

“When in doubt do as the three mystic apes do :see no evil , hear no evil ,and speak no evil” –A New Avenue to Non-verbal Communication*



عندما يخالـجك الشك في امر ما حاول ان تفعل ما تفعله القـرود الحكيمة الثلاث: لا ترى شرا لا تسمع شرا ولا تتحدث بشـر" – مدخل جديد لعلم التواصل غير المحكي

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دكتوراه في تحليل الخطاب والتداولية

قسم اللغة الانكليزية- كلية الآداب – جامعة الموصل

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الكلمات المفتاحية: التمييز ما بين لغة التواصل المحكية وغير المحكية ،قوة لغة التواصل غير المحكية للانسان والحيوان، لغة التواصل غير المحكية في الادب القصصي والفن .

كيفية اقتباس البحث

الحلاجي، هدى فاضل اسماعيل، عندما يخالـجك الشك في امر ما حاول ان تفعل ما تفعله القـرود الحكيمة الثلاث: لا ترى شرا لا تسمع شرا ولا تتحدث بشـر" – مدخل جديد لعلم التواصل غير المحكي، مجلة مركز بابل للدراسات الانسانية، 2022، المجلد: 12، العدد: 3 .

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Keywords: Distinction between verbal and non-verbal communication, the power of non-verbal communication for man and animal, non-verbal communication in fiction and art.

How To Cite This Article

Halawachy, Huda “When in doubt do as the three mystic apes do :see no evil , hear no evil ,and speak no evil” –A New Avenue to Non-verbal Communication*, Journal Of Babylon Center For Humanities Studies, Year:2022,Volume:12, Issue: 3.



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المستخلص

حين يذكر مصطلح "التواصل" فاننا لانلبث ان نفكر باجهزة الهاتف والمذياع والهاتف النقال والكتب - أي بالوسائل جميعها التي تنضوي تحت اطار علم اللغة المحكي والذي يتطلب وجود اللغة. وعليه فان اللغة تعد من المتطلبات الاساسية لوجود الانسان. ولاهمية علم التواصل لنا فانه ليس من العدل -في حقيقة الامر- ان نقرن علم التواصل بوسيلة واحدة لاغير هي اللغة. ان مشاطرة المعرفة بين المتكلمين يمكن ان تتحقق بوسائط مختلفة تشمل الوسائط المرئية

كلغة الاشارة، والوسائط السمعية كالصوت والموسيقى، والوسائط الفيزيائية كاللمس" (الشبكة العنكبوتية). وهنا يأتي دور لغة التواصل غير المحكية. أن مصطلحات كلغة الجسد ، والاماءات ، ولغة التواصل ، ولغة التواصل بالنظرات ، ولغة التلامس ، ولغة الصمت وغيرها كثير قد ملأت صفحات مانشره الباحثون في هذا الحقل – اي لغة التواصل غير المحكي. ننشد من خلال بحثنا هذا الى المساهمة في (1) التمييزا بين لغة التواصل المحكية وغير المحكية عبر بانوراما عامة لما كتب عنهما في مجموع النتاج العلمي قديما و حديثا ،(2) تصنيف لغة التواصل غير المحكية بالنسبة لكل من الانسان والحيوان – وهذا جزء ذو أهمية بالغة في البحث و (3) عرض صورة عن قوة لغة التواصل غير المحكية في الواقع والادب القصصي كذلك في الفن – كمسألة تثيرالفضول أهملت في تاريخ دراسة لغة التواصل غير المحكية.

Abstract

Whenever the term COMMUNICATION is mentioned, we immediately think of telephones, radios, mobiles, comsats, books – in short all the devices related to VERBAL COMMUNICATION which, basically, requires language. It is, thus, one of the basic needs of human existence. Considering the importance of communication to us, it is, in fact, not fair to associate it with one single method of communication which is language. “[S]haring of knowledge [can be achieved] by a number of means. These include visual methods such as sign language, auditory, such as voice and music and physical such as touch” (Via the Net1). Here comes the role of NON- VERBAL COMMUNICATION. Terms like body language, gestures, proxemics, eye-contact, paralinguistics, haptics, silence and many others cover the pages of the scholars’ publications related to this area. The current article seeks to contribute(1) a general panorama of past –present literature on the distinction between verbal and non –verbal communication ,(2) a classification of non-verbal communication role for both man and animal which is a leading critical part ,and(3) a sketch on the power of non-verbal communication in reality , fiction ,and even art as an intriguing issue which is neglected in the literature on non-verbal communication.

