



The cultural, social and religious dimensions of culture.

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Abstract ;

Culture and language are closely related. Culture is the sum of learned beliefs, values, and customs that regulate the behavior of members of a particular society. Through our culture, we learn how to adjust to the environmental, biological, psychological, and historical parts of our environment. In this research paper we try to highlight the different cultural, social, religious and historical dimensions of the variety fabric of culture .The complex amalgam of traditions, values ;wisdom; idioms folks and fawazir reflects the way of living ,perceiving, things. It is an important reference of our cultural; social and religious background. This cultural fabric represents the linguistic and cultural heritage where people express their joy, satisfaction and entertainment especially in hard times and crisis as the pandemic covid 19 which affected and ravaged many countries.

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1. Introduction

Language is a vital factor of communication that links different cultures and a way of expressing Feelings, emotions and ideas that individuals transmit and convey through messages and different means of communication and media.

Any language can play an important role in learning, it enables you to communicate; to interact with others and understand a subject. It is the means by which Human beings express their thoughts, feelings and knowledge through language. Language is the first source of communication. For a better communication system, it is necessary that language should be used in a good manner. Language has to play a good role in mass communication. With the help of language, human beings interact with each other. Language is a social institution, as it is a medium of communication that helps us expressing and conveying our thoughts, feelings, and emotions. It is the essential basis of communication. Let say, that Language and communication are considered as car and road. Where communication is like a car and Language is like a road.

Language is a means of nourishing and developing culture and establishing human relation. Language and culture are closely related to each other. Language is part of the culture of people and the chief way by which the members of a society communicate and exchange their ideas, opinions and thoughts.

The relationship between culture and language is deeply rooted. Language depicts both the individual's personality and his cultural history. Thus, this latter shapes personality and culture. Moreover, language helps in the growth, development and transmission of culture as it urges the continuity and functioning of societies.

Language is one of the pillars of culture, the most important characteristic that distinguishes man from other beings by collecting and recording culture. It is not possible to talk about language without talking about identity and culture, both of which fall on the basis of understanding the transformations that we are witnessing today. Contact and communication between individuals is done only by language. Besides, culture reflects the ways in which people behave. It is a pattern in which we analyze the behavior, social habits, beliefs, traditions and customs. One cannot ignore the role of culture in shaping the human personality. In this respect, culture is the ways in which people have organized their experience of the real world so as to give it structure as a phenomenal world of forms, their precepts and concepts (Goodenough, 1981, p. 62). Here is also we mention the presence of another essential factor of communication connected to language and culture which is translation. It helps bridging the gaps that different languages might create because we have so many nations and within a nation too there are so many languages that are spoken; the translation has been an element of cultural exchange and communication. Today, we are in need to these three vital factors especially in hard times and the world is witnessing great crises such as the spread of the "Covid pandemic" throughout the world and wars.

Their importance is that they help to communicate the beliefs and ideas in a proper way which could be understood by people from different literary and cultural backgrounds. Culture including all kinds of arts, fun folklore, idioms: proverbs; music is an important feedback and enjoyment for people to breath and relax. It is the key code to multicultural dialogues, dialogues that are the best guarantees to share enjoyment, pain and satisfaction. At this level, culture is the mirror which reflects the human beings experience, their customs, traditions, beliefs and values. This embodied heritage denotes cultural, social, ethnic and religious dimensions.

2. Language

Language is a social phenomenon spoken by human beings. It has been studied by many researchers and theorists across their specialties. Their definitions have come to relate to multiple points of view, but they have agreed that it is a tool for communication among all members of society.

From the very beginning of human civilization, human beings have felt the necessity and need of a medium and means to communicate with each other. Language has served this purpose. Without language, human civilization could not have come to as we know now it. Besides its being a means of communication, it is felt in all sectors of our life. However animals also communicate among themselves through their own language. But it is human language which marks a difference between human beings and animals.

"Finocchiaro" states that language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols which permits all people in a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture, to communicate or to interact (Finocchiaro, 1974, p. 3). *It is not only an instrument of communication of connecting people. It is also a symbolic order where representations, values, and social practices find their foundations.* Language refers to human capacity for acquiring and using complex system of communication. Within communication, people speak and utter infinite expressions and words.

