

Paralanguage

Paralanguage or Vocalics

- Paralanguage is a kind of non-verbal communication
- Paralanguage refers to the conveyance of meaning through non-lexical tokens
- It is known as Vocalics
- It is the study of the vocal (sometimes non-vocal) signals that the speaker conveys in addition to the basic verbal message or speech

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- The study of paralanguage is known as Paralinguistics
- It is invented by American Linguist George L. Trager in the 1950s
- The function of paralanguage is to modify meaning, give nuanced meaning or convey emotion
- It includes accent, pitch, volume, speech, rate, modulation and fluency
- It is a component of meta-communication

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- paralanguage refers to how something is said rather than focusing on what is said.
- Paralanguage may be expressed consciously or unconsciously
- It is a form of non-phonemic communication

Two main Categories of Paralanguage

- **Vocal Characteristics**

Pitch, Volume, Pace & Voice quality

- **Vocal Interference**

Sound or words that we use when we hesitate to speak or are not sure for the right words.

Components of paralinguistic communication

1. Voice Intonation
2. Voice Modulation
3. Pace & Pronunciation
4. Silences
5. Pauses

Voice Intonation and Voice Modulation

- ❑ While communicating, emphasis can be laid on important words and phrases by increasing the volume or pace of and by placing stress on them.
- ❑ Your voice can communicate sadness by using a solemn tone, lowering the volume
- ❑ Happiness and elation may be expressed by a higher volume, sharper tone and breathless quality of the voice.

Pace and Pronunciation

- ❑ The pace at which you speak comprise your vocal characteristics
- ❑ It may communicate your confidence or discomfort over the verbal message
- ❑ Your way of voicing a message may indicate your age, sex, attractiveness, social class, educational background as well as intelligence
- ❑ In written forms of communication paralinguistic elements can be displayed by emotions, font and colour choices and the use of non-alphabetic or abstract characters

Silences and Pauses

- Silence is a powerful communicator
- It may be a way of saying either 'no' or 'yes' according to the context.
- The duration of silence can also communicative value
- Short period of hesitation indicates nervousness
- A long pause indicates the speaker's either thoughtfulness or exhaustion.
- Ex: Police Interrogation
- In public speaking pauses can be used to create effect, control laughter, and applause from the audience

Any Question? Please!