# Cultural Influence on Context: The Educational Setting

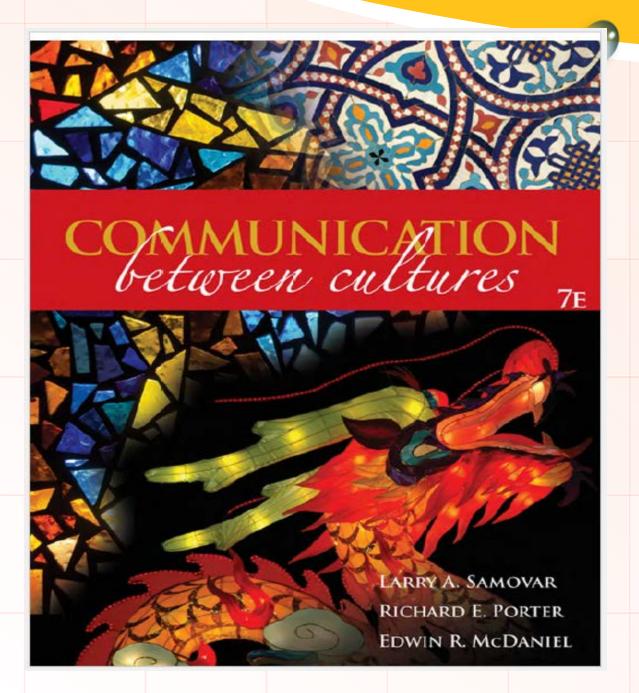
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#### SEVENTH EDITION

## Communication Between CULTURES

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CHAPTER 9	
CULTURAL INFLUENCES ON	
CONTEXT: THE EDUCATION	
SETTING	326
CHANGING EDUCATIONAL	
DYNAMICS	328
CULTURALLY DIVERSE EDUCATIONAL	
Systems	328
What and How Cultures Teach	329
MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION	336
Challenges of Multicultural	
Education	336
Culture and Learning	337
Cultural Ways of Knowing	338
Cultural Learning Preferences	339
Relational Styles for Learning	343
Cultural Motivation Styles	344
LANGUAGE DIVERSITY IN MULTICULTURAL	
EDUCATION	345
Extent of Diversity	345
Language and Identity	346
English Language Learners	347
TEACHER MULTICULTURAL	
COMPETENCE	347
Becoming Multiculturally	
Competent	348
Understanding Self	348
Understanding Diversity	349
Classrooms for Multicultural	
Education	351
Classroom as Community	351
The Differentiated Classroom	352
Multicultural Communication	
Competence	353
Multicultural Communication	
Strategies	353
Immediacy	354
Empathy	354
Summary	355
Activities	356
Discussion Ideas	356



- INTRODUCTION
- 1. CHANGING EDUCATIONAL DYNAMICS
- 2. CULTURALLY DIVERSE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS
- 2.1 What and How Cultures Teach
- 3. MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION
- 3.1 Challenges of Multicultural Education
- 3.2 Culture and Learning
- **4. LANGUAGE DIVERSITY IN MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION**



- 4.1 Extent of Diversity
- 4.2 Language and Identity
- 4.3 English Language Learners
- **5. TEACHER MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCE**
- 5.1 Becoming Multiculturally Competent
- 5.2 Classrooms for Multicultural Education
- 5.3 Multicultural Communication Competence
- 5.4 Multicultural Communication Strategies



- Viewpoint 1
- Culture is inseparably linked to education;
- people raised in diverse cultures are educated in accordance with the perceived needs of their cultures.
- [Culture is what and how we are educated and also the aims and ends of education.]



- Viewpoint 1
- Biological alike, socially different.
- Chinese, korean, Japanese, Vietnamese?
- Confucian cultural circle
- 【grand, grand children of Dragon! 】
- Western cultures: monster?
- ❖ 【Oil: Golden Dragon? 】



# INTRODUCTON

- Viewpoint 2
- In essence, every culture teaches with the same goals: perpetuating the culture and passing its history and traditions from generation to generation.
- ❖[──教育的文化本质?]
- Herbert Spencer: "Education has for its object the formation of character."