*The current article is an extract from my Ph.D. Dissertation titled “ A Synthetic Approach to the study of Avoidance in Language Production”(2008).Mosul: University of Mosul(Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation).

1.Front Matter



It is pros, not cons, whenever one says: “X’s actions speak so loudly that I could not hear what they say!”. It is time to think about action in a world of worthless speeches!

Viewing all the photographs above, and may be tens, if not thousands similar to them, one may find oneself in a position to raise some seminal queries like: What are all these photographs about?, Do they signify similar or different things?, How can they be interpreted?, Do we expect, for instance, that an *American* or Japanese interpretations to be similar ,different , or both?, etc. It is fairly common to find answers to these queries in what is called **NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION** as compared with **VERBAL COMMUNICATION**. Hence, what is needed is

to give readers a sketch about the distinction between both terminologies before going deeply in the discussion.

1.1 Verbal Communication vs. Non-verbal Communication The first scientific study of non-verbal communication was published in 1872 by Darwin in his book, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* (Givens, 2006: via the net; see also among others, Laver & Hutcheson, 1972; Argyle, 1973; Tannen & Saville-Troike, 1985; Joworski, 1993, 1997 and 1998; Schmitz, 1994, Hybels & Weaver, 1998; Khan, 2001 and Gazala, 2002). Certainly, one may notice that there is a large body of literature available on non-verbal clues, whether printed materials or publications via the net. Still, I come up with the conclusion that there is an inconsistency among scholars as far as the taxonomy of these clues is concerned. Sometimes, even the terms are interchangeably used referring to these clues. Since my main goal is to manipulate the phenomenon of non-verbal communication, I leave the problem of taxonomy and terminology as a suggestion for future research (see ,section 4).

What should be noticed here is that both terms, i.e. verbal and non-verbal communication have been, and continue to be given different meanings or definitions (Laver & Hutcheson, 1972: 12). In this introductory part of the discussion, it is possible to distinguish verbal and non-verbal elements in communication as follows:

verbal elements in conversation are taken to mean the actual words (considered as units in language, and distinct from all vocal considerations of how they might be pronounced). Non-verbal behaviour is then all vocal and non-vocal conversational behaviour which is not verbal in the sense, given above.

(Laver & Hutcheson, 1972: 12)

But, a natural question arises here: Is non-verbal communication tangible in our life? It is made clear by Givens (2006: via the net) that the process of sending and receiving wordless messages is tremendous and simultaneously powerful in our daily communication in the sense that

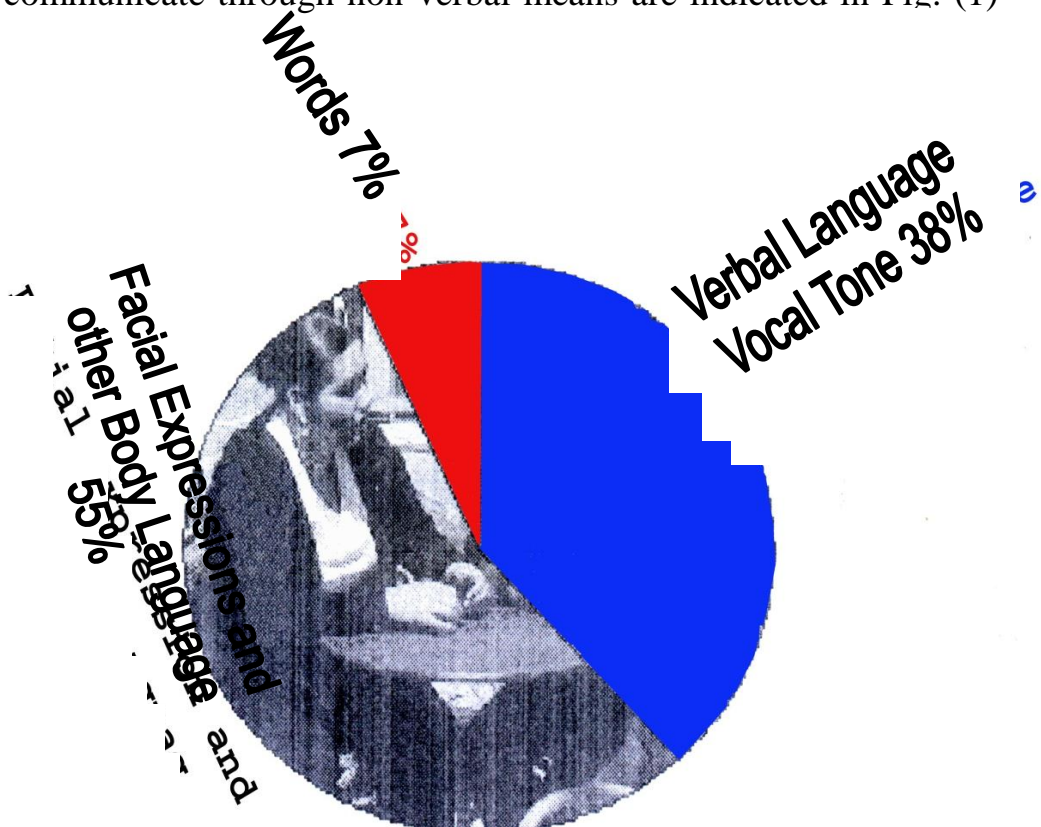
[e]ach of us gives and responds to thousands of non-verbal messages daily in our personal and professional lives.. and while commuting back and forth between the two. From morning's kiss to business suits and tense-mouth displays at the conference table, we react to wordless messages emotionally, often without knowing why ...[still,]



