

Culture, Me and Others



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If we as teachers put more effort into *who we're teaching*, more of *what* would take care of itself.



When we concentrate on programs... strict timelines, we lose sight of the important human element.

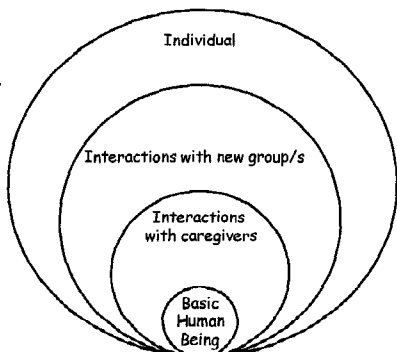
Freeman & Freeman, 2001

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Different

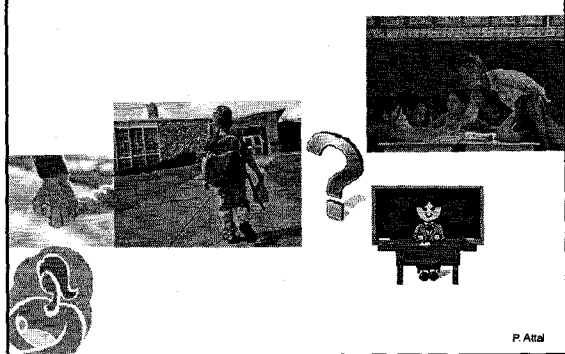


Similar



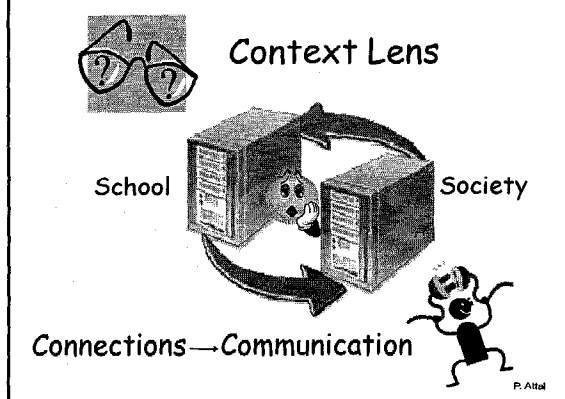
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Parent, Student, Teacher



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Context Lens




School Society


Connections → Communication

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Verbal & Non-Verbal



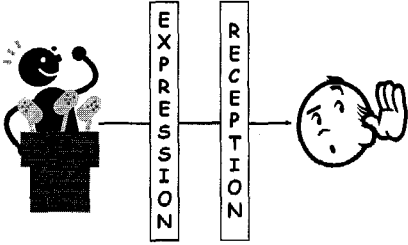
A word is not a crystal,
transparent and unchanged;
it is the skin of a living thought
and may vary greatly
in color and content,
according to the circumstance
and time in which it is used.



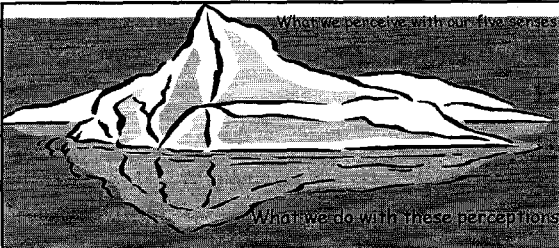
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

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Intent & Impact: Cultural Filters

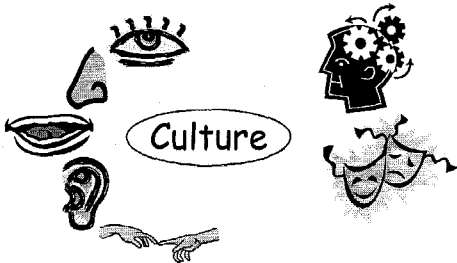


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What we think and feel
Underlying frameworks, patterns, habits

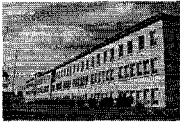
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At School - In the Classroom

Assimilation



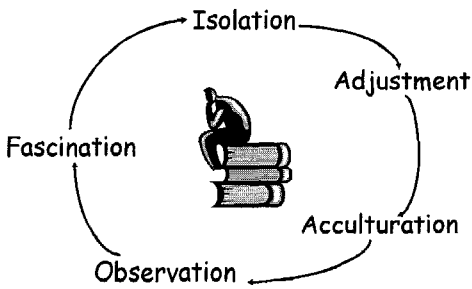
Acculturation

Adopt?
Adapt?



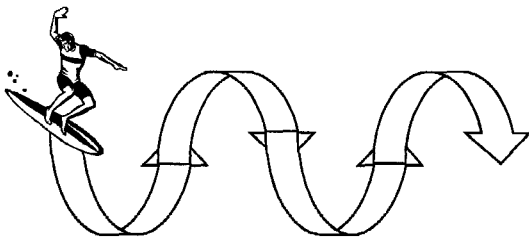
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Acculturation

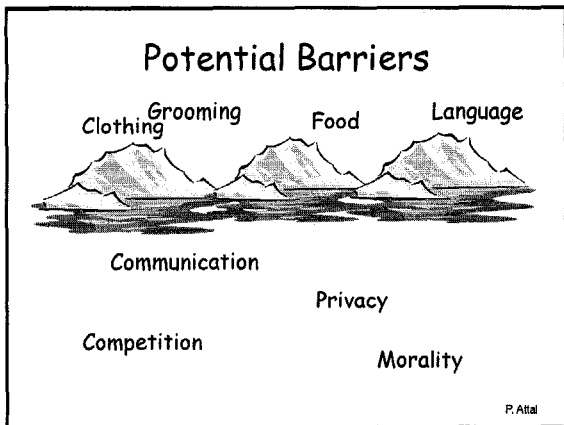



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Acculturation



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Clothing/Grooming

- Attire
- Facial hair
- Body odor
- Perfume/Cologne
- Smoking
- Cooking smell

Food

- The five senses: Two way street
 - Aroma or smell?
 - Noise associated with food
- Invitation to eat



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Language

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Communication

- Speaking
 - Speak or not?
 - Discourse patterns
 - Formality
- Writing
 - Formality-Audience and purpose
 - Sequence of information
- Telephone and Email
 - Abbreviations
 - Formality

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Privacy

- Borrowing/Sharing
- Sharing personal information
- Asking personal questions
- Health related matters
- Personal space
- Touch

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Morality

- Role of subjectivity
- Display of affection
- "I sentences" and "You sentences"
- Religious frameworks
- Conflict resolution
 - Problem and person
 - Acknowledge other's feelings: Don't try to fix!

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Competition

- **Sharing:** Abundance mentality
- **Subjectivity:** Openness, integrity, hostility
- **Hierarchy:** Communication and behavior
 - Teamwork and inclusive processes
 - Authoritarian and authoritative
 - Clarifying questions
 - Feedback: Not a sign of in-competency or lack of confidence

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Prejudice and Stereotypes: A Two-way Street



Ethnicity



Gender



Socioeconomics

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Real or Imaginary?

A student's belief about the presence or absence of prejudice shapes his/her attitude towards school.

It is the *perception* that counts, not the real presence or absence



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