# INTRODUCTON

- Viewpoint 3
- Education is universally influenced by culture.
- CHow does a teacher in China interact with a student from another country/culture in the classroom?



# INTRODUCTON





#### REMEMBER THIS

Although education is universally influenced by culture, this influence is especially important in multicultural societies because of the cultural diversity inherent in the educational process.



# 1. CHANGING EDUCATIONAL DYNAMICS

- Change is difficult.
- Sometimes welcomed; frequently not.
- \* 【Do you like change? Do you like to be changed?】
- Education has become a cross-cultural encounter involving a multiplicity of ethnicities, worldviews, and life and learning styles.
  - [Muslims prays 5 times a day.]



# 1. CHANGING EDUCATIONAL DYNAMICS

#### REMEMBER THIS



- Enrollment in U.S. schools is rising to an alltime high.
- The U.S. student body is becoming increasingly diverse.
- Students from diverse co-cultures make up 43 percent of U.S. public school enrollment.
- Twenty percent of U.S. public school students speak a language other than English at home.



- As you might suspect, cultures with formal educational systems tend to teach many of the same things: literacy, mathematics, science, history, religion, and so forth.
- Yet, significant differences may be found in both what and how cultures teach.



# 2.1 What and How Cultures Teach

An ancient Chinese proverb tells us that "by nature all men are alike, but by education widely different."

❖【人之初, 性本善; 性相近, 习相远?】



- The teaching of history is common in all cultures, but each culture emphasizes its own history.
- Chistory textbooks in Germany and in France, in the Mainland and in Taiwan/Japan?



- In the United States' ideal:
- the signing of the Declaration of Independence,
- the American Revolution,
- the Industrial Revolution, and
- the many victories America has achieved on the battlefield.



## **♦ Mexico**

the cultural heritage of the pre-Columbian Indians, the Mexican Revolution.





- The teaching of language is also common in all cultures, but, as with history, cultures first teach their own language.
- A culture's history and language passes on their beliefs, values and prejudices.

- Q: What ..... do we pass on ?
- What ..... do Americans pass on ?

. . . . . .



- Every culture, whether consciously or unconsciously, tends to glorify its historical, scientific, economic, and artistic accomplishments, frequently minimizing the achievements of other cultures.
- ❖In this way, schools in all cultures impart ethnocentrism[种族中心主义].



- •e.g. What country is in the center of a world map? US, China, Russia, Africa? (who makes it?)
- ❖Koran(古兰经) in a Muslim school
- ❖Torah(《圣经旧约》首五卷,律法) in a Israeli school
- Marxism/communism in Chinese classes



- What a culture emphasizes in its curriculum can provide some insight into the character of that culture.
- Virtue, intellectual, PE, beauty, labor? ]
- Cdemocracy, freedom, liberty, love, justice, equity, equality?



- Chinese culture : collectivist
- Chinese education: the group or society, ingroup belonging, cooperation and interdependence, moral behavior, harmony;
- competitive: gaokao, test scores, better schools/universities/majors



Chinese teachers: moral authority, instruct students in the culture's moral rules of conduct.

\* [Q: how do you agree?]



# ❖ Japan:

- high degree of uniformity, standardized curriculum, character formation and moral education;
- very group oriented, social harmony, proper social behavior (paramount in its education system), interdependence, cooperation







A Japanese proverb: "A single arrow is easily broken, but not a bunch."

Reading, writing, and mathematics are emphasized in the Japanese curriculum, but unlike in the United States, much less attention is paid to oral communication.



- Geography:
- the names and capital cities of all major countries and the locations of large rivers, mountains, islands, and oceans;



- In a world history class:
- ❖students might memorize important facts about the United States, such as the dates of the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation (奴隶解放宣言), and the Marshall Plan, but they do not analyze the causes or social implications of these events.
- \* [Q: how do you agree?]



