

Hiba Zerouali (ELTE): Investigating Algerian Students' Perceptions to Explore the Role of Common Ground in Building Intercultural Communication: A Case Study in Hungarian Universities

When misunderstanding occurs in intercultural interactions, people usually start to search cultural differences for a cause without considering other factors. However, the focus of attention in the field of intercultural communication went beyond misunderstanding (Geurts, 2018). The study, hence, will try to answer the following questions:

1. What are the views and perceptions expressed by Algerians studying in Hungary in connection with establishing common ground for effective intercultural communication?
 - 1.1 What are the key factors affecting intercultural communication mastery?
 - 1.2 What is the significance of common ground in shaping connection's strong sense?
 - 1.3 In what ways do the strategies used by Algerians students facilitate intercultural communication?

Through an intercultural pragmatics framework, a socio-cognitive view was necessary for the current theoretical approach. Therefore, the researcher aimed to explore and analyze the experience of Algerian students to develop a common ground within a Hungarian community. Drawing on the results of a questionnaire distributed to 40 Algerian individuals studying in Hungary, the collected data were treated statistically using the 27th version of SPSS. Through a thematic analysis and using MAXQDA as a facilitator to code the results, the study examined instances of cultural convergence and divergence, language barriers, stereotypes, and strategies for overcoming intercultural communication challenges. The results of this investigation accentuated the paramount significance of identifying shared understanding as a foundation for fostering empathy, mutual respect, and effective communication between Algerian and Hungarian interlocutors. However, language barriers are not the main factor affecting intercultural communication mastery. Eventually, the study elucidated the complex interplay between individual identity, cultural norms, and societal structures. Furthermore, the study's findings illustrated various strategies employed by Algerian students to enhance intercultural communication including awareness of cultural differences, and embracing diversity as a proof of the existence of core and common ground conceptions. To sum up, this research contributes to the broader understanding of the multifaceted dynamics inherent in intercultural communication, providing valuable insights into the cultivation of cross-cultural comprehension across diverse contexts for further discussion to substantiate the points raised here.

Keywords: Intercultural communication, Algerian, Hungarian, common ground

References:

Geurts, B. (2018). Convention and common ground. *Mind and Language* 33 (2):115-129.