



ANALYSIS OF STUDIES OF EASTERN AND WESTERN SCIENTISTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORAL SPEECH CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

The development of oral speech culture has been a topic of scholarly interest in both Eastern and Western traditions, with significant contributions from philosophers, linguists, and educators. Eastern scholars have long emphasized the ethical and spiritual dimensions of communication, linking eloquence with moral virtues and cultural values. Conversely, Western studies often focus on the structural, linguistic, and rhetorical aspects of speech, examining how communication effectiveness can be enhanced through systematic approaches to grammar, logic, and persuasion. This article explores the diverse perspectives and methodologies employed by both Eastern and Western scholars to analyze and foster oral speech culture. By synthesizing their contributions, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of how these two intellectual traditions have shaped the development of oral communication skills, emphasizing their unique contributions and potential areas of convergence.

KEYWORDS

Oral speech culture, Eastern scholars, Western scholars, communication development, rhetoric, ethics in communication, linguistic analysis.

INTRODUCTION

The culture of oral speech, an integral part of human interaction, has been explored extensively by both Eastern and Western scholars. While the approaches and priorities differ, the goal remains the same: to

understand and improve the way people communicate. The divergence in perspectives often reflects broader cultural differences, yet both traditions have produced invaluable insights into the nature and development of effective speech.



The speech culture of a teacher, encompassing their verbal and nonverbal communication, plays a crucial role in creating a positive and productive learning environment. It's more than just words; it's about how those words are spoken, the tone used, and the overall presence the teacher projects.[1]

Key Components of a Teacher's Speech Culture:

Clear and Concise Language: Teachers should communicate in a way that is easy for students to understand. This means using clear, concise language, avoiding jargon, and providing explanations when necessary.[2]

Appropriate Tone: The teacher's tone of voice can significantly impact the learning experience. A friendly and enthusiastic tone fosters engagement and interest, while a monotone or condescending tone can discourage participation.

Active Listening: Teachers who actively listen to their students demonstrate respect and understanding. They pay attention to verbal and nonverbal cues, ask clarifying questions, and encourage students to express themselves freely.

Respectful Communication: Respect is fundamental to effective communication. Teachers should address students with respect, use appropriate language, and avoid making personal remarks.

Nonverbal Communication: Body language, facial expressions, and gestures are powerful tools in communication. Teachers should maintain eye contact, use open postures, and demonstrate enthusiasm through their nonverbal cues.

Enthusiasm and Passion: A teacher's passion for their subject is contagious. Students are more likely to be engaged when they see a teacher who is genuinely excited about what they are teaching.

Humor and Engagement: Appropriate humor can make learning more enjoyable and memorable. Teachers should use humor to connect with students, lighten the mood, and create a positive learning atmosphere.

Adaptability: Teachers should be able to adapt their speech style to different learning environments and student populations. This might involve using different pacing, volume, or vocabulary depending on the situation.[3]

Benefits of a Positive Speech Culture:

Improved Student Engagement: Students are more likely to participate, ask questions, and contribute to discussions when they feel respected and understood.

Enhanced Learning Outcomes: When students feel comfortable and engaged in the learning process, they are more likely to retain information and achieve academic success.[4]

Positive Classroom Atmosphere: A teacher's positive speech culture can create a welcoming and supportive environment where students feel valued and encouraged to learn.

Stronger Student-Teacher Relationships: When teachers communicate effectively and respectfully, they build trust and rapport with their students, leading to stronger relationships.

Developing a Positive Speech Culture:

Self-Awareness: Teachers should be aware of their own communication style and identify areas where they can improve.

Feedback: Seeking feedback from colleagues, mentors, and students can provide valuable insights into how their speech is perceived.

Practice: Teachers can practice their communication skills through role-playing, public speaking, and engaging in discussions.



Professional Development: Attending workshops and conferences on communication and teaching strategies can help teachers refine their speech culture and develop new skills.

For a primary school teacher, oral speech culture is not just a skill but a fundamental pillar of their craft. It's the bedrock upon which they build a foundation for language development, social interaction, and overall learning in young children.[5]

Here's why oral speech culture is so crucial:

1. Language Development and Literacy:

Foundation for Reading and Writing: Young children learn language primarily through listening and speaking. A teacher's clear, expressive speech provides the model for proper pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary, crucial for later reading and writing skills.

Expanding Vocabulary: Teachers who use a rich and varied vocabulary, introduce new words in context, and encourage children to use those words in their own speech directly impact vocabulary growth.[6]

Developing Communication Skills: Teachers who engage children in conversations, storytelling, and role-playing help them learn to express themselves clearly, listen attentively, and participate actively in conversations.

2. Fostering Social Interaction and Emotional Development:

Building Relationships: A teacher's warm, welcoming tone, and respectful communication create a safe and supportive environment where children feel comfortable expressing themselves.

Teaching Social Skills: Through modeling and prompting, teachers can guide young learners to use

polite language, take turns speaking, and express their needs and feelings appropriately.

