

Body language in Iraqi and American political interviews

- A contrastive analysis -

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لغة الجسد في المقابلات السياسية التلفزيونية العراقية والأميركية

- تحليل مقارن -

المدرس المساعد

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Abstract:-

Nonverbal communication spans across different languages worldwide, with body language (BL) being one of its forms. This paper focuses on exploring BL in both Iraqi and American political interviews ,to identify both similarities and differences in their use. It's clear that any form that conveys an idea or message qualifies as communication. People communicate through various means, such as spoken words, gestures, facial expressions, and more. This research examines communication through gestures in Iraqi and American cultures, explaining the meanings behind them and discussing their acceptability. The research is descriptive, non-numerical, and linguistically focused, aiming to provide a straightforward overview of the communicative languages and cultures of Iraq and the United States.

The first part deals with a specific theoretical review, the second part tackles body language in Iraqi and American cultures. The last part consists of the methodology and data analysis.

However, the data collected from both languages depend on a variety of sources that contain different interviews or meeting for the former American president Trump and the former Iraqi prime minister Alkadhimy . After the data analysis carried out in the light of an eclectic model based on R. Lado (1957), the following conclusions were drawn: In the analysis, it was noted that while certain aspects of body language share similar forms across both languages, they carry different meanings. Additionally, some aspects have identical meanings but vary in form. The theoretical exploration has uncovered that cultural differences explain why certain aspects of BL are absent in either English or Arabic. Interestingly, it was found that English speakers utilize bodily movements, especially gestures, more frequently than Arabic speakers.

Key words: non-verbal, Iraqi culture, Political, Trump, Al –Kadhimy and kinesics.

المخلص:-

تتجلى أوجه متنوعة للتواصل الغير لفظي في لغات العالم وتمثل لغة جسد إحدى هذه التجليات. يعني هذا البحث بتحليل لغة الجسد في المقابلات السياسية العراقية والأميركية للكشف عن أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بين كلتا اللغتين. ومن الواضح بأن أي صيغة تتضمن فكرة أو رسالة معينة فهي تعني التواصل. يتواصل الناس من خلال وسائل متنوعة سواء بالكلام أو الإيماءات أو تعابير الوجه... وغيرها. إن هذا البحث وصفي، غير احصائي وضمن المنهج اللغوي حيث يهدف الى تقديم لمحة عامة مباشرة عن لغات وثقافات التواصل في العراق والولايات المتحدة.

يتناول الجزء الأول مراجعة نظرية محددة، ويتناول الجزء الثاني لغة الجسد في الثقافة العراقية، ويتناول الجزء الثالث لغة الجسد باللغة الإنجليزية. أما بالنسبة الى الجزء الخاص بالمنهجية فقد جمعت البيانات من اللغتين بالاعتماد على مجموعة متنوعة من المصادر الاخبارية السياسية التي تعرض مقابلات أو لقاءات مختلفة للرئيس الأمريكي السابق ترامب ورئيس الوزراء العراقي السابق الكاظمي. وبعد تحليل البيانات في ضوء النموذج الانتقائي المعتمد على ر. لادو (1957)، في التحليل، لوحظ أنه في حين أن جوانب معينة من لغة الجسد تشترك في أشكال مماثلة عبر اللغتين، إلا أنها تحمل معاني مختلفة. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإن بعض الجوانب لها معاني متطابقة ولكنها تختلف في الشكل. كشف الاستكشاف النظري أن الاختلافات الثقافية تفسر سبب غياب جوانب معينة من تعلم اللغة في اللغة الإنجليزية أو العربية. ومن المثير للاهتمام أنه وجد أن المتحدثين باللغة الإنجليزية يستخدمون الحركات الجسدية، وخاصة الإيماءات، بشكل متكرر أكثر من المتحدثين باللغة العربية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: غير اللفظي، الثقافة العراقية، السياسي، ترامب، الكاظمي، حركة الجسد.

