship among the workers. Meanwhile, the British prefer to the processing of the work.

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research method is adjusted with presentation of analysis Cross Culture Communication Style Choices. Research aims at describing what is currently applicable. It is an attempt to describe, record, analyze and interpret present or existing conditions (Mardalis, 2003: 26).

The data concentrated on exploring the communication styles choices from the script the movie *The Leap Year*. The obtained data was analyzed through interactive model analysis introduced by Huberman & Mile with the three steps :

(1) Data Reduction is the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting and transforming the data from the written up field notes or transcription. (2) Data display means organizing, compressing assembling of information that permits conclusion drawn and action (3) Data verification/ Conclusion Data verification/ Conclusion. It means verifies the analysis data proceed with lengthen the argumentation and reflect intersubjective consensus to replicate the finding another data set. (Miles, Huberman, 1994).

Based on the theory above the reseacher do some steps in analysis the data

(1) In the First step, the researcher download the film and the script of the movie. Watching the movie and comprehending the script of the movie.

(2) In the second steps, reading the script repeated to determine four communication style choice in the Leap year. Then, the researcher check and select the data to answer the research question and analysis some utterances to represent each styles of Cross Culture Communication Style. Since the researcher focus on intercultural communication style, the data will be restricted only the conversation between Declan and Anna for three days when Declan took Anna to met her boyfriend Jeremy. These dialogues are representative for two cultures that is Anna as American and Declan an Irish. From the data collected, the utterances will be categorized in four choices styles by adopting from Jati Arum, D (2003).

(3) In the last step, from the data displayed will be described with the cultural background of the speakers of the characters in Leap Year movie (American and British). Some styles and strategies in cross cultural communication will be reveal and reported in the conclusion.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The data findings showed 356 utterances of Anna and Declan. Anna has 204 utterances with 44,3 % direct style and indirect 5,8 %.. Declan uses 155 utterance for three day with 37 % and 12 % indirect style. There are sometimes some utterances that consist of two or three communication styles. As it is seen in the example below :

Declan : What Story ?

Anna : The one you told at the castle. The princess who run off with the warrior the night before her wedding? You're Grada.

(NH/2018/CC/176)

In this dialogue, Anna used three styles : Personal styles because she used some pronoun you : Elaborates styles when she describe the content of the story : Indirect styles when she answer the Declan's question not clearly by saying "the one". The brief analysis of the different communication styles are shown in the below tables

Table 1
The List Of Declan's Utterance

No	Code	Data	Style	Meaning	Data found	Percent age
1	NH/2 018/C C/07	Situation : Bang ! the door opens Declan : All right I'll drive you !	Direct	Declan uses direct styles to express explicit meaning to drive Anna to Dublin by his car.	46	37.4 %
2	NH/2 018/C C/124	Sorry you won't make it to Dublin before the shops close.	Indirect	Declan states in implicit meaning that Anna will not be able to arrive in Dublin because Anna is shopoholic.	16	12 %
2	NH/2 018/C C/44	No? Well here's what I do know. It's all as useless as tits on a bull. You can be engaged or married or just having a shag but in the end you'll always end up alone. Somebody's gonna get left. That's the cold,hard truth.	Elaborate Strategy	Declan uses Direct and Elaborate Styles. He predicts that Anna and her boy friend will not get married. He explains more about a bad prediction of Anna's relationship.	14	11.2 %
3	NH/2 018/C C/25	You got a phone card	Personal Contextual Style	It's personal styles because the first personal pronoun used, that is You.	70	32.2 %
4	NH/2 018/C C/79	Just wash 'em out'	Instrumental-affective style	He uses instrumental styles because he forces Anna to do something, that is washing her ballet flats	9	7.2 %
					155	

Table 2
The list of Anna's Utterances

No	Code	Data	Style	Meaning	Data found	Percentage
1	NH/201 8/CC/12	Anna : They fell on me	Direct	Anna expresses the situation directly to show what happened to	90	44.3 %

				her, that the boxes and photos fell on her.		
	NH/2018/CC/76	I wouldn't be down there if you'd just helped me to begin with.	Indirect	She gives implicit meaning about Declan's help offer to her by stating that she would be fine if Declan would be fast to help her.	12	5.8%
	NH/2018/CC/99	Are you kidding ? I am not giving you another dime, you left the brake off?	Elaborate Strategy	Anna gives her argument to break Declan's statement that she thinks his statement is totally wrong. She explain it more.	19	9.3 %
3	NH/2018/CC/32	I actually thought that he was going to propose a few days ago but he didn't and well, we're about to buy this co-op together so, surprise! He has no idea that's why I'm coming, but I am. I'm doin' it.	Personal Contextual Style	This utterances have three styles : personal, direct and elaborate. The personal is indicated by the first pronoun "I" and the third pronoun "he" refer to Anna's boyfriend. Direct : Anna describe the relationship with her boyfriend explicitly. Elaborate : She also talks a lot about their problems.	70	34.3 %
4	NH/2018/CC/105	Of course, How could I have been so stupid ?! I crossed in front of his horse. I've cursed his land for all eternity! (Trying to keep it together) Fine, You know what? Could you tell him I'm really, really sorry.	Instrumental-affective style	Anna forces Declan to utter her sorry to the farmer because of the accident.	13	6.3 %
					204	

Based on the data above, it can be said that the American people use more direct styles than British. Anna used 90 direct styles and Declan used only 40 utterances with direct style. American usually gets to the point and clearly to get intentions revealed explicitly (Dunkerley and Robinson, 2002). Direct Style belong to the high context communicator because the community uses the clear utterances to deliver the message (Liu, 2016). Meanwhile, the British uses more indirect styles, they look for the polite and soft way to express their ideas or desire. It is accordance to Martinez's opinion (2000) that the British respect people's privacy highly. Finally, it is clearly to claim that the chosen communication styles uttered

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by the movie casts show that the identity of one culture reflects its own thought, behavior and stereotype within, thus intercultural communication underlies the width of misunderstanding, mistrust and other distractions to be attempted to solve by the intimate of communication among the two or more intercultural communicators.

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