



Language: A Communication Code

M. Pochayya, Assistant Professor, Dept of English, Andhra University Campus,
Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

Abstract: *This paper attempts to explore how the information is coded into message in the process of communication and how the language is used as a code in communication. Communication is the sharing of information. The perceived information of a thing, of the nature should be converted into the code so that it can be shared between the speaker (writer) and listener (reader). The images of things, animals, and places can be converted into words. The emotions and feelings, opinions and facts can be converted into words, sentences. Language is used as a conventional code in the process of communication. The listener (receiver) decodes this conventional code into images, feeling and emotions, facts and opinions.*

Key Words: *Sender (encoder), receiver (decoder), code (language), sounds, symbols, convention, images, meaning*

1. Introduction:

The word communication is derived from the Latin term 'communicare' or 'communico' both of which mean to share. In communication, speaker shares his emotions and feelings, opinions and facts. If he wants to share any information there should be the receiver to receive the information. The effective communication is two way process. It involves both speaker and listener.

There are models of communication. They are,

- Shannon and weaver model of communication
- Interactional model of communication
- Berlo's sender-message-channel-receiver model communication
- Transactional model of communication

From the above models of communication, it is noticed that the communication process involves a sender

(encoder), message, channel, receiver (decoder).

Here the sender, being decoder, converts the information into a coded message as sound signals are converted into magnetic signals. This coded information can be decoded by the receiver at the other end.

2. What is coded?

The images of the things, animals, place into words.

The speaker cannot present the elephant in his conversation to speak of it but he can bring the image of that animal with a word ELEPHANT in English language.

The images of all the concrete things can be presented by the representative words. These representative words (codes) are accepted and are made conventional by the speech community. So, both speaker and listener can visualize images of things when they speak and listen the representative words.



Emotions and feelings into words and sentences

Even the abstract emotions and feelings can be coded into words so that the listener can feel the emotions, feelings of speaker. When speaker says,

'I am happy' the listener can feel how happy the speaker is.

Facts and opinions into sentences

When man observes things in nature he contemplates what they do represent and perceives the information concerns those things. Then he expresses, in sentences, what he feels. Then the meaning that he perceives can be shielded in the form of sentences. The listener receives the shielded meaning in the sentence.

"The sun rises in the east"

The phenomenon can be visualized by the listener and he can imagine how the sun rises, even the direction where the sun rises.

3. Language as Communication Code

At the beginning sounds are coded as symbols/syllables. These symbols/syllables are grouped as sentences. These words are used to represent images of things, animals, and places. Even feelings and emotions can be represented by these words.

In this representation of things, emotions, feelings by words, there is nothing scientific or logical. It is a matter of convention. There are system of these sounds and symbols i.e. phonology and morphology. These so formed words are used as codes that represent the things, ideas either concrete or abstract. For every object or thing, there is a unique word (code) either logical or illogical.

These codes have conventional meaning to which they refer to.

The information from the source (brain, mind, nature) is collected at first by the speaker. Then the speaker encodes what he perceives, opines, and feels into a code (language). Then he sends the coded information (message) to the listener.

"Human system of communication is more advanced, well organized, intelligent and systematic when compared to the animal system of Communication."

As it is discussed, human system of communication has the conventional code into which the information can be converted. But animals cannot convert their meaning into codes. The system of these codes can be called as language.

"Language is a set of conventions that have been formulated by a closely knit set of people living together."

Here conventions are codes that have been formulated by men and are accepted, owned by a group of people (language community).

"Language is a versatile code which is used to communicate thoughts, desires and experiences to others."

Being the code, language does the following,

- It conceals the image in the word like lion, tiger, peacock, parrot, frog, and crocodile and carries the image of those creatures to receiver.
- By narrative technique, language visualizes the incidents that occurred in the past as it is being done now.
- The meaning can be shielded by the sentence. For example,



1) "I am hungry" It means he did not eat anything/he did not eat enough.

His intention is to eat something now.

2) "I am the poor"

It means he is dull (in class room)

It means he is not wealthy (his poverty)

It means he is expecting from others

Thus, the meaning of the speaker is shielded in sentence.

4. Conclusion:

To understand the message of the speaker, listener should know that conventional code system. The listener should be able to know what those codes represent for. At first, to the learner of language, it is supposed that language is the system of codes which represent a thing, feeling, meaning, opinion and fact. Then he can think of language creative.

As it is conventional among the language community, the speaker encodes the information (feelings, emotions, opinions, images of things, animals, places either concrete or abstract) into language (code). Then the listener will decode the code into images, feelings, emotions and opinions that are conveyed by the speaker.

References:

1. Barun k.mitra; Personality *development* and soft skills; oxford university press (2011).
2. Krishna Mohan and meera banerji; *Developing Communication Skills*; 2nd Ed, Macmillan (2009).
3. Prabhavathi K; *Teaching Of English*; sushi publications, 4thed(1992).
4. Vasundhara D and katyayani R.K; *Methods Of Teaching English (B.Ed)*; Telugu Akademy(2008).

5. Dr Neeta Sharma; perfecting communication skills of the students; IJELLH volume 1, issue 1, June 2013.