1. Introduction

Fast (1978:12) and Pease (2004:9) suggest that nonverbal cues play a significant role in everyday interactions, from facial expressions to body language, with actions that are not spoken still communicating a wealth of information. Regarding body language, these cues are exchanged nonverbally, regardless of whether they are accompanied by spoken words. Furthermore, the adoption of body language across different languages, including those that are not, is influenced by various factors, some of which are cultural in nature.

Hence, the focus of this study is on showing the similarities and differences in understanding and utilizing body language aspects among Iraqi Arabic speakers and Americans. However, there is a lack of research specifically on nonverbal communication and body language, especially in the context of Iraqi and American cultures. This study aims to address this void by exploring nonverbal communication and body language within the cultural contexts of Iraq and the United States. Giving that nonverbal communication carries a wide range of meanings that vary across cultures, the research will concentrate on Iraqi and American cultural nonverbal behaviors in political interviews or meetings to make them more understandable to other cultures.

2. Theoretical Framework

Body language is apart of the wider field of kinesics, which includes various types of nonverbal communication. Kinesics plays a significant role in many areas, such as politics, education, economics, business, drama and the arts, medicine, tourism, and legal matters. Additionally, it's essential for those learning the Iraqi language to grasp kinesics, as it forms a core element of the language(Finch,2005:220)

While verbal communication typically involves the use of spoken words, non-verbal communication (NVC) is about communication that happens without words (e.g., eye contact, body movements, or vocal signals) (Knapp and Hall, 2006: 5). Trask (2007: 187) describes nonverbal communication as “any aspect of communication that does not use words”. Finch (2005: 222) defines

nonverbal communication as "communication that occurs without the use of words". Samovar, Porter, and McDaniel (2010: 246) suggest that nonverbal communication includes all the non-verbal cues in a communication environment that are created by both the speaker and their interaction with the surroundings, and that these cues can convey messages to the speaker or the listener.

Finch (ibid.) points out that body language, or body language, is the second part of non-vocal communication, which includes gestures, facial expressions, posture, and eye movements. He highlights that body language is non-vocal, meaning it relies heavily on the body and its movements. In essence, it's about how the body communicates, both verbally and non-verbally, as Sebeok (2001: 20) puts it, "the body itself can be a primary .This is corroborated by Crystal (2006: 5), who mentions that the interpretations of the physical actions are "simply very basic forms of emotions or social connections," including love, hostility, sexual desire, welcoming gestures, praise, thanks, astonishment, and indicating interest. Means of communication, both verbal and nonverbal".

2.1 Types of Non-Verbal Communication

2.1.1 Kinesics

Kinesics is the scientific study of body movements, encompassing arm, hand, body, and facial gestures. It originates from the Greek word "kinesis," meaning "movement," which is used to describe the use of gestures, head motions, posture, eye contact, and facial expressions as forms of nonverbal communication (Hans and Hans, 2015: 1). Kinesics is often referred to as "body language," a term that has been used to describe it in scientific literature (Moore, Hickson, and Stacks, 2010: 185). Another way to understand body language is as a form of nonverbal communication where the body conveys information through movements rather than words (Wharton, 2009: 4).

According to Affini (2017: 62), Ray Birdwhistell, an anthropologist, first coined the term "Kinesics" in 1952 to describe the study of how humans communicate through posture, gestures, stance, and movement. Birdwhistell's research involves filming individuals in social situations and analyzing their behavior to

uncover communication levels that are not immediately apparent in other contexts.

Each social group may adhere to distinct rules for utilizing kinesics, while humans share a fundamental repertoire of body motions, eye contact, facial expressions, gaze, posture, touch, and proxemics (Bertram, 2020). However, these variations across different aspects of kinesics are influenced by factors such as gender, nationality, tribe, and culture. Individuals who do not share these kinesic repertoires may inadvertently misunderstand each other. For instance, Americans commonly believe that shaking hands is the universal gesture for greeting, yet this is not entirely accurate. To non-natives, this gesture can also convey messages of "thank you" and "I'm sorry," which might lead to confusion. In several Middle Eastern countries, there is a customary greeting that involves the right hand sweeping upward, first touching the heart, then the forehead, and finally moving up and outward, a practice known as "salaam" (Ivy and Wahl, 2009: 191). As previously mentioned, kinesics encompasses the study of nonverbal communication through facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, body movement, and posture (Steinberg, 2007: 94).