# ❖Korea:

- Korean educational processes are similar to those found in China and Japan.
- Teachers assume leadership roles in the areas of social values, civic awareness and duty, and academic preparation.







- Korean students remain in their homerooms and teachers rotate among classes. This permits the homeroom teacher to be a social and academic counselor and deal with discipline problems.
- Group solidarity and conformity are important goals of the Korean educational system. Having students take all of their classes together and wear uniforms leads to the achievement of these goals.



These goals are further realized through rules governing appearance, such as hair length for boys and a makeup ban for girls, which are strictly enforced even when students are on the way to and from school.

\* [Q: how do you agree?]



- **Russia**:
- Students learn how to participate in a competitive global market economy.
- Russian universities now define students in economic terms.
  [?]





- Study mathematics every year from the first to the eleventh grade and take yearly science classes beginning in the seventh grade.
- By graduation, they have taken five years of biology, five years of physics, and four years of chemistry.



- \*8:30a.m./40mins
- Primary: 4-5classes/day
- Middle/upper: 6-7classes/day

\* [Q: how do you agree?]



- Muslim schools in the United States seek to instill traditional Islamic moral values, particularly those related to the separation of genders.
- At the Al Iman School in Queens, New York, students sit in rows and are separated by gender ; uniformed;
- Girls: headscarves, shapeless robes;
- Boys: blue sweaters, gray trousers.







punished for bringing toys, comics, cosmetics, or jewelry to school, nail polish and "pursuing acts of romanticism," such as flirting with other students.



Muslim schools, however, have adapted to the questioning nature of U.S. culture, and students have become prone to ask questions of their teachers and seem unwilling to accept such answers as "Because [the Koran] says so."



African proverbs:

A kindness is reciprocated.

The stomach of a traveler is small.

He cries with one eye.



African proverbs:

A crime is always denied.

The harshness of young people is repaid.

The one offended never forgets; it is the offender who forgets.



- **♦**Spain:
- Students are taught the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic.
- In addition to these basics, Spanish students are also instructed in "formative" skills, "national spirit," and "complementary" skills.



# **♦**Mexico:

Mexican education practices differ in a number of ways from the educational systems found in the United States, China, Japan, Korea, and other countries.



- Mexico's educational system mandates completion of the twelfth grade, although the severe economic climate in parts of Mexico often precludes students from achieving this goal.
- Compulsory education



While some Mexican classrooms appear similar to those in North America, few rural schools have the luxury of individual textbooks, video equipment, or computers.



- 3. 1 Challenges of Multicultural Education
- Diverse cultural backgrounds, a rapidly changing society, some groups have greater societal benefits than others because of race, ethnicity, gender, class, language, religion, ability, or age.
- Future schools: more culturally diverse
- Why so ? ]



- In the past 35 years: waves of immigrants with strange religions
- What is not "strange"?
- The potential clash between a student's home and school cultures.



- Two important aims of multicultural education:
- to teach about the cultural practices of other people without stereotyping or misinterpreting them, and
- to teach about one's own cultural practices without casting the practices of other people in a negative manner.



- 3.2 Culture and Learning
- learning preferences

\* 【Q: describing different learning preferences between students from China and the USA?】



- 3.3 Cultural Ways of Knowing
- ❖Traditional native Hawaiians, for instance, believe that thinking comes from the intestines (肠), the "gut" that links the heart and the mind.
- In Hawaiian culture, feelings and emotions are inseparable from knowing, wisdom, and intelligence.



- The Western rational view:
- the cognitive domain of intellectual activity is separate from the affective domain of emotion and thinking comes from the head/brain.



- Holistic ways of knowing are a characteristic of the Kwara'ae people of the Solomon Islands.
- Knowledge is gained through sensory experiences, which are characterized as five kinds of "seeing".



- ❖ 3. 4 CULTURAL LEARNING PREFERENCES
- Field Independence versus Field Sensitivity
- Trees vs. whole forest?

- A: more global perspective of their surroundings?
- B: more analytical and more comfortably focused on impersonal, abstract aspects of stimuli?



