INTERCULTURAL   COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Introduction

"Intercultural Communication Studies" is sponsored by the Institute for Cross-Cultural Research.   ICS is designed to be a forum for studies of all aspects of intercultural communication.   The two issues which form Volume I of ICS contain articles from the areas of art, business, computers, cultural studies, education, intercultural communication, language, law, linguistics, national educational policy, and nonverbal communication, among others.

The articles included in this issue are expanded and updated versions of articles first presented at the 1989 International Conference on Cross-Cultural Communication held in San Antonio. The first of the series of conferences was in Seoul, Korea, in 1985. The Institute for Cross-Cultural Research now sponsors such conferences each two years. In 1991 the conference is in Tainan, Taiwan, with a special focus on East/West issues.   In 1993 it will return to San Antonio.

This first issue of ICS begins with articles by two of the keynote speakers. Enninger's work includes a focus on the importance of understanding the functions of silences in communication and the potential misunderstandings that occur   when an interactant or observer from a different background does not know   the functions of silence in the other person's communication system.

Lehmann's article covers some of the issues involved at the level of national policy concerning language and culture education. A number of current concerns and programs are discussed in the American context.

The next set of articles deals with the intercultural situation in business. Kumayama, Marriott, and Miller deal with various issues which arise when Japanese and American business people interact. Usually information is lacking on one or both sides in many areas involved in the discussions and negotiations.

In the article by Lakey and Hill, the social/communication difficulties of Thai students in the intercultural situation are studied. Based on detailed work with 100s of students, their articles provides both practical and theoretical results. They analyze many of the important features of preparation of hosts and students in an intercultural program and their results   shed theoretical light on the learning of social skills in the intercultural situation.

St. Clair and Koo discuss some of the issues involved in culture shock and relate the subject to some research in other fields.

Akiyama gives some results from a multinational project dealing with nonverbal communication across cultures. He deals with Japanese learning to

recognize American facial expressions and gestural behavior. The results are useful in planning the cultural parts of a language teaching program.

The next set of articles deals with some of the intricacies involved in the study of linguistics. The basic communication channel across cultures is language, which means that the linguistics of each language involved is a necessary study. Nakada brought together for this issue three authors who deal with the Japanese language in terms of contrast to English. McGloin discusses the differences in the use of the response particles in the two languages, such as "uh huh" indicating attention, not agreement. Tokunaga deals with some contrastive elements of the meanings of verbs in the two languages. Even such basic verbs as "come" and "go" are handled differently in English and Japanese. Tsutsui deals with a persistent problem in the two languages, the use of *the* in English and of *wa* in Japanese. These fundamental elements of the two languages have defied full explanation.

The next two articles deal with computers. Candelaria de Ram deals with some of the issues involved in using a formal model — such as for a computer — to handle real-world communication. The formal model must include information about the sociolinguistic contexts, different referential systems, cultural information and so on. The next article is co-authored by Barnden, Candelaria de Ram, Farwell, Guthrie, Helmreich, McKevitt and Wilks. The article is based on their work on Natural Language Processing. They argue that the use of the computer in communication involves the computational modeling of belief systems, internal speaker-addressee models, and real world semantics/pragmatics. The article is a sketch of their framework in its early stages.

The section on law includes two papers. Steenstrup analyzes the differences between the German reception of Roman law and the Japanese reception of German law. The cultural differences in the two systems relate to the differences in reception. Nagy's article deals with the history of women's rights in Japan, a history that is different from but in some ways related to the history in America.

The editors of ICS thank all the many people who have helped launch this new publication. Especial thanks go to the Associate Editors and the authors in this issue for their contributions.

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