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their details reveal a. how we relate to each other, and b. who we think we are.

A frequently asked question is: What is the percentage of our non-verbal communication? Viewing our process of sending and receiving wordless messages by means of facial expressions, gazes, gestures, tones of the voice, even consumers products (like image and graphic, displays, media, etc.) opens doors for psychologists, anthropologists and linguists in their early and up-to-date publications, to conduct studies finding out such a percentage. Among anthropologists and psychologists, Birdwhistell (1972: 98) and Mehrabian (1971 cited in Givens, 2006: via the net) point out that 65% and 93% of our communication, respectively are hard to verify, i.e. these proportions refer to those various non-verbal clues in communication. Some other proportions concerning establishing relations with customers show that during interpersonal communication only 7% of the message is verbally communicated by the word used. Of the 93% non-verbal communication: 38% is through vocal tones and 55% is through expressions or other body language signals. This implies that 55% of what customer is trying to communicate is expressed through non-verbal or body language. These proportions explaining how much people communicate through non-verbal means are indicated in Fig. (1) below.



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 مجلة
 دراسات
 في
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 والآداب
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 الإنسانية
 العدد 3 / المجلد 12 / 2022

Fig. (1): How People Communicate Body Language in Terms of Ratios (via the Net2)

Even the proportion of our emotional communication that is expressed apart from words surely exceeds 99% which is a ratio to be highly considered (Givens, 2006: via the net).

2.Communication, Man, and Animal

In the current part of the discussion, the audience finds out if there are really any tangible evidences that support the existence of non-verbal communication whether internally (i.e. within man himself) or externally (i.e. within environment, including other creatures). Consequently, the power and function of such communication will be enhanced by those evidences. Communication is not a means that solely fulfills the demands of man; according to the rules of nature, other creatures, say for instance, animals and insects are in need of particular means of communication. Here again comes the role of non-verbal behaviours or acts of such creatures. These include body movements, noises⁽¹⁾, etc. which are not so different in kind from the acts of man. Yet, what distinguishes those acts and/or behaviours of communication of both human beings and animals? LANGUAGE determines the borderline between both species – a fact that nobody doubts – and that non-verbal acts or behaviour of man are entangled with language as a MINOR MEANS of communication if one thinks about order(cf. Abercrombie, 1972: 65) . Still, a little might be said here. If one aims at classifying this sort of communication (i.e. non-verbal communication) in both species (i.e. man and animals), one might come up with the following facts that

- 1.non-verbal communication is regarded always as a major theme of communication for animals,
- 2.non-verbal communication is regarded always as a major theme of communication for babies especially at early ages. It is something common to notice that the baby shakes his/her head when refusing the food offered to him/her by the mother during breast-feeding (Eibl-Eibesfeldt, 1974; 20 cited in Al-Azzawi, 1986:171, see also, La Barr, 1972:207-208),
- 3.non-verbal communication is always regarded as a major theme of communication for some people who suffer from some physiological problems like the deaf and the dumb,
- 4.non-verbal communication in some channels of communication accompanies speech; it is as powerful as speech, hence cannot be avoided, e.g. political speeches; and