A popular sociolinguistics textbook, for instance, defines language as "what members of a society speak" (Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 1) and emphasizes that "language is a communal possession" (2006, p. 2). In fact, Labov, who has as much claim as anyone to have founded modern sociolinguistics, argues that "the central dogma of sociolinguistics" is that "the community is conceptually and analytically prior to the individual," making language an "abstract pattern located in the speech community and exterior to the individual" (Labov, 2012, p. 266).

Human language is highly complex in that it is based on a set of rules relating symbols to their meanings, thereby forming an infinite number of possible innovative utterances from a finite number of elements (Carlson, 2001, pp. 61-70). Language is one of the pillars of culture, the most important characteristic that distinguishes man from other beings by collecting and recording culture. Language is a system of sounds, words, patterns used by humans to communicate their thoughts and feelings. So language is the source of expression of thought by means of speech sounds. It is the mother that weaves societal spinning into a network of reconciliation and relationships between members of society, its communities, institutions, systems and beliefs. Besides language serves to assist, maintain and transmit the cultural heritage. We can consider language as an important basis to promote understanding and dialogue among different nations and cultures. It is via this essential channel that people express their joy, their pain and share their feelings and emotions. Many people felt disgrace, misery and pain; they have experienced hard times living in troubles, fear and loneliness.

Language is the most powerful, convenient and permanent means and form of communication that enables people to interact and satisfy their needs within the amalgam of culture and to express themselves repeating different songs, proverbs, funny stories reflecting their culture and the different socio-cultural and religious dimensions that carry.

3. Culture

Culture is a difficult term to define. In 1952, the American anthropologists, Kroeber and Kluckhohn, critically reviewed concepts and definitions of culture, and compiled a list of 164 different definitions. The most famous definition was stated by the British anthropologist Edward Tyler, he said that "culture... is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society." (Tyler 1870: 1 cited by (Avruch, 1998, p. 6). Culture is often linked with terms and concepts such as *civilized, well educated, refined, cultured*, and is associated with the results of such refinement – a society's art, literature, music, and so on.

Different nations have different languages, so different cultures. Language and culture are closely tied and interrelated. Language is part of the culture of people and the chief way by which the members of a society communicate.

Culture is the patterns of customs, traditions, social habits, values beliefs and language of society. Culture is the sum of learned beliefs, values, and customs that regulate the behavior of members of a particular society. Through our culture, we are taught how to adjust to the environmental, biological, psychological, and historical parts of our environment. And a good example to illustrate here is how different people from different parts of the world react during the hard pandemic adopting the artistic culture fun and folkways to combat the pain.

To clarify this idea we say that humans have largely overlapping biologies and live in fairly similar social structures and physical environments, which create major similarities in the way they form cultures. But within the framework of similarities there are differences.

Ohring said: "what people have to learn as distinct from their biological heritage...[it] is not a material phenomenon ; it does not consist of things, people, behavior, or emotions. It is rather an organization of these things. It is the forms of things that people have in mind, their models for perceiving, relating and otherwise interpreting them. As such, the things people say and do; their social arrangements and events are products and by-products of their culture..."(Ohring, (Ghazala, 2004, p. 170).Each culture has unique expressions and proverbs to express ambition, generosity and feelings

culture is "something learned, transmitted, passed down from one generation to the next, through human actions, often in the form of face-to-face interaction, and, of course, through linguistic communication" (Duranti, 1997, p. 24).It is the society in which people have organized their experience; their opinions ,thoughts and their feelings. Culture is like an iceberg of three frames, technical, formal and informal cultures. Culture is learned from the people you interact with as you are socialized. Watching how adults react and talk to new babies is an excellent way to see the actual symbolic transmission of culture among people which cannot be translated into another language. There is even a saying":if you want to know a people, know their proverbs".

3.1 Values beliefs and customs

Values encompass all subjects, circumstances and principles that have become meaningful during man's long experience and may be positive or negative. Values serve to provide society with the meaning of life and the purpose that brings them together, and the supreme values of any group represent the goal that all its members seek to reach.

Values are general statement that guides behavior and influence beliefs and attitudes. A value system helps people choose between alternatives in everyday life. In the other hand, Beliefs and values are guides for behavior, and customs are acceptable ways of behaving. A belief is an opinion that reflects a person's particular knowledge and assessment of something.

Customs are overt modes of behavior that contain culturally approved ways of behaving in specific situations. Customs vary among countries, regions, and even families.