3. Body Language in Iraqi Culture

Arabic, like other languages, experiences semantic change, with many words evolving in meaning over time. Similarly, the meanings of certain bodily gestures have shifted. This is partly due to the lack of efforts by Arabic modern linguists to decipher the original connotations of these gestures. For instance, the old interpretation of shoulder shrugs as a sign of happiness and acceptance has transformed into a signal of refusal and denial, influenced by the dominant Western culture, as noted by Dāwūd (2007:18).

3.1 Posture in Iraqi Arabic

Posture is the conditions that appear in the general external shape of a person. However, anyone has many postures which have several types and different meanings, for instance, posture might manifest itself in sitting, standing, walking, rituals, etc. ('arār, 2007:239).

The Posture of Strutting (The Walking in Arrogant Way) (Ibid:242). The Posture of Modest Walking (Walking Slowly)(ibid.) .The Posture of Modest Sitting means modesty and respect. The Posture of Slack Scorning Sitting: it may show that the sedentary person is very sick or he is very worried because of a certain situation, but the main meaning of this sitting is that the sedentary is trying to scorn his guests. (Al-Jāhīd, d.255 h, 1999:2/302). The Posture of Standing and Lowering The Body (The movements of the prayer :Bowing, Prostration and Sitting) it indicates submission and modesty. (ibid)

3.2 The Head Movements in Arabic

The Meaning of Head Shaking Right and Left : To shake the head right and left signals refusal in Arabic-speaking communities (Dāwūd, 2007:11).

The Meaning of Head Raising: When Arabic-speaking person raises his head, this movement conveys pride and arrogance (ibid:24). The Meaning of The Low Head :When the head is lowered, it expresses the feeling of shame in Arabic-speaking communities. (Dāwūd, 2007:24)

The Meaning of Head Nodding:To move the head up and down expresses acceptance. (Al-Bukhāry, d.256 h, 1997:3/322).

3.3 Facial Expressions in Arabic

A Smiling Facial Expression Showing Happiness and Joy Ibin Kathīr (d.774 h, 1994:8/327) .A Gloomy Facial Expression Showing Sadness and Depression (Rabay'a, 2010: 52). A Terrified Facial Expression Showing Fear(ibid). A Disgusted Facial Expression Showing Disgust Related to Anger (Rabay'a, 2010: 53). An Astonishing Facial Expression Showing Surprise (ibid).

A Frowning Facial Expression Showing Anger (ibid:55). The Facial Expression of a Small Smile Conveying Greeting(Al-Jāhīd, d.255h, 1990: 1/219)

3.4 The Eye Movements and Eye Contact in Iraqi Arabic

The Eye Contact in Arabic (The Prolonged Eye Contact); According to Al-Anṣāry (2005:45)the table below shows the forms of eye movements and their meanings;

Table (1): The Meanings of Eye Movements and Gazing in Arabic

The Eye Movements in Arabic-speaking Communities	Its Common Meanings
1. The Terrified Revolving Eye.	Fear, Worry and Uneasiness
2. A Glance by The Edge of One Eye	Forbidding of something.
3. The Winking	Mockery and Humiliation.
4. The Lumbered or Lazy Look	Tiredness, Drunkenness, Sickness or Carelessness.
5. The Questioning Look	Astonishment, Surprise and Frustration.
6. The Prolonged Eye Contact (Gazing)	Attention or Showing Respect

3.5 Gestures in Iraqi Arabic

It is done by using the hand or both hands to show the size of thing, approximate measure or certain idea ('arār, 2007:56). Rubbing The Palms Together Conveying Happiness or Cold: It is done by rubbing both open hands to show happiness or feeling of cold (ibid). Open Palms Gesture Conveying Welcoming: It is done by extending both open palms to mean welcoming. When one says: "welcome" (ahlan wa sahlān), he may support his words by this gesture or the initiative of embracing or hugging (ibid:57).