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5.non-verbal communication for some people is a minor means of communication thus avoided due to certain reasons:

- a.People might feel that words are much powerful for them than non-verbal acts in conveying the messages they are after in their ordinary speech.
- b.People might prefer some types of non-verbal acts to others reflecting their personal ideologies as far as their AGE, GENDER, OCCUPATION and CULTURAL NORMS are concerned. Thus, those non-verbal clues which are less preferred are minor for the participants .

A distinction in the use of non-verbal acts between MAN and ANIMALS, which has been just drawn with those issues might be portrayed in Fig. (2) below.

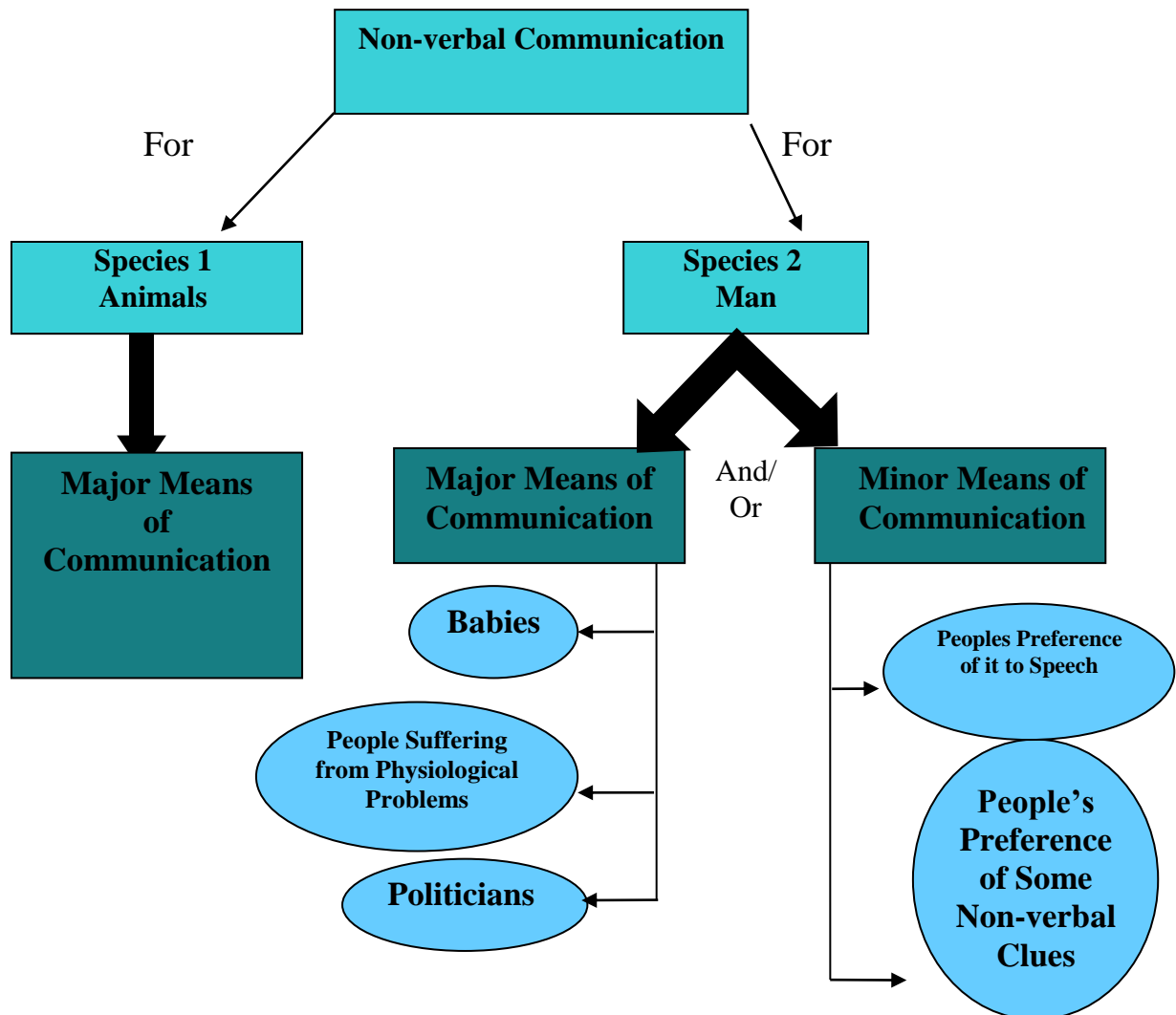


Fig. (2):Classification of Non-verbal Communication as Major or Minor Means For Two Species: Man and Animals