3.2 Art and folk folklore

Art is one of the most important cultural values with which peoples express beauty. Artworks are models of expression and understanding of beauty that the artist's emotions and feelings have recognized, and are the highest and finest concepts that express self-esteem, perception and level of

civilization. In addition, folk proverbs and sayings are an integral part of the spiritual treasures of the culture and language of the people.

Folk folklore is the culmination in public customs of heritage traditions such as dance, singing, music, stories, likes, myths, games, and Fawazir.

4. Cultural and religious dimensions of cultural symbols and idioms

Religion is an integral part of human culture. Religious culture can be reflected in many ways, such as religious beliefs, values, worships, taboo, etc. Religions have a profound impact in people's lives. Hofstede (Hotstede, 1991, p. 8) makes the important point that although certain aspects of culture are physically visible, their meaning is invisible: 'their cultural meaning ... lies precisely and only in the way these practices are interpreted by the insiders. So the myths, symbols, and rituals tied to religion can be understood as ways of making sense of the world and finding pathways through the world. Groups, institutions, and cultures as a whole may represent their ideals through religious beliefs and practices

For example, a gesture such as the 'ring gesture' (thumb and forefinger touching) may be interpreted as conveying agreement, approval or acceptance in the USA, the UK and Canada, but as an insult or obscene gesture in several Mediterranean countries. Similarly, choice of clothing can be interpreted differently by different groups of people, in terms of indications of wealth, ostentation, appropriateness, and so on.

For example, In Chinese religious culture, "dragon" is a highly respected creature; it's a symbol of sacredness, prestige and solemnity. It denotes bravery, power *الهبة والشجاعة والقوة*. However, in western culture, "dragon" is a kind of fierce and cruel and horrible monster who can spurt fume and fire. This, of course, is quite counter to Chinese custom. When foreigners hear "dragon", they would connect it with the animal exists in their mind. Of course we can bridge the gap through the mediation of translation to know the meaning of dragon.

Because of the cultural differences between the source language and target language, semantic and pragmatic equivalence cannot be achieved at the same time. In most of the cases, semantic equivalence is hardly to be achieved, for there are few equivalent words which are of the same designative and associative meanings, but pragmatic equivalence can overcome the obstacle of cultural differences and functions in the process of translation.

In the same field we can illustrate another French example "Veux tu voir comment est faite **la clef des champs** ? Voila ! (Hugo, 2003, p. 350)

(El-Kilani, 1983, p. 429) *أتحب أن تعرف شكل مفتاح الهرب؟ دونك إياه*

We notice that the French expression is a double edge sword because it carries two meanings when translated. In this case the translator has adopted a pragmatic translation. He extracted his deep structure (s the meaning of freedom/prison) but the French "la clef des champs". To clarify this double meaning we emphasize that " culture is the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression" (Newmark, 1988, p. 94). Without replacing its symbols with other symbols in Arabic, it summarized the expression in one word And hiring it in translation, and the key is a signifier (clef) (escape)مفتاح الهرب while keeping the key symbol.

Double because it is always associated with freedom or prison according to the dictionary of symbols. Of course here lies the role of translation and also of the translator as a mediator between different individuals. Wolfgang Iser(1994 , :5) sees translation as a key concept not just for “the encounter between cultures”: but also for interactions within cultures..During the hard pandemic people all over the world cooperate react and respond.

We notice that this kind of proverb has been adopted and expressed by many people during the pandemic of corona virus. They were repeating it during the recovery of people from the illness and they celebrate that in hospitals and houses singing to relax from the hard pains of the pandemic. They feel the key of liberty when someone recovered and they feel the key of the jail an hell when they suffer from the disease.

Social symbols include symbols of identity, literature, dealings, relationships, and rituals and customs, traditions, ideas, proverbs, wisdom and everything that distinguishes a society from other societies.

Every society has its own culture, and every culture has its own system. The cultural and social symbols of a language are made up of ideas and beliefs judgment and jurisprudence of the linguistic group's experiences, and these symbols appear in the text in the form of proverbs Judgment, sayings, and ready-made expressions, and the role of these symbols does not lie in conveying a message. It is not only linguistic for the recipient, but also benefits him with some social scenes and cultural influences which are filled with the language of the text.