The Thanking Gesture: It is done by patting the heart repeatedly means "I've had enough" (usually used at mealtimes), or it means "thanks" (ibid). Handshaking Signalling Greeting: The gesture of handshaking is the most usual form of greeting, and tends to be far more prolonged and intimate than its western counterpart, often being accompanied by embracing and kissing on both cheeks (ibid). The table (2) below shows some BL in Iraqi Arabic.

No.	Body Language Description	The body language type	The meaning
1.	Raising the eyebrows is one of the most common expressions of non-verbal communication. Eyebrows are included within the scope of the face. This type of communication occurs when two people pass each other in opposite directions. One of them raises his eyebrows while raising his head slightly as an expression of greeting, or what is called in the Arabic language "Alsalaam.	Facial expression	Greeting
2.	Putting the right hand on the left side of the chest is used when someone provides a service	Gesture	Thanks and gratitude

	or assistance. The response is from the other person by placing the right hand on his chest. Sometimes it is accompanied by words such as "Allah mercies your parents" and "thank you" This non-verbal signal also accompanies the phrase "Alaikum-salaam"		
3.	Directing the palm while moving it left and right quickly is equivalent to the verbal phrase "I don't want to."	Gesture	Absolute rejection.
4.	A shrug of the shoulders with the hands spread out, as if the head was tilted slightly to the right, with a crooked mouth. In other cultures, it indicates indifference, but in Iraqi culture, it carries an altered significance. It point out a person's lack of knowledge about something.	Gesture	Idon'tknow
5.	The act of wiping the palm with the other is used as an expression of "there is nothing" or more precisely sense suppose that a father asks his son to go to buy bread from a store, but the seller tells the son that the bread has run out, then the son can use this expression nonverbally as a sign of running out of bread.	Gesture	Something has run out.
6.	The act of biting the lower lip while opening the eyes wider is associated with a warning or when one wants to ask someone to be silent but in an imperative manner. It is used by Iraqi mothers while getting angry with their children.	Facial expression	Do not talk or keep quiet.
7.	Beating on the chest once or more is a nonverbal signal used by men habitually. It occurs when someone requests a specific call from a person and the latter's response with that signal shows their ability to fulfill the request. It is often accompanied by an expression that enhances the strength of the message, such as; trust me.	Gesture	Rely on me
8.	Nodding in a direction by using the head is used by security men to allow or request the other person to pass to the other side.	Gesture	pass

4. Body Language in English

4.1 Proxemics in English

Observing an Arab and an Englishman conversing, the Arab, embodying the friendly nature of his people, will approach the Englishman closely. In response, the Englishman will instinctively

move back. The Arab, seeking to bridge the gap, will, in turn, move closer. The Englishman will continue to maintain his distance. By the conclusion of their conversation, they may find themselves quite removed from their original positions. According to Zhou and Zhang (2008:91), this dynamic of "showing friendliness in the manner of their people" leads to the Arab standing close initially and then moving forward as the Englishman retreats further.

4.2 Posture in English

Mckee (2008: 93) explains, "Body posture refers to the positioning or bearing of the speaker's body." Furthermore, posture provides a wealth of information about humans. From the way someone sits, stands, slouches, or slumps, one can infer their self-image, attitude, and emotional state. For instance, someone hunched over or with their head in their hands may be perceived as lacking strength, while slouched or seated with feet resting on the desk may signal superiority (Steinberg, 1995: 60). For example, the walk of English-speakers, often used to signify their cultural dominance, strength, and pride, irrespective of their social status. (Pease and Pease, 2004: 210). In English-speaking communities, raising or lowering one's posture in front of another can also establish hierarchical relationships, with crossed legs often indicating closed or uncertain attitudes, whereas open leg positions suggest openness. (Pease, 1981: 59).

4.3 The Head Movements in English

In English-speaking communities, the head nodding is used to signify 'Yes' or affirmation(Fast, 1978:30). For instants, The Slow Head Nodding Conveying Attention (pease and pease , 2004:230) .The Fast Head Nodding Showing Lack of Patience (ibid). The Head Shaking Indicating Refusal(pease , 1981:69). The Head Held Up Expressing Neutrality and Alertness (ibid:70). The Head Lowering Expressing Negative Attitudes(ibid).