Encouraging Empathy: By reading aloud with expression and engaging children in conversations about stories, teachers help them develop empathy and understand different perspectives.

3. Creating a Positive Learning Environment:

Engagement and Motivation: A teacher's enthusiastic and engaging speech can captivate young minds, making learning more enjoyable and memorable.

Clarity and Comprehension: Clear and concise language ensures that students understand the lesson's content and are able to participate actively.

Building Confidence: When children feel comfortable speaking in class and receive positive reinforcement from the teacher, their confidence grows, leading to greater participation and academic success.[7]

4. Specific Examples:

Storytelling: Reading aloud with expression and using different voices for different characters enhances engagement and provides a model for expressive language.

Class Discussions: Encouraging children to share their thoughts and ideas in a structured way helps them develop their communication skills and learn from their peers.[8]

Songs and Rhymes: Using songs and rhymes in the classroom helps children develop a sense of rhythm, learn new vocabulary, and practice pronunciation.

Drama and Role-Playing: These activities encourage children to use their imaginations, develop their fluency, and practice social skills.

Eastern Approaches to Oral Speech Culture:



Eastern scholars, particularly in the context of Islamic, Confucian, and Buddhist traditions, emphasize the moral, ethical, and spiritual dimensions of speech. In the Islamic tradition, for instance, scholars such as Al-Ghazali and Ibn Sina viewed eloquence as closely tied to truthfulness, humility, and respect for others. They believed that the development of oral speech should not only focus on fluency but also on the moral responsibility of the speaker to convey truth and foster harmony.

In Confucian thought, the cultivation of speech is seen as a reflection of inner virtue. Confucius taught that the way one speaks should be in harmony with one's ethical character. Eloquence in speech, therefore, was not an end in itself but a means to express righteousness and wisdom. Similarly, in Buddhist traditions, speech is viewed as one of the key elements of ethical conduct. The "Right Speech" in the Noble Eightfold Path advises the avoidance of false, harmful, or idle speech, focusing on communication that promotes truth, peace, and understanding.

These traditions emphasize that oral communication is not merely about the transfer of information but is deeply intertwined with moral and ethical conduct. This holistic approach to the development of speech culture continues to influence educational systems in many Eastern societies, where oratory is closely linked to the cultivation of personal virtues.[9]

Western Approaches to Oral Speech Culture:

Western studies of oral speech culture have traditionally focused on rhetoric and linguistic precision. The roots of this approach can be traced back to the classical Greek philosophers such as Aristotle, Plato, and the Roman orator Cicero. Aristotle's "Rhetoric" provides one of the earliest systematic studies of effective speech, offering frameworks for understanding persuasion, logical

argumentation, and the emotional appeal of speech (pathos). The emphasis on the power of rhetoric to influence public opinion and governance made oral communication a critical skill for leaders and intellectuals in the Western world.

In the modern era, Western linguists such as Ferdinand de Saussure and Noam Chomsky have expanded the study of speech to include formal linguistic structures. Their work focuses on the rules governing language and how speech can be analyzed as a system of signs and symbols. Western educational systems, particularly in the fields of law, politics, and public speaking, have developed courses aimed at training individuals in the technical aspects of speech—grammar, syntax, and logical clarity.

While the focus on rhetoric in the West often emphasizes persuasion and debate, it also recognizes the importance of clarity, logic, and coherence in effective communication. Western scholars have contributed significantly to understanding how these elements can be taught and refined to improve public discourse.

Comparative Analysis: A comparison between Eastern and Western approaches to the development of oral speech culture reveals both complementary and divergent themes. Eastern scholars focus on the ethical and philosophical dimensions of speech, often linking effective communication to personal integrity and societal harmony. This reflects broader cultural values that prioritize collective well-being over individual expression. On the other hand, Western scholars have taken a more systematic approach to analyzing the components of effective speech, with an emphasis on persuasion, argumentation, and linguistic precision.

Despite these differences, both traditions recognize the transformative power of speech in shaping individuals and societies. In Eastern contexts, speech is



seen as a moral tool, whereas in Western contexts, it is viewed as a practical skill that can be honed and perfected through study and practice. There are opportunities for cross-cultural learning, where Western systems of rhetorical training can be enriched by the ethical considerations emphasized in the East, and vice versa.

CONCLUSION

The study of oral speech culture by Eastern and Western scholars offers rich and diverse perspectives on the role of communication in human life. Eastern traditions emphasize the ethical dimensions of speech, highlighting its moral and spiritual significance. In contrast, Western traditions have contributed to a more technical understanding of speech, focusing on rhetoric, persuasion, and linguistic analysis. Together, these traditions provide a holistic view of how oral speech culture can be developed and refined, offering valuable lessons for educators, communicators, and leaders in today's globalized world. A teacher's speech culture is an essential aspect of their professional identity. By cultivating a positive and effective communication style, teachers create a learning environment that empowers students to thrive and achieve their full potential.

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