- Low-context, highly industrialized, individualistic societies (field-independent)
  : . . . ?
- High-context, traditional, collectivistic societies (field-sensitive): .....?



- Low-context, highly industrialized, individualistic societies such as the United States are predominantly field-independent.
- High-context, traditional, collectivistic societies like Mexico and Japan tend to be field sensitive.



According to Leung, African-American, Asian-American, Latino, American Indian, and Hmong students prefer a field-sensitive, holistic style.



- a more field-dependent learning style?
- a more field-independent learning style?

- A: children raised in Mexican-American families
- B: children raised in traditional Mexican settings



- Cooperation versus Competition
- collective cultures: group work;
- Individualistic cultures: individual work.
- A: Latino cultures, African Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Rim Americans, Filipino Americans, and Hawaiians (Native Americans)
- ❖B: North Americans



- Trial and Error versus "Watch, Then Do."
- Americans vs. Native Americans?
- Americans vs. Asians ?
- ❖【试误VS.三思而后行?】



- Tolerance versus Intolerance for Ambiguity
- Students from some cultures are open minded about contradictions, differences, and uncertainty.
- Students from other cultures prefer a structured, predictable environment with little change.



# Tolerance versus Intolerance for Ambiguity

Although the U.S. culture generally shows a high tolerance for ambiguity, the classroom tends to be an exception.





#### CONSIDER THIS



Using the four learning preferences listed below, give each dimension a numerical range between 1 and 7. Now, think about yourself and place your learning style along each of the given dimensions by assigning a number representing your position on each dimension.

Field independence vs. field sensitivity

Cooperation vs. competition

Trial and error vs. "watch, then do"

Tolerance vs. intolerance for ambiguity

After considering your position along these learning preference dimensions, how do you see yourself as a learner?



- Sensing-Thinking (Mastery Preference)
- Sensing–Feeling (Interpersonal Preference)
- Intuitive—Thinking (Understanding Preference)
- Intuitive—Feeling (Self-Expressive Preference)
- Silver, Strong, and Perini, according to the work of Carl Jung)
- ◆【二维度:感觉型-直觉型,思维型-情感型】



### \*RELATIONAL STYLES FOR LEARNING

Dependency - Independence

Participation - Passivity

Impulsivity - Reflectivity



**CULTURAL MOTIVATION STYLES** 

Intrinsic Motivation ?

Extrinsic Motivation ?

- Learning on Demand ?
- Learning When Interested ?





#### REMEMBER THIS

There are over 5,500,000 schoolchildren in the United States for whom English is a second language.

### **♦ ESL vs. EFL**?



- English Language Learners=ELLs
- ELLs have a hard time in school.

- Their difficulty involves both cognitive and linguistic issues.
- A second problem faced by ELLs is academic insufficiency.



A third problem for ELLs is that they enroll in U.S. schools at various points in their academic careers—kindergarten, second grade, eleventh grade, and so on.

Q: what is the result then?



The fourth complication for ELLs is that they arrive from countries that may emphasize different curricular sequences, content objectives, and instructional pedagogies.



- 5.1 Becoming Multiculturally Competent
- 5.1.1 UNDERSTANDING SELF
- "What are my strengths?"

"What are my weaknesses?"

"How can I enhance my strengths and compensate for my weaknesses?"



"Do I have any ethnic or gender biases?"

"How do these biases manifest themselves in my classroom?"

"Does my ethnic or gender identification affect my classroom?"



"Am I prepared to handle attacks on my own racial background or those of my students?"

"What new knowledge or experiences can I seek to assist in these issues?"



- **❖**5. 1. 2 **UNDERSTANDING DIVERSITY**
- Essential capabilities which competent multicultural teachers must possess:
- The ability to understand and identify differences in approaches to learning and performance, including different learning styles, multiple intelligences, and performance modes



- The ability to design instruction that uses students' strengths as the basis for growth
- An understanding of how students' learning is influenced by individual experiences, talents, and prior learning, as well as language, culture, family, and community values.