4.4 Facial Expressions in English

Manusov (2015: 1) states, "The face is the place where we "meet" other people. That is, we look to others' faces and their expressions to identify and engage with them, as they do with us". A considerable percentage of non-verbal communication is expressed

through facial expressions as the following: A Smiling Facial Expression Conveying Happiness (ibid). A Gloomy Facial Expression Conveying Sadness (ibid). A Terrified Facial Expression Conveying Fear (James,2009:123). An Astonishing Facial Expression Conveying Surprise (ibid). A Frowning Facial Expression Conveying Anger (ibid:124). Lip-Pout : (is to push the lower lip against the upper) Expressing Disappointment or Sadness (ibid).

Tense-Mouth: (A position of the mouth in which the lips are visibly tightened and pressed together through contraction of the lip and jaw muscles) Expressing Anger, Frustration or Cognitive Processing(ibid). Blank Face : The face is in rest, with the eyes open and the lips closed. It Reveals "Do not disturb".(Bowden, 2010:111) .The Eyebrows Slightly Raised Signalling Greeting and Recognition(ibid.)

4.5 The Eye Movements in English

Eye contact plays a crucial role in regulating conversations, conveying dominance, or suggesting deception. Phrases like "He looked down his nose at me" or "Look me in the eye when you say that!" highlight its significance. Our lives are deeply intertwined with face-to-face communication, making eye signals an essential component of understanding a person's attitudes and thoughts. The eyes, often considered the most revealing and accurate means of human communication, are unique because the pupils operate independently of conscious control (Pease and Pease, 2004:165). However, this is by no means a comprehensive list, and the specific meanings behind these eye signals are widely recognized in English. Noteworthy eye signals include raising the eyebrows to display dominance, widening the eyes to signify submission, sideways glancing to indicate interest or hostility, giving a prolonged look as a display of arrogance, darting eyes as a sign of insecurity, and an eye-shrug Signalling Frustration (ibid:180)

4.5.1 The Eye Contact in English (Prolonged Eye Contact)

In Arabic-speaking communities, extended gaze exchanges are generally seen as appropriate during interactions between men. Members of these communities view such contact as a sign of interest and a way to gauge the sincerity of the other person's words, a perspective that some English-speaking individuals might find

somewhat unsettling or off-putting. Conversely, in English-speaking communities, prolonged eye contact often serves as a nonverbal code within the gay male community. When directed at another of the same sex, an extended gaze, similar to other nonverbal cues, is often interpreted as a signal of interest and sexual suggestion. Consequently, English-speaking individuals tend to view direct prolonged eye contact as inappropriate and usually avoid any form of staring (Samovar, Porter and McDaniel, 2010:263).

4.6 Gestures in English

According to Yule (2022: 201), gestures involve using hands with other body parts, but they are somehow different. Sign language is a language. It is used instead of speaking. For instance, Rubbing The Palms Together Conveying Positive Expectation (Pease and Pease, 2004:125). Hands Clenched Together Conveying Frustration (ibid). Steeple Showing Confidence, Gesture Describing an Object or its Size : This illustrative gesture aids the understanding of the listener. It is like painting small pictures in the air (James, 2009:99-100). Wobbling Hand Expressing "I'm not sure" or "Maybe" (ibid).

5. Methodology and Data Analysis

Contrastive linguistics has been defined as "a subdiscipline of linguistics concerned with the comparison of two or more languages or subsystems of language in order to determine both differences and similarities between them" (Fisiak, 1981:1).

The present research adopts the model of analysis, beginning with Lado's book (1957) *Linguistics Across Cultures* whose principles had been laid down by Fries (1945:9) who states that "The most effective materials are those that are based upon a scientific description of the language to be learned, carefully compared with a parallel description of the native language of the learner".

