# **Communication Overview**

Human And Interpersonal Communication



 Communication is any process in which people share information, ideas, and feelings. It involves not only the spoken and written word, but also body language, personal mannerisms and style, and the physical environment -anything that adds meaning to a message.



Diagram from Communicating Effectively by Hybels and Weaver

#### Noise

- External noise: Comes from environment. i.e. loud music, physical barriers, babies...
- Internal noise: Occurs in the minds of the sender
  receiver when their thoughts and feelings are focuse
  on something other than the communication at hand
- Semantic: Caused by people's reaction to words.

# Types of communication



- Intrapersonal communication is communication that occurs within us Self-talk Interpersonal communication occurs when we communicate on a one-to one basis- usually in an informal, unstructured setting.
- Interpersonal- occurs when you talk on a one to one basis--usually in an informal, unstructured setting.
- Small group communication occurs when a small number of people meet to solve a problem.
- Public communication the sender-receiver sends a message to an audience
- Intercultural communication is communication that occurs whenever two or more people from different cultures interact.

# Intercultural Communication

"To know one's self is wisdom.

But to know one's neighbour is genius."

#### culture



- Characteristics of culture:
- Accumulated pattern of values, beliefs, and behaviors
- Identifiable group of people with a common history
- Verbal and nonverbal symbol system

### Micro culture

- Characteristics of microculture:
- Physical and cultural traits
- Involuntary membership
- Endogamy
- Awareness of subordinate status
- Unequal treatment by dominant group

## Problems with Intercultural Communication



 Totalize- Communication that emphasizes one aspect of a person above all others. When someone totalizes, he or she acts as if a single facet of an individual is the totality of that person or as if that single aspect is all that's important about that person.

## **Examples of Totalizing**

- "We need a woman's perspective"
- Amputee "If anyone refers to me as an amputee, that is guaranteed to get me madder than hell! I don't deny the leg amputation, I am me. I am a whole person."
- Deaf Student "When someone with a disability is described as disabled we highlight what that cannot do rather than what they can do."
- Other examples: Gay, blue collar, white collar,

#### Language

"Language shapes our perceptions by calling certain things to our attention. When we use language that focuses our attention on race, class, sex, or any other single aspect of another person, we limit our perception of that person. In other words, we tend to perceive others through the labels we use to describe them." (Wood 1998)

# Sterotyping

- The Nature of Prejudice by Gordon Allport says:
- It reduces our uncertainty by grouping people into broad characteristics.
- We rely on Implicit Personality Theory
  - One common prejudice is that imply fat people are lazy, happy, undisciplined
  - Another is that attractive individuals are more intelligent, extroverted & socially skilled.

### Western

- Western refers to nations who origins of law and of reasoning stem from
  Greek and Judeo-Christian tradition.
- The Universe was created and is controlled by divine power.
- The Universe is a lifeless mas
- The universe separates the knowing human from thins to know
- Thinking leads to clear and distinct ideas in categories
- Knowledge leads to awareness of specific facts.
- Knowledge comes from the scientific method and analytical logic.
- Growth can lead to social changes.
- Time is moving from past toward future: humans synchronize their time with clocks and machines.
- Individual needs may come before group needs.
- Communication is direct and verbal.

#### Eastern

- Eastern as used here includes Asian and other indigenous cultures, such as Native American Indian cultures.
- The Universe unfolds itself, not due to outside power.
- The Universe is one vast living organism, continually changing and impermanent,
- The Universe is one vast living organism of many interrelated forces and parts: humans are a part of life force.
- Things are known holistically, not by analysis: thinking leads to imprecise statements
- The purpose of knowledge is to see the unity of all things
- Knowledge comes from intuition.
- Growth can lead to oneness with the Universe.
- Time is a continuous wheel: humans synchronize their time with nature.
- Group conformity is necessary for unity.
- Communication is indirect and often silent: understanding is often grasped by observation.



• "We all have one thing in common. We're all different."