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From another perspective, it is beneficial, too, to adopt an up-to-date view taking into consideration the impact of non-verbal acts, as a powerful means of communication, holding between the two species-man and animals. Let us take for instance the case of a person who may take his dog to obedience classes for having problems getting it to understand what s/he wants it to do. Since dogs do not talk, spoken language is not as important to them as to people. Hence, non-verbal signals like tone of the voice, gestures, and posture are better for dogs than understanding words. Thus, instructors in such classes emphasize certain points as a guideline for dog owners to approach communication, and to get their dogs obedient. To be most effective when training and communicating with your dog, your expressions, tone of the voice, eyes all must act and say the same thing. So,

if he obeys, give him a huge smile and praise with a happy, cheerful voice. Let him know exactly how pleased you are with him. If he did not obey, give him a dirty look and drop your voice as low as you can to deliver a short but totally unmistakable “no”.

(DeGruy, 2007: via the net)

By so doing, Let us catch a glimpse at such issues, and may be more, in the discussion below.

3. Non-verbal Communication: Is it Fact, Fiction, or Art?

The answer is, of course, a resounding YES embracing all the items in the question raised in the title. In what follows, I aim at portraying some of these uses as a fact in real-life situations, as a fact in fiction and as a fact in art, respectively.

3. 1 Non-verbal Communication as a Fact:

It is not beyond imagination; rather, it is a fact when we consider non-verbal acts a basic means of communication embodied in the **PHYSIOLOGY** of **MAN**. The **FIVE SENSES**, if not **SIX**⁽²⁾, support our claim here. Let us start with the sense of **SIGHT** or **VISION**⁽³⁾. The complex mechanism of the eyes orders any person driving his car to stop once he sees the stoplight reads **RED**. The communicative function of the colour here is non-verbal signifying something Like: “Pedestrians are allowed to cross the street safely”. The rate of changing colour in other contexts signifies other different messages (cf.n.3). Besides, the communicative role of the eyes, being a powerful part of the face, is





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again non-verbal. Quoting Khan’s (2001: via the net) impressive wording, the other senses prove to be good representatives of non-verbal means of communication. The following quotations summarize some of their functions:

The sense of hearing is fundamentally related to verbal communication, but can also be used as a means of non-verbal communication. It has been experimentally proved that feelings of calmness, lethargy, anger, depression, cheerfulness, etc., can be communicated to...humans through the use of rhythmic sounds.

.... many people claim that [smell] is the most evocative of all our senses. Let the scent of roses and jasmines penetrate into your nostrils, and suddenly there might appear on the screen of your mind...romantic image[s]...

Even the sense of touch⁽⁴⁾ may be used as a means of communication. A kiss, a handshake, a hug, a pat on the back or on the head ... all are examples of communication by touch.

We will certainly not forget the universal system of reading and writing called BRAILLE ;the BLINED people are able to communicate with each other and with normal people by TOUCHING raised dots. As for Khan’s personal experience (2001: via the net): “I do not believe I have come across any example in nature of communication through sense of taste, but that does not mean it is not possible”; he adds: “There are more things in heaven and earth ...”.

The synonymous set SIGN LANGUAGE/GESTURE LANGUAGE⁽⁵⁾/GESTURE SPEECH comes as another clear indication of non-verbal acts in daily-life encounters. As compared with Braille’s system, mentioned above, the three synonymous terms refer to

... a method of conversing by means of gestures or signs. It is a form of speech in use among civilized and savage races, which is perfectly understood, and although greatly limited in its forms of expression by those who have spoken language, rich in its vocabulary and possessed of an extensive literature.