The model to be adopted here for such analysis is that of Lado's model (1957) that is used to pinpoint the form, meaning and distribution of BL aspects in both languages. Furthermore, Lado's model has the advantage of comparison of cultures. The model will be employed here since the present study is concerned with both languages which belong to two totally different cultures .

However, Lado's model has three facets: form, meaning and distribution. The last principle (i.e., distribution) will be neglected here since this principle is not relevant to the present study. Due to the fact that the BL aspects of English and Arabic do not have specific distributions. The form and meaning have significant roles in this study since the two languages exhibit convergences the area under study (e.g. similar in form and meaning) and divergences (e.g. some BL aspects differ in form and meaning. Some differ in form but have a similar meaning while others differ in meaning but have different forms).

6. Data Analysis

6.1 Analysis of Donald Trump body language in many selected interviews



<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-body-language-expert-decodes-us-republican-presidential-candidate-s-most-divisive-speeches-a6767981.html>

1. Gestures	
Form	Meaning
1. The hand opening widely	It conveys honesty and meanness
2. Facial expression	
Eye brows slightly raised	It conveys greeting and recognition



<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2019/11/turkey-united-states-erdogan-visit-produce-no-result.html>

1. Gestures	
Form	Meaning
Hand shaking	It refers to greeting
2. Facial expression	
Lip-pout	It conveys disappointment
3. Eye movement	
Eye shrug	It refers to frustration



<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/26/opinion/sunday/the-awkward-language-of-donald-trumps-body.html>

1. Gestures	
Form	Meaning
Hand shaking	It refers to greeting
2. Facial expression	
Lip-pout	It conveys disappointment
Disguised face	It conveys disappointment or disguise.
3. Eye movement	
Eye shrug	It refers to frustration

4. Postures	
Sitting and Leg apart and uncrossed	It conveys dominance and the uncrossed leg conveys openness.



<https://www.businessinsider.com/donald-trump-handshakes-2017-3>

1. Gestures	
Form	Meaning
Hand shaking and one palm opening	It refers to greeting
2. Facial expression	
Lip-pout	It conveys disappointment
3. Eye movement	
Lowering eye brows	It refers to dominance or aggression. It conveys offensiveness.
The prolonged eye contact	
4. Head movement	
Lowering the head slightly	It conveys negative attitude.



<https://news.sky.com/story/trumps-body-language-hints-at-desperation-11402117>

1. Gestures	
Form	Meaning
Hand behinds the back	It conveys superiority and power.
2. Postures	
Standing and lowering the body	Lowering the body shows respect to the superiors while increasing height shows the high status.

6.2 Analysis of Mustafa Al-kadhimi body language in selected interviews or meetings



<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/060520203>

1. Head movement	
Form	Meaning
Head Lowering	It conveys negative attitude or feeling of shame.
Slow head Nodding	It means paying attention
2. Postures	
Standing and lowering the body	Lowering the body shows modesty
3. Facial expressions	
Gloomy face	It conveys sadness
Astonished face	It conveys surprising
A frowning face	It expresses anger
Lip- pout	It expresses regret, Frustration and anger.
4. Eye movement	
Darting eye	It shows insecurity
Eye shrug	It conveys questioning look.
5. Gestures	
Shoulders shrug	It conveys refusal



https://www.arabnews.jp/en/middle-east/article_76163/

1.	
Form	Meaning
head Nodding	It conveys affirmation
Head tilting	It shows submission
2. Postures	
Modest sitting	It shows modesty and it's a pleasant habit.
3. Facial expressions	
A Happy face	It expresses happiness
Small smile	It shows greeting and recognition
Lips-pursed	It means emotionally controlled
4. Eye movement	
The prolonged eye contact	It shows respect and attention to whom he is talking. It's a normal habit.
5. Gestures	
Hand shaking	It conveys greeting and solidarity.



<https://www.alhadath.net/iraq/2022/02/14/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%B8%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%87%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%83-%D9%85%D9%86-%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%AE%D9%84%D9%82-%D9%81%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%A9-%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82>

1. Head movement	
Form	Meaning
Slow head Nodding	It conveys paying attention
2. Postures	
Modest sitting	It shows modesty and it's a pleasant habit.
3. Facial expressions	
Gloomy face	It expresses sadness
4. Eye movement	
Darting eyes	It shows insecurity
5. Gestures	
Morning index finger	It conveys threatening .