Atef Wasfi says, “Idiomatic expressions (Ready-made) is a linguistic phenomenon, and language has a basic relationship with culture because language is affected by the civilizations of nations and their systems. If it is true that language reflects the history, traditions and values of a culture, this is particularly true of idiomatic expressions **or** proverbs. Values such as ambition, virtue, generosity and patience are praised in almost every culture. And its traditions, beliefs and trends, just as language is a key to the locks of culture, and it forms part of consciousness The cultural group of the linguistic community” (Atef, 1975, p. 63) .There is a strong relationship also between society or community and culture. Culture portrays the set of beliefs and practices of a certain group as create continuity and cohesion; while society represents the people who share those cultural elements.

5. Social and community dimensions

Organizing people into one social area makes them share the same social concepts, attitudes and customs .Indeed, the common concepts between peoples are manifested in many linguistic phenomena, such as proverbs ,wisdom opinions and ready-made expressions that are considered the heritage of human thought and the fruit of human experiences, what makes Humans, for example, encourage values and ideals through expressions calling for help aid and assistance and this of course was present during the hard" pandemic covid 19"which affected many countries in the economica,political and the social fields. In such situation people help and assist each other. These idioms and proverbs refer to the habitual expression of a certain language, the special language of a certain country or nationality, the special dialect of a particular region, society or class, and the language style of famous works. They are considered (idioms and proverbs) like concrete blueprints to what extent culture and language are interdependent.

Among this kinds of social idiomatic expressions which call for assistance and security we have:

"L'union fait la force "

'Union is strength'-United we stand, divided we fall.

" في الاتحاد قوة "

Here, the three monotheistic religions play a prominent role in refining these common concepts because of what they hold as a spiritual and religious history shared between Muslims and other ethnic and races , this appears in some expressions:

" فُقر من أيوب عليه السلام " (peace be upon him)

"Pauvre comme Job "

"As poor as Job"

And also:

"Wiser than Solomon" (peace be upon him)

"أحكم من سليمان عليه السلام"

In this variety of expressions we notice the different dimensions found in different environments; areas and cultures which reflect people's lives ,their ways of living, worship ,behaving , showing also their values and traditions.

"The linguist and translator George Mounin said about this variety: Tel est le vaste ensemble de raisons pour lesquelles on peut parler d'universaux de langage : cosmologie, biologie, physiologie ,psychologie, sociologie, anthropologie culturelle et linguistique elle même contribuent a dresser ce vaste inventaire de traits communs, grâce auxquels le nombre des références et des dénnotations communes permet le passage de toute langue en toute langue, pour de très vastes secteurs de l'expérience humaine " (Mounin, 1963, p. 221)

The difference in cultural backgrounds from one society to another is reflected in the ready-made expressions circulating in its language which reflects this environment, as "culture plays an important role in formulating ready-made expressions, which differ the same meaning is expressed in expressions that differ according to the environment, situations and contexts. The Arabic idiomatic expression in Arabic **كحامل/مستبضع التمر إلى البصرة** presses the idea of making efforts and wasting time without any benefit.

Whereas the denotative meaning is that El Basra is famous for the dates fruit. The same idiom in english That is, 'to carry coal to New Castle expresses "Carrying coal to Newcastle" as a city famous for its abundance of coal, while the French language expresses the same idea "porter l'eau à la rivière" as France was famous for the abundance of water in its lakes and rivers.

6. CONCLUSION

We can conclude from this research the following results.

- culture is the way people live, reflected in the language they speak, food they eat, clothes they wear and the Diet they follow or worship. It expresses the manner in which one thinks and does things.
- Without cultural similarities and universalities, there is no way for people of different cultures to communicate with each other and translation will be impossible.
- Each language has its own culture and religion. Each society propagates its own specific culture.
- Language is one of the important means of communication that transfer ideas, customs, and social behaviors from another culture.

Culture is an amalgam of beliefs, values attitudes and traditions. It is a societal and cultural organization.

-It is a vital a live organization as it links the past, present and future together.

-Culture is very essential for the basis of any civilization.

-Language is not only an instrument of communication. It is also a symbolic order where representations, values, and social practices find their foundations.

- Culture reflects the ways in which people behave. It is a pattern in which we analyze the behaviour, social habits, beliefs, traditions and customs.

-The importance of language and translation in culture is that it helps to communicate the beliefs and ideas in a proper way which could be understood by people from different literary and cultural backgrounds.

-Art , folks and folklore are the culmination in public customs of heritage traditions such as dance, singing, music, stories, likes, myths, games, and Fawazir.

-They are considered as the means of enjoyment satisfaction; security specially in hard times.

- Sharing proverbs is an excellent way to learn about other cultures – their similarities and differences.

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