Startalk 2013: How are Students Understanding Culture through Language?

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Startalk Assessments

- Instructional Aide Weekly Survey
- Attitude/Motivation Test Battery (AMTB)
- Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)
Instructional aides: Attitudes toward Work

- I think the instructor values me for my skills.
- I can speak freely to the instructor.
- I feel appreciated.
- I know each of the students and their names.
- I feel part of Chinese/Hindi/Arabic/Farsi team.
- The students understand why I'm in the class.
- The students have been asking me questions.
- I feel that I'm involved.
- My role this week was clear.

Frequency

- Completely disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Completely agree
What is the AMTB?

- A paper and pencil measure of attitude and motivation regarding learning a second language.
- Developed by RC Gardner in 1985
- Widely used in language acquisition studies
- HCC adapted it to Startalk’s needs

(Gardner RC, Tremblay P, Masgoret A. 1997).
Components of the AMTB

- **Motivation** – desire to learn the language, and attitudes toward learning the language
- **Parental Encouragement** – extent the students are encouraged by their parents
- **Integrativeness** – students’ openness, interest and orientation toward a second language
- **Language Anxiety** – language class anxiety and language use anxiety
## Motivation

$t(71) = 0.901, p > .05, ns$

## Parental Encouragement

$t(71) = 0.235, p > .05, ns$

## Integrativeness

$t(71) = 0.372, p > .05, ns$

## Language Anxiety*

$t(71) = 4.211, p < .05, s$

*Significant at the .05 level
The Intercultural Development Inventory

- An online test written by MR Hammer (1998)
- Based on a developmental model of intercultural sensitivity (MJ Bennett, 1986)
- Widely used by colleges and business
- Frequently used in studies and dissertations
- Was administered pre and post
Greetings. I am pleased to see that we are different.

May we together become greater than the sum of both of us.

Spock, Vulcan Greeting from Star Trek
The Intercultural Development Inventory

50 items similar to this:

I think most cultures have something to offer.

- Disagree
- Disagree somewhat and agree some
- Agree somewhat more than disagree
- Agree

STARTALK Start-Talking!
Cultural Proficiency Continuum

Modified from the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (DMIS), M. Bennett, 1986
Source: Mitchell R. Hammer, Ph.D.
Cultural Proficiency Continuum

DENIAL
Little recognition of more complex cultural differences

Monocultural Mindset

- Denial
  - Disinterest
  - Avoidance

- Polarization
  - Defense
  - Reversal

- Minimization
  - Similarity
  - Universalism

Intercultural Mindset

- Acceptance
  - Cognitive frame-shifting
  - Behavioral code-shifting

- Adaptation
Cultural Proficiency Continuum

POLARIZATION
Judgmental orientation: “us” versus “them”

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Cultural Proficiency Continuum

MINIMIZATION
Highlights cultural commonality;
can mask deeper recognition of difference

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  - Adaptation
    - Cognitive frame-shifting
    - Behavioral code-shifting
Cultural Proficiency Continuum

**ACCEPTANCE**
Recognizes cultural commonality and difference between own and others’ cultures

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    - Disinterest
    - Avoidance
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    - Defense
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  - Minimization
    - Similarity
    - Universalism

- **Intercultural Mindset**
  - Acceptance
  - Adaptation
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Cultural Proficiency Continuum

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    - Cognitive frame-shifting
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**ADAPTATION**
Able to shift cultural perspective and adapt behavior to cultural context
Cultural Proficiency Continuum

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ADAPTATION
Able to shift cultural perspective and adapt behavior to cultural context
How Startalk students see themselves:

Acceptance

Recognize cultural commonality and the difference between own and others’ cultures

Monocultural Mindset

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- Disinterest
- Avoidance

Polarization
- Defense
- Reversal

Minimization
- Similarity
- Universalism

Acceptance

Adaptation
- Cognitive frame-shifting
- Behavioral code-shifting

Intercultural Mindset
How the IDI sees Startalk students: Low Minimization

Highlights cultural commonality; can mask deeper recognition of difference

Monocultural Mindset

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  - Defense
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Typical Results from the IDI

There are two scores: Perceived Orientation and Developmental Orientation.

Perceived Orientation: *where you see yourself.*

Developmental Orientation: *where the test sees you.*
Startalk Student Results:

- **Perceived Orientation:** *where they saw themselves.*
- **Developmental Orientation:** *how the test saw them.*

Orientation Gap

Denial  Polarization  Minimization  Acceptance  Adaptation

Perceived Orientation: 119.04

Developmental Orientation: 87.05
Little change in IDI Scores

Perceived Orientation $t(80) = -1.451, p > .05, \text{ ns}$

Development Orientation $t(80) = -1.707, p > .05, \text{ ns}$

Orientation Gap $t(80) = 1.790, p > .05, \text{ ns}$

No significant changes pre to post ($p > .05$).
Questions

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