<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.mehrnews.com%2Fnews%2F188418%2FAI-Kadhimi-bin-Salman-review-bilateral-ties-regional-issues&psig=AOvVaw3YFylswQ8VvnvB8CjkOMle&ust=1721419243916000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CAMQtaYDahcKEwilsc3tsLGHAxUAAAAAHQAAAAAQBw>

1. Postures	
Standing proudly and bowing the body	It shows modesty. It shows submission .
2. Facial expressions	
A Happy face Small smile	It expresses happiness It shows greeting and recognition

5.Gestures	
Hand behind the back of the person he is standing with	It conveys greeting and solidarity.



<https://m.facebook.com/UnitedNationsIraq/photos/baghdad-12-april-2020-the-special-representative-of-the-united-nations-secretary/3158873814144624/>

1. Head movement	
Form	Meaning
head Nodding	It conveys affirmation
Head tilting	It shows submission
2. Postures	
Modest sitting	It shows modesty and it's a pleasant habit.
Sitting and the legs apart	It shows relief and it's a normal habit.
The uncrossed legs	It conveys respect.
3. Facial expressions	
A Happy face	It expresses happiness
Small smile	It shows greeting and recognition
Lips-pursed	It conveys that emotionally controlled
4.Eye movement	
The prolonged eye contact	It shows respect and attention to whom he is talking. It's a normal habit.
5.Gestures	
Hands open and putting aside	It conveys greeting.

Conclusions:-

The current research has reached several conclusions after conducting a contrastive analysis. Our findings reveal interesting

insights into the similarities and differences between English and Arabic when it comes to Body Language (BL). Here are some key observations:

1. In the analysis, it was noted that while certain aspects of body language share similar forms across both languages, they carry different meanings. Additionally, some aspects have identical meanings but vary in form.
2. The theoretical exploration has uncovered that cultural differences explain why certain aspects of BL are absent in either English or Arabic.
3. Interestingly, it was found that English speakers utilize bodily movements, especially gestures, more frequently than Arabic speakers.
4. There are several overlaps between English and Arabic when it comes to body language terms and their forms. This means that Arabic learners of English will likely encounter minimal challenges in understanding and using them. Here are a few examples:

The act of nodding the head is understood universally, transcending language barriers.

- Shaking the head from one side to the other, or the other way around, is another gesture recognized across different languages.
- Raising the head, whether to show attention or to express affirmation, is a common gesture.
- Using head movements to indicate direction or point out something is a widespread practice.
- Facial expressions, including smiles, frowns, and reactions of fear, disgust, or surprise, are universally recognized.
- Emotional expressions like sadness or anger are understood across various languages.
- Emotions such as surprise or amazement also cross language boundaries.

- A frown is universally recognized as a sign of displeasure or concentration.
- Gestures to describe objects or their size, like pointing with the index finger, are universally understood.
- Handshakes, a universal gesture of greeting or agreement, are recognized worldwide.

These observations suggest that learners of Arabic and English, whether in the role of teacher or student, will find many overlaps in Basic Language. This will facilitate smoother communication throughout their language learning journey.

- Physical closeness can be expressed by touching each other.
- A posture of walking with pride.
- A posture of lowering and raising the body.
- A posture of sitting with crossed legs.
- Lowering the head.
- A lip-pout facial expression.
- Prolonged eye contact.
- Rubbing the palms together.
- Hand clasped tightly.
- Pointing finger to indicate punishment.
- Touching the chest with hand.
- Facial expressions of tense mouth in English and pouting lips or biting lower lip in Arabic.
- A slightly raised brow in English and a small smile on the lips in Arabic.
- Darted eyes in English and a terrified revolving eye in Arabic.
- Shrug of the eyes in English and a questioning look in Arabic.
- Raised eyebrows in English and a questioning look in Arabic.

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