

THE THEORETICAL BASIS FOR STUDYING KINESICS IN LINGUISTICS

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Annotation: In order to better understand non-verbal and kinesics, this article examines the language and concepts used in scientific sources. Studying non-verbal cues including posture, touch, eye contact, gestures, and facial expressions is crucial since linguistics is not just about spoken communication. Understanding nonverbal cues is crucial for analyzing cultural differences.

Key words: Eye contact, facial expressions, interaction, posture, linguistic aspect, kinesic units.

Kinesics, the study of nonverbal communication through body language, occupies a fascinating and often overlooked space in linguistics. While traditionally focused on the intricacies of spoken and written language, incorporating kinesics provides a richer understanding of how meaning is created and conveyed. This article explores the theoretical foundation for studying kinesics within the realm of linguistics, highlighting its key contributions and ongoing research avenues.

The integration of kinesics into linguistics is rooted in the recognition that communication is not solely reliant on verbal language. The work of scholars like Ray Birdwhistell and Albert Mehrabian established the significant role of nonverbal cues in conveying meaning, challenging the previously dominant view that language was the sole driver of communication. This understanding is crucial for linguists. By studying kinesics, we gain insight into:

The complexity of meaning: Gestures, facial expressions, posture, and proxemics all contribute to the meaning conveyed, often adding layers of nuance and emotion that words alone cannot express.

Cultural variation: Body language is heavily influenced by cultural norms, highlighting the importance of contextual understanding. A gesture that is friendly in one culture might be considered offensive in another, underscoring the need for cross-cultural awareness.

The embodiment of language: Kinesics reveals the physical embodiment of language, showcasing the interconnectedness of body and mind in communication

Facial expressions also make it clear how you feel about the interlocutor. It also supports the function of expressing an emotional state and conveying its opposite. In addition, facial expressions are presented as feedback to the spoken word: whether the verbal part was understood, whether the other agrees or reacts rather negatively (or surprised). Thus, the horizontal folds of the forehead indicate increased attention when thinking. Vertical forehead wrinkles indicate that all attention is directed to something (someone). To interpret facial expressions, there are various scientific opinions: - for example, such emotional and mimic manifestations as joy, surprise, interest, grief, fear, anger, disgust, contempt are expressed and



interpreted in the same way in all cultures and, obviously, refer to innate forms of expression; - the trained forms of facial movements often include the movements of the eyebrows, the position of the lips, the position of the mouth, etc.

Eye contact is the main identifier of feelings and moods for others, which may also include information such as surprise, fear, or embarrassment. An interaction between two people usually begins with a longer eye contact that identifies whether the other is ready for contact at all. Most people look away to emphasize the possibility and desire to refuse contact. Visual contact in terms of control is an important aspect of successful negotiation.

Several theoretical frameworks contribute to the understanding of kinesics in linguistics:

Pragmatics: Focusing on the context and intent of communication, pragmatics offers insights into how kinesics shapes the interpretation of language. For example, a sarcastic tone conveyed through facial expression and posture can completely alter the meaning of a spoken statement.

Cognitive linguistics: This framework emphasizes the role of embodied experience and conceptual metaphors in language and communication. Kinesics, as a form of embodied expression, becomes crucial for understanding how meaning is constructed and accessed.

Sociolinguistics: Exploring the social context of language use, sociolinguistics provides a lens for understanding how kinesics reflects and reinforces social hierarchies and power dynamics. For instance, the use of specific gestures within a community can signal belonging and social status.

Posture is an expression of feelings and belonging. It assists in interpreting how safe, free someone feels. So, cheerfulness is reflected in a vertical, open pose, and tightness is reflected in a slightly curved, that is, visually rather closed pose. The first thing that I.E. Ilyina, O.N. Morozova, O.G. Lyabina, S.I. Shmakov suggest to pay attention in a pose is a weight transfer. The more upright someone stands, the more confident his inner position is. Another linguistic aspect is the openness or closedness of the position. Here we should pay attention to the area of the neck and chest. It is also important to note whether a person is standing freely or looking for recline somewhere. There are people who always need something to lean on. A sign of a sudden change in external position is a sudden change in internal attitude. People of higher social rank take up more space in the sitting posture, they are more open in this position, because they consider themselves less vulnerable.

The way a person rearranges his legs can also have a signaling effect. The person who puts forward the knee shows caution, or rather uncertainty. And since further work will be devoted to the analysis of kinesic units, it would be advisable to immediately highlight the encoding/decoding methods. O. M. Kunitsyna believes that communicative interaction is based on messages implemented in some code. Code is one of the central concepts of communication theory. Message encoding is one of the steps in the communication process. It is implemented as the conversion of one signal system to another using "inner and outer codes". "Internal code" is presented as neurophysiological reactions, and "external" - as verbal and non-verbal reactions. F. Saussure argued that linguistic symbols unite not things and names, but concepts and sound images, that is, the "signified" and "signifier" of the symbol. And the relationship between the signified and the signifier is generally accepted and it is arbitrary (any changes occur only in a natural way). Yu. Kristeva considers the process of communication using the gesture code as one of the infracommunicative levels of the communicative structure.

When comparing non-verbal behavioral patterns and reactions that reflect the cultural and linguistic codes of interacting cultures, we find that they can coincide and differ. The ability to



use the cultural characteristics of kineme to convey and encode meaning is the most vulnerable point in the system of encoding/decoding nonverbals. Representatives of different cultures have differences in the use of communicative means, including kinesics, since they do not have a single or similar system for decoding the meaning of a message. E. Hall noted that there is a close connection between the linguistic meaning and the meaning of culture. According to this researcher, value orientations influence the choice of an individual's communication style, regulate it in any situational context and influence the perception of reality (space, time), building relationships (individualism, power, competition, social structure) and way of thinking.

Current research on kinesics in linguistics explores:

The interplay of verbal and nonverbal communication: Investigating how kinesics complements, modifies, or even contradicts spoken language.

The role of kinesics in second language acquisition: Examining how learners acquire and utilize body language within a new language.

The application of kinesics in communication disorders: Understanding the relationship between kinesics and conditions like aphasia or autism.

The future of kinesics within linguistics holds exciting potential. As technology advances, researchers can utilize motion capture, facial recognition, and other tools to analyze and quantify nonverbal cues with greater precision. This enhanced understanding will lead to advancements in fields ranging from intercultural communication to artificial intelligence and the development of more nuanced, human-centered interactions.

On the whole, it can be concluded that the analysis of all systems of non-verbal communication shows that they undoubtedly play a large auxiliary role (and sometimes independent) in the communicative process. All elements of non-verbal communication help to fully reveal the semantic side of information, which is possible only if the participants in the communication process fully understand the meaning of the signs used. Possessing the ability not only to strengthen or weaken the verbal impact, all systems of non-verbal communication help to identify such an essential parameter of the communicative process as the intention of its participants. Together with the verbal communication system, these systems provide the exchange of information that people need to organize joint activities. Kinesic means can be interpreted in different ways, based on the cultural characteristics of communicators (encoder and decoder)

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