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(Maclean, 1896 quoted in Woll et al., 2001: 8)

As the above quotation states, sign language is speech. Thus, it is a language system by itself which has a principal function, namely communication in two different societies – primitive tribes and civilized communities. But, the question is to know the hey day of sign language in civilized communities. It has emerged over the last three hundred years, and since any language needs a community of users, similarly, sign language needs a DEAF COMMUNITY as its users.

The Industrial Revolution in Europe triggered the creation of sign languages as we know them today when schools were set up for children in the late-eighteenth century. Deaf people all over the world communicate among each other and with the speaking community by using certain signs and gestures; it is evident that the ethnologue database DOSE include and list 103 known sign languages. These pieces of evidence may hint at some characteristic features of what is known as sign language as follows

- 1.sign language is a language system by itself,
 - 2.sign language has different forms used by the deaf to perform different functions when communicating among each other and with the speaking community; and
 - 3.sign language is independent of the spoken language that surrounds the deaf. We cannot assume that the deaf people who live in English speaking communities, like U.S.A and Ireland, have the same sign language system. There must be a match between the system and the demands of the deaf people in each speaking community (Woll et al., 2001: 12-13) (a full complement of sociolinguistic topics, including both macro variables that relate to the distribution and roles of sign languages throughout the world and the micro variables that focus on interactional sociolinguistics and language variation, Lacass' volume, 2001 seems to come of age. So, readers may refer to further essays in this volume).
- Now, what if we look back at TEACHERS we have listened to? Which ones stand out as memorable? The ones who were more animated, or the ones who just gave out information? The answer is that the class of the teachers who used certain non-verbal channels like hand movements, gestures, smiles, and even joking are imperative, thus, they are always memorable. It is emphasized that non-verbal messages are an essential component of communication in the teaching process(Readers may refer to the preliminary version of my paper on this issue presented in IRCEELT 2018 - 8th International Research Conference on Education, Language, and Literature).





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2.3. Non-verbal Communication as a Fiction:

The use of non-verbal clues at our disposal does not stop writers from speculating about highly imaginative communicative channels. Piers Anthony in his novel **OX** (1976) uses the pattern generating rules of the game called life to portray communication through the use of PATTERNS. In another attempt, we find that Donald Moffit, in his novel **The Jupiter Theft** (1977) describes aliens who communicate solely by SMELL. Other science fiction novels handle the theme of TELEPATHY. The most outstanding are Alfred Bester’s, **The Demolished Man** (1953) and John Brunner’s **The Whole Man** (1964). In his short story termed **Big Game Haunt** (1957), Arthur C. Clarke speculates about ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES OF THE BRAIN (Via the net; cf. Khan, 2001: via the net).

It is worth considering here, too, that there are some areas in fiction where verbal and non-verbal means of communication overlap. POETRY is not far away from this; a good poet selects the words for their sounds, for the various rhythms that these sounds produce, and for images that these sounds evoke in the mind which all help to convey the poets’ messages (Khan, 2001: via the net). Other poets have entertained other non-verbal techniques which are more efficient than words; SILENCE is a case in point here. The POLISH POETESS, ANNA KAMIENSKA values silence in her own poetry and writes about it as a powerful universal means of communication via her poems. As such,

..., [her] faith in the power of communicating with others in silence prompted her to include symbolically in one of her poetry collections a few blank pages (a project her publisher never agreed to). In this way, she wanted to manifest her dissatisfaction with the corruption and deterioration of language (words) closely connected with her experience of genocide during World War II and the triumph of a totalitarian system in postwar Poland.

(Szaruga, 1986 quoted in Jaworski, 1993: 161)

These lines show clearly that words fail the Polish lady poet to express herself and her viewpoint towards political issues surrounding her country in the war. She finds refuge in silence to do so (Other attempts which extend or expand non-verbal systems of communication to LITERATURE can be found in Hassan’s 1967 and 1971 treatment of silence in LITERATURE and LITERARY CRITICISM quoted in Ibid.: 163).



2.3. Non-verbal Communication as an Art:

It is quite fascinating cave drawings, dating back to the remote past, speak loudly to narrate stories of ancient cultures. PICTURE WRITINGS and HIEROGLYPHS in Mesopotamia and Egypt, respectively are the most ancient systems of writing in the whole world using different figures, symbols, and shapes coloured differently.

