

IMPACT OF COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE AMONG PEOPLE DURING SPEECH.

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Abstract: This article explores the significance of communicative competence in enhancing the effectiveness of spoken interactions across various social, academic, and professional settings. It delves into how communicative skills contribute to better understanding, cooperation, and problem-solving. By examining key components of communicative competence—linguistic, sociolinguistic, discourse, and strategic skills—the article demonstrates its essential role in developing clear, impactful speech and fostering interpersonal connections. Through a review of relevant research, this study underscores the necessity of communicative competence as a fundamental element in modern social interactions.

Key words: Communicative competence, interpersonal communication, linguistic skills, discourse competence, speech, effective communication.

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Communicative competence has become a crucial skill in today's interconnected world. Defined as the ability to effectively convey and interpret messages in social contexts, communicative competence goes beyond mere linguistic accuracy and encompasses skills for effective engagement in diverse communication scenarios. The ability to interact meaningfully depends on various elements, including grammatical understanding, sociolinguistic knowledge, discourse awareness, and strategic abilities, which together empower individuals to navigate and adapt to complex social interactions.

In speech contexts, communicative competence affects how well individuals are able to convey ideas, emotions, and information while being sensitive to the audience, purpose, and cultural norms of the communication setting. Research in linguistics and communication studies consistently emphasizes the impact of communicative

competence on social cohesion, professional success, and even mental well-being. This article examines the critical elements of communicative competence and its overall influence on individuals' effectiveness during speech, aiming to underline its value as an indispensable life skill.

Components of Communicative Competence

Communicative competence consists of four core components: linguistic, sociolinguistic, discourse, and strategic competencies.

- Linguistic competence refers to an individual's mastery of language structure, such as vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. This foundational element allows for clarity and precision in spoken language, ensuring that the basic meaning of a message is conveyed accurately.
- Sociolinguistic competence entails understanding the social rules of language, including cultural norms, politeness strategies, and context-specific language usage. By being aware of these factors, speakers can adjust their language to fit formal, informal, or culturally sensitive contexts.
- Discourse competence involves the ability to link ideas coherently and cohesively. In speeches, it allows speakers to structure their thoughts effectively, making complex concepts more accessible and engaging for listeners.
- Strategic competence encompasses the use of verbal and non-verbal strategies to overcome communication barriers, such as paraphrasing, rephrasing, or using gestures. These strategies are vital when there are misunderstandings or when speakers encounter gaps in their linguistic or sociocultural knowledge.

Importance of Communicative Competence in Speech

Effective speech delivery relies heavily on communicative competence. With strong linguistic and sociolinguistic skills, speakers can engage and connect with audiences by addressing their needs, cultural expectations, and emotional states. Moreover, discourse competence allows individuals to organize and express their ideas persuasively, which is particularly valuable in academic and professional settings where clarity and coherence are essential. Strategic competence further enables speakers to handle unexpected questions or challenges during presentations, reinforcing their confidence and adaptability.

The Influence of Communicative Competence on Interpersonal Relationships

Communicative competence fosters meaningful relationships by facilitating open and respectful exchanges of ideas. Research shows that individuals with higher communicative competence are better equipped to manage interpersonal conflicts,

demonstrate empathy, and build trust with others. These skills are invaluable not only in personal interactions but also in workplace dynamics, where effective communication is key to teamwork, leadership, and productivity.

Communicative Competence in a Globalized Context

As globalization increases intercultural interactions, the ability to communicate competently in diverse settings has become essential. Communicative competence enables speakers to interact smoothly with individuals from different cultural backgrounds, enhancing mutual understanding and reducing the risk of misunderstandings. Consequently, communicative competence is not just a linguistic asset but also a critical factor in promoting global awareness and cooperation.

When asked about the goal of a language course, learners might typically say that it is to teach the grammar and vocabulary of the language. However, if they were to reflect on their own goals as language learners, they would most likely express a desire to communicate effectively in the language. While it is often assumed that a language course aims solely to teach grammar and vocabulary, this should not be the case, especially in modern language teaching. In the past, I have been part of a course that followed this outdated approach, and the results were predictably poor. Fortunately, the focus of second language teaching has shifted from merely teaching grammar and vocabulary to equipping learners with the skills needed for effective communication. In linguistic terms, a language course should aim not only to develop "linguistic competence" but also to foster overall "communicative competence."

But what do these terms actually mean? "Communicative competence" is a concept introduced by Dell Hymes in 1966 as a response to Noam Chomsky's (1965) idea of "linguistic competence." Communicative competence refers to the intuitive, functional understanding of how to use language in various contexts. As Hymes puts it: "...a normal child acquires knowledge of sentences not only as grammatical, but also as appropriate. They learn when to speak, when not to speak, and what to discuss with whom, when, where, and in what manner. In essence, a child becomes able to perform a range of speech acts, participate in speech events, and evaluate how others carry out these tasks" (Hymes 1972, 277).

Communicative language teaching emphasizes the development of language proficiency through interactions in meaningful contexts. This teaching approach offers authentic learning experiences that go beyond simply repeating and memorizing grammatical structures in isolation. At the heart of communicative language teaching is the notion of communicative competence: the learner's ability to

understand and use language in a manner that is appropriate for real-world social and academic settings, rather than merely in artificial or simulated scenarios.

In other words, a language user needs to employ language not only accurately (reflecting linguistic competence) but also suitably for the context (reflecting communicative competence). This approach doesn't downplay the importance of understanding a language's grammatical rules; rather, it is one of the four essential components of communicative competence: linguistic, sociolinguistic, discourse, and strategic competence.

Linguistic competence refers to knowledge of the language's structure, including its grammar, vocabulary, and conventions for writing (like script and spelling). This component includes phonetics (sounds and their pronunciation), phonology (sound interactions and patterns), morphology (how words are formed through inflection or derivation), syntax (rules for combining words into sentences), and semantics (how meaning is conveyed).

Sociolinguistic competence is the understanding of sociocultural norms, meaning the ability to use and respond to language appropriately based on the context, topic, and relationships between those communicating. This competence involves understanding cultural taboos, politeness indicators, politically correct language, and expressions of attitude, such as authority, friendliness, or irony.

Discourse competence is the skill of producing and understanding texts in both spoken and written forms. It involves organizing language structures into cohesive and coherent texts suitable for different types of communication, like conversations, speeches, poetry, emails, or articles.

Strategic competence is the skill of recognizing and addressing communication breakdowns before, during, or after they happen. For example, if a speaker doesn't know a word, they may paraphrase or ask for clarification. Strategic competence also involves managing communication despite noise or interruptions and includes strategies such as asking for repetition or clarification, using gestures, or taking turns in conversation.

These four aspects of communicative competence are fundamental in foreign language instruction, and modern language teaching methods generally integrate them. Immersing language learners in the culture of a country where the target language is spoken often enhances these skills.

Conclusion

Communicative competence is a fundamental skill that significantly impacts individuals' ability to communicate effectively in spoken interactions. By integrating linguistic, sociolinguistic, discourse, and strategic skills, communicative competence enables people to convey ideas clearly, engage with others meaningfully, and adapt to various social and cultural contexts. As a result, communicative competence plays a vital role in professional success, personal relationships, and intercultural understanding. Given its far-reaching impact, it is essential for individuals to develop their communicative competence to navigate today's complex communication landscape successfully.

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