- A well-grounded framework for understanding cultural and community diversity
- The ability to learn about and incorporate students' experiences, cultures, and community resources into instruction



Respect for students as individuals with different personal and family backgrounds and various skills, talents, and interests

Sensitivity to community and cultural norms



- The ability to make students feel valued for their potential as people, and help them learn to value each other
- Willingness to understand students' families, cultures, and communities, and to use that understanding as a basis for connecting instruction to students' experiences



Multiple perspectives that they can bring to the discussion of subject matter, including attention to students' personal, family, and community experiences and cultural norms

The ability to create a learning community in which individual differences are respected



- 5.2 Classrooms for Multicultural Education
- \$5.2.1 CLASSROOM AS COMMUNITY

To create a classroom community, Shade, Kelly, and Oberg suggest several principles that must be observed:



A learning community is inviting.

The leader of the learning community sends personally inviting messages.



An inviting classroom has firm, consistent, and loving control.

An inviting learning community provides students with a sense that they can accomplish the tasks being asked of them.



**❖** 5.2.2 **THE DIFFERENTIATED CLASSROOM** 

- In a differentiated classroom, says Tomlinson, teachers begin their instruction based on where students are.
- ❖【因材施教?】



\*They accept and build on the premise that learners differ in important ways, so they are ready to engage students in instruction by respecting their learning preferences, appealing to individual interests, and using varied rates of instruction along with varied degrees of complexity.

❖【以学定教?】



5.3 Multicultural Communication Strategies

#### **❖ IMMEDIACY**

- Develop a comfortable classroom atmosphere that integrates the beliefs and values of various cultural groups.
- Provide many opportunities to discuss global topics of interest and relevance with students.



- 5.3 Multicultural Communication Strategies
- **\*IMMEDIACY**
- Always encourage any diverse perspectives expressed during such conversations.
- Avoid conversations that perpetuate "us" and "them" distinctions. Foster a collective sense of being in the classroom.



- Encourage discussions about unique cultural beliefs and practices, and determine how they are misused by some in order to sustain terrorist activity.
- Be sensitive to cultural customs that might differ from the mainstream, particularly those concerning dress and personal rituals (such as Muslims' daily prayer and annual fasting during Ramadan).



- Actively seek information about these unique customs, and promote accurate understanding with all students in your class.
- Remind students that school is a safe place of learning for students of all cultural backgrounds.
- If they do not feel safe, it is your obligation as an educator to directly address their feelings of insecurity and/or discomfort.



#### **EMPATHY**

Cooper and Simonds offer four guidelines that you may follow in order to become an empathic communicator.

Communicate a supportive climate.



Attend to a student's nonverbal behavior as well as his or her verbal communication.

Accurately reflect and clarify feelings.

❖ Be genuine and congruent (一致的).



#### **SUMMARY**

- Systems of formal and informal education seek to meet the perceived needs of societies.
- Schools are a primary means by which a culture's history and traditions are passed from generation to generation.



- Schools teach the informal knowledge of a culture.
- Schools are a primary vehicle for teaching cultural values.
- Schools in the United States are becoming increasingly diverse.
- Schools no longer teach only Eurocentric cultural values; instead, today schools routinely teach the experiences and values of many cultures.



- Learning preferences are particular ways in which individuals receive or process information.
- Cognitive, communication, relational, and motivational learning preferences have a profound impact on classroom learning.



- Students who are limited in their English proficiency face various obstacles in the classroom.
- Teachers should be aware of what they bring to the classroom in terms of their strengths, weaknesses, and biases.



Assessing the acculturation levels of the students in the classroom will help teachers determine how much their students are involved in their own culture as well as the Anglo-American culture.



### **Assignments**

- \* Topic:
- Cross-Cultural Communication between China and the Member Nations of the "Belt and Road": Challenges and Opportunities



### **Assignments**

- Group work: grouping all into 7 groups, each chooses a foreign nation from the members of the "Belt and Road" Innovation, prepares a presentation on the theme above, and gives a presentation, and we'll have a discussion during the third time.
- Each group ≤15' +5'