As an up-to-date attempt, a whole chapter entitled “The Extensions of silence” is devoted by Jaworski (1993: 140-165) to making an analogy between silence and various forms of art, including paintings, music, etc. Among the various artistic schools reviewed by the author and the various artistic expressions used by him, silence is shown as a non-verbal means of communication adopted by artists in their paintings to magnify their intentions. Let us first take a brief look at an artistic tradition that makes silence one of its basic modes of expression. The emptiness around abstract and figurative forms in JAPANESE ART provides us with a point of reference for the interpretation and understanding of these forms. “For example, the carefully arranged rocks in Japanese stone gardens are set in a kind of negative space provided by the white sand around them” (Jaworski, 1993: 151). The forms embodied in the emptiness enable the spectators to notice silence which has a meditative meaning message as Peterson (1960: 105 cited in Ibid.) notices.

The unprototypical modes of non-verbal communicative behaviour are illustrated in western visual arts, too. It is supposed that each painting tells us something, a story and silence is presented as an integral part of such stories. In this line of thinking, EDWARD HOPPER, THE AMERICAN PAINTER is known for his adoption of silence in his paintings. Thus,

[w]hen people appear in [his] paintings they are very often still, almost stiff, and looking blindly ahead. Even when Hopper shows us people who talk to each other, there is no way we can “hear” them and find out what they are talking about if we are looking at these people on television in slow motion In one of the paintings (Four Lane Road, 1956) a woman is shown shouting at a man, but he does not seem to hear her, or the shouting of woman has no impact on him.

(Jaworski, 1993: 149)

The narrative silence in Hopper’s paintings narrates stories about LONLINESS, ISOLATION, and DEPRESSION of Americans at a certain time in their history (Jaworski, 1993: 149).





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Bearing in mind that films with their various scenarios reflect man in different situations of life, it is of special interest, as the researcher views, to get a glimpse at the role of non-verbal communication in this very area. We greatly rely here on Jaworski's publications; his article entitled "Talk and silence in The Interrogation"⁽⁶⁾ (1998). Here comes to stage the dynamics of the complementary linguistic pair, viz. talk: silence which have been investigated in a film script entitled "The Interrogation" and we will stick to silence since it is encapsulated in non-verbal acts. Adopting MARKEDNESS THEORY, some scholars, for instance Sobkowaik⁽⁷⁾ (1997: 39-61 also see Jaworski, 1998: 102-103), argues that communicative silence is pragmatically marked in the contrasting, viz. talk: silence or speech: silence. But, this may lead to a rather one sided negative view concerning silence. In other terms, silence is restricted as a communicative resource; it is then the marked member as compared with talk. Arguing against this by adopting other notions which are INTERACTIVE FRAME, KNOWLEDGE SCHAMA and FOOTING, Jaworski (1998) aims to demonstrate that not only talk is available to produce metamessages; silence is also perfectly available to do so. The characters' interactions in this particular artistic literary text are but good pieces of evidence. The following extract, for instance, shows, among many others, how silence is adopted as a communicative strategy in the prison frame (i.e. situation) by the characters to convey various metamessages:

Excerpt 1

I can not help you against him. He is my friend, and you, sir, I don't even know your name.[p.41]

*It is the prison frame in which Tonia adopts her strategic silence by explicitly referring to her knowledge schema as follows. She admits that Olcha is her friend and Zawada is a stranger for her (if not enemy) by using a distancing form of address which is *sir*. Tonia's silence is blatantly represented in her refusal of not cooperating with Zawada, and announces silence as a response to his questioning who adopts a strategy of threatening her. She smokes a cigarette that she took earlier out of *zawad*'s packet without even asking for permission. Also, she refuses to sign her testimony against Olcha. Another strategy of silence is physical represented by her stillness and unmoved body (Jaworski, 1998: 106-107) (see also, fn. 47 for full details on the film script "The Interrogation"). Though it is clear that institutionally, in the interrogation frame, the prisoners are imposed to talk, still Tonia uses silence as a powerful tool to break the interrogation⁽⁸⁾.*

3.Summing -up

Reviewing all this data, we have shown that non-verbal or non-linguistic systems of communication, in those phenomena outside traditional linguistic studies, can be studied and investigated with the same theoretical tools as linguistic communication. In this sense, it is possible to say that they are as powerful as their verbal counterparts.

These are but some preliminary remarks given to the audience to look around but carefully in their daily-life encounters. And what is more is to notice their behaviours and acts as powerful means of communication in some situational conversations.

