



## UNDER THE ARE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

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**Annotation.** *Language is a primary vehicle for expressing culture. It reflects cultural values, norms, and beliefs. Idioms, metaphors, and expressions often draw from cultural experiences, showcasing unique worldviews. Language can also reveal societal hierarchies and relationships, illustrating how culture shapes communication. In this article, I will discuss how culture affects communication and the English language.*

**Key words:** *humor and wit, cultural references, the role of Multilingualism, English language learning, language and culture relationship, cultural awareness*

### Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the intimate and inseparable relation between culture and language and the implementation of instructional approaches and techniques for teaching second language through culture to enhance students' linguistic understanding. Language is not only the product of culture, but also is the symbol of culture (Gleason, 1961). Second language teachers, therefore, should pay more attentions to the varieties of cultures, identify key cultural items in every aspect when they design a language curriculum, and apply appropriate teaching strategies to learning activities in order to help students to bridge and overpass the culture gaps. Language is a means of expression. We express our feelings, emotions, thoughts, needs, desires etc. in words, symbols and gesture which is considered as language. Language can be defined as verbal, physical, biologically innate, and a basic form of communication. Culture is the characteristics of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts. James Paul Gee is known for his work in discourse analysis, particularly examining how language shapes identity and social dynamics. He emphasizes the role of cultural practices in communication, highlighting how they influence individuals' identities and the relationships between groups. His research intersects linguistics, education, and sociology, contributing to our understanding of how discourse operates within various social contexts.

The English language, a global lingua franca, has evolved into a tapestry woven with the threads of diverse cultures. Beyond its grammatical rules and vocabulary, English reflects the nuances, expressions, and unique communicative styles shaped by cultural influences. In this article, we will delve into how culture profoundly impacts English language and communication, exploring the richness it brings to the spoken and written word.

**Language as a Reflection of Culture.** Language is not merely a tool for communication; it is a mirror reflecting the values, beliefs, and traditions of a culture.



Every culture infuses its unique essence into the language, shaping the way speakers express themselves and interpret the world.

**Cultural Idioms and Expressions.** Idioms and expressions often carry cultural connotations, providing a window into the collective mindset of a community. For example, the English phrase “raining cats and dogs” might baffle non-native speakers, highlighting the cultural specificity of certain expressions..

**Impact on Vocabulary.** Cultural experiences shape the vocabulary of a language. English, as a language that absorbs words from various cultures, has a lexicon enriched by terms from diverse culinary, artistic, and social spheres.

**Humor and Wit.** Humor is deeply rooted in cultural context. English humor, whether dry, sarcastic, or slapstick, is a product of cultural influences. Recognizing cultural references is key to fully appreciating the wit embedded in jokes, puns, and comedic expressions.

**Influence on Pronunciation and Accent.** Pronunciation and accents vary not only regionally but also culturally. The way English is spoken can carry traces of the speaker’s cultural background, influencing the melody and rhythm of speech.

**Cultural Sensitivity in Communication.** Effective communication requires cultural sensitivity. Being aware of cultural differences helps avoid misunderstandings and fosters a more inclusive and respectful communication environment. As cultures evolve, so does language. Contemporary English reflects societal shifts, technological advancements, and global influences, showcasing the dynamic nature of both language and culture.

**The Role of Multilingualism.** In multicultural societies, English exists alongside various languages, contributing to a multilingual tapestry. The coexistence of languages enhances cultural diversity and enriches the linguistic landscapes. As learners and enthusiasts of English, embracing the cultural dimensions of the language adds depth and authenticity to our linguistic journey, fostering a global community where diverse voices harmonize within the rich tapestry of English communication.

### 1. Cultural Influence on Vocabulary

Language is the transporter of culture and vocabulary is the basic component of language. The cultural difference will inevitably displayed on the vocabulary, and the explanation of vocabulary will also reflect the national or cultural change. If we consider the color as an example in Yemen the white color is used as a represent of virtue, piety and pure and that’s why a girl wear white clothes on the day of marriage party as a symbol of goodness, chasteness and faithfulness. On the other hand if we consider this white color in china is completely opposite in their culture and they use it only in funeral when one of the family member is dead. This is also opposing Arabic culture which leads people to wear black clothes in their funeral ceremonies. If an American guy orders hot dog in Arabian restaurant, no one will understand that he is asking a hot sandwich and maybe they will laugh at him. Thus, learning a language implies not only the knowledge of its grammar rules and the denotative meanings of words but it implicates much more, such as the culture

phenomena, the way of life, customs, food and habits, history and everything that is contained of culture.

## 2. Cultural Influence on Listening

Listening to something you are familiar with and is known to you is easier to comprehend and get the meaning very quickly, but if you are listening to something which is not familiar to your way of life or some expressions of another culture, a thing you haven't heard about, one will not be able to grasp the meaning. From the above explanation we can see how important the role that culture plays in our listening ability: Culture is one of its unalienable connections. It can hamper our progress of listening, and it can also help it. So we should notice the existence of culture and try to take advantage of it. Syllabus designers must consider this consideration and make a curriculum which is suitable for cultural background of the students of that place.

Cultural References and. Literature is a powerful medium through which culture is expressed in the English language. Works by authors such as Shakespeare, Austen, and Morrison not only showcase linguistic artistry but also provide commentary on social issues, cultural norms, and historical contexts. Literary language often incorporates cultural references that enrich the text and reveal the complexities of human experience within a specific cultural framework.

In conclusion, The English language serves as a mirror reflecting the cultures of its speakers. Through its historical development, idiomatic expressions, regional variations, and literary works, English encapsulates the beliefs, values, and experiences of diverse communities. As culture continues to evolve, so too will the language, ensuring that it remains a vibrant testament to the human experience. Understanding this interplay between language and culture is essential for appreciating the depth and richness of English as a global means of communication.

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