

Emotion in Intercultural Communication

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Abstract

Emotions are at the heart of social interactions, and the ability to perceive and express them accurately is crucial for mental wellbeing. Multilingual language users face particular challenges in intercultural communication because emotion words and concepts do not always overlap between languages and their emotional resonance differs in the mouth and ears of first and foreign language users (Dewaele, 2018; Dewaele et al. 2021). Declarations of love or swearwords in the foreign language may feel deceptively harmless or inauthentic (Dewaele, 2013; Dewaele & Salomidou, 2017). The detachment effect of the foreign language can be highly beneficial in psychotherapy, where discussing traumatic events in the foreign language can allow clients to distance themselves from the trauma (Cook & Dewaele, 2022).

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Bionote

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He was ranked as the 3th most influential linguist in the world in the Stanford rankings 2023.