¹**4.Evocative Remark**

Due to the discrepancy of using and classifying non-verbal signs ,an idea springs to mind while working on the survey in the original work –my dissertation .It is simply to come up with a full taxonomy of non-verbal signs showing which include which supported by pieces of evidence from fields like the physiology of man.

A journey may start "From Adam's Apple to Jump to Zygomatic Smile" ...

End Notes

⁽¹⁾ We can, also, refer to those noises, which are the characteristic cries, of some species of birds, traditionally known as onomatopoeia or onomatopoeic. These constitute only a small minority of the word-form in the language system (Lyons, 1977: 101). Certainly, they are considered as a non-verbal means of communication. Elsewhere, such noises are termed as iconic words or echoic words and can be classified into three groups:

- direct imitations; e.g. *ouch, oh*, etc.
- imitations of noises that things make (not only animals); e.g. *meow, buzz*, etc.
- sound symbolism that people use and consider appropriate to express some meanings; e.g. *sizzle, wheeze*, etc. (Anonymous, 2004: 110).

⁽²⁾A possible SIXTH SENSE which is mostly talked about as a means of communication without using words is TELEPATHY. In a rigidly contracted experiment carried out in 1921 by three psychologists at the University of Gröningen, positive telepathic transmission was reported. Telepathy is one among other instances of Extra Sensory Perception observed among us (Khan, 2001: via the net).



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⁽³⁾ The sense of sight is not merely a clue for non-verbal communication related to man. It is also there with insects. The dance of the honey bees is the most obvious example. The intricate motions, of the worker bee seen and interpreted by other bees to convey information about the location of a source of nectar, its distance, and even its direction (see among others, Khan, 2001: via the net).

⁽⁴⁾ TOUCH is proved to be of importance even for babies to thrive. This is shown in a study of premature babies. Those who were massaged three times a day for 15 minutes gained weight 47% faster than those who were left alone in their incubators. After leaving the hospital, the same infants were able to hold their advantage in weight. By further tests on their mental abilities, it was found that they did much better than those premature infants who were not touched as much (Goleman, 1988: C1 quoted in Hybels & Weaven, 1998: 140).

⁽⁵⁾ It is of importance here to make a borderline between two terminologies, viz. GESTURE LANGUAGE or SIGN LANGUAGE and GESRURES. The former is used by American Indians and those people who suffer from physiological problems like the deaf; it is linguistic, not paralinguistic since it has its own systems of communication which are structured as language. On the other hand, the latter is paralinguistic not linguistic related to those paralinguistic behaviours and/or acts of people distinguished in their various channels of communication like: nods, shrugs, winks, etc. (Abercrombie, 1972: 67 and Al-Azzawi, 1986: 169). Still, gestures are powerful means of communication used by people in certain contexts even without uttering any single word.

⁽⁶⁾ The story of The Interrogation is centred around Tonia’s cross-examination by two officers: Zawada and Morawski. After a series of cross-examinations about her intimate life, past lovers and marriage, Tonia, is confronted with the information that Colonel, Olcha - a man with whom she had a brief affair – is accused of treason spying for a western super power and sabotage. It is supposed that Tonia knows all about his secretes, especially those used by him in conspiring to wreck the New Communist State of Poland. This is why she is named the key witness in the trial (Jaworski, 1998: 105-106).

(7) The author's claim here is based on certain markedness criteria viz. FORM, DISTRIBUTION, CONTENT, and FUNCTION which are adopted to judge silence to be the MARKED MEMBER of the pair TALK and/or SPEECH: SILENCE (Surely, MARKEDNESS THEORY is adopted by researchers in the realm of LEXICAL SEMANTICS to investigate ANTONYMS, being one type of oppositeness, in different languages, say for instance English and Arabic, to mention but a few Cruse, 1976; Lehrer, 1985; Murphy, 1993; Cruse & Togia, 1995 and Al-Halawachy, 1998).

(8) It is interesting to know that there is a STORY of SILENCE behind both the film script and the film itself. The script was written by Bugajski in 1980. The shooting of the film began in September 1981 and the production was finished in February 1982. On 13 December 1981, martial law was declared in POLAND and the film was banned from distribution. It was not until 1989 that it was officially released and then shown on national television (Jaworski, 1998: 120, n.4).

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