

WAYS OF EXPRESSING POLITENESS IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

Toshmatov Alimardon Sotvoldiyevich,
Senior teacher at Applied English department
Madaminova Mashrabxon Shoyatjon qizi,
Student, English language and literature faculty
Fergana State University
Third year student

Abstract. This article explores how different cultures express politeness in various ways. By examining customs and rituals, we uncover the diverse approaches to showing respect and courtesy globally. From subtle gestures in everyday interactions to formalities during ceremonies, each culture offers unique insights into politeness. Understanding these differences help individuals navigate cross-cultural interactions more effectively and promote understanding and respect in our interconnected world.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada turli madaniyatlar qanday qilib xushmuomalalikni turli yo'llar bilan ifodalashi yoritiladi. Urf-odatlar va marosimlarni o'rganish orqali biz butun dunyo bo'ylab hurmat va xushmuomalalik ko'rsatishning turli xil yondashuvlarini ochib beramiz. Kundalik o'zaro munosabatlardagi nozik imo-ishoralardan tortib marosimlardagi rasmiyatchiliklargacha, har bir madaniyat xushmuomalalik haqida o'ziga xos tushunchalarni taqdim etadi. Ushbu farqlarni tushunish odamlarga madaniyatlararo o'zaro munosabatlarni yanada samarali tarzda boshqarishga yordam beradi va bizning o'zaro bog'langan dunyomizda tushunish va hurmatni rag'batlantiradi.

Аннотация. В этой статье рассматривается, как разные культуры выражают вежливость по-разному. Изучая обычаи и ритуалы, мы раскрываем разные подходы к проявлению уважения и вежливости во всем мире. От тонких жестов в повседневном общении до формальностей на церемониях — каждая культура предлагает свое понимание вежливости. Понимание этих различий может помочь людям более эффективно ориентироваться в межкультурных взаимодействиях и способствовать взаимопониманию и уважению в нашем взаимосвязанном мире.

Keywords: Cultural etiquette, Politeness, Cross-cultural interactions, Respect, Customs, Rituals, Global diversity.

Kalit so'zlar: metod, interfaol usul, axborot-kommunikatsiya texnologiyalari, interaktivlik.

Ключевые слова: Культурный этикет, Вежливость, Межкультурное взаимодействие, Уважение, Обычаи, Ритуалы, Глобальное разнообразие.

In our interconnected world, where cultural diversity is celebrated and cross-cultural interactions are increasingly common, understanding and respecting the nuances of politeness across different cultures is essential. Politeness, often considered a universal virtue, is expressed in a myriad of ways that are deeply rooted in cultural norms, customs, and traditions. Join us on a journey through the fascinating tapestry of global etiquette, as we unravel the diverse ways of expressing politeness in various cultures.

Understanding Politeness

Politeness can be defined as the expression of consideration, respect, and courtesy towards others. While the underlying principles of politeness remain consistent across cultures, the specific ways in which it is manifested can vary significantly. In some cultures, politeness may be communicated through verbal expressions such as using honorific titles or polite forms of address, while in others, it may be conveyed through non-verbal cues such as bowing or maintaining eye contact.

Cultural Variations in Politeness

1. *Verbal Expressions*: Language plays a central role in the expression of politeness. In many East Asian cultures, for example, the use of honorifics and formal language when addressing others is considered essential to showing respect. In contrast, in some Western cultures, politeness may be conveyed through the use of please and thank you, as well as other polite phrases.
2. *Non-verbal Gestures*: Non-verbal communication, including gestures, body language, and facial expressions, also plays a crucial role in expressing politeness. In many Middle Eastern cultures, for instance, offering hospitality and demonstrating warmth through physical touch is considered polite. In contrast, in some East Asian cultures, maintaining a certain level of physical distance and avoiding direct eye contact may be seen as respectful.
3. *Customs and Rituals*: Politeness is often intertwined with cultural customs and rituals. In Japan, for example, the practice of exchanging business cards, known as *meishi koukan*, is a formal ritual that demonstrates respect and courtesy. Similarly, in many Indigenous cultures, the offering of gifts or performing ceremonial greetings is a customary way of expressing politeness.

Navigating Cross-Cultural Interactions

In an increasingly globalized world, individuals are more likely than ever to encounter people from diverse cultural backgrounds in their personal and professional lives. Navigating these cross-cultural interactions requires sensitivity, empathy, and an understanding of the cultural nuances of politeness. Some strategies for navigating cross-cultural interactions include:

1. *Cultural Awareness*: Educating about the cultural norms and customs of different societies can help individuals navigate interactions with people from diverse

backgrounds more effectively. This may involve learning about the appropriate forms of address, greeting customs, and social protocols of different cultures.

2. **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Being open-minded and adaptable in one's communication style can help bridge cultural differences and foster mutual understanding. This may involve adjusting one's verbal and non-verbal communication cues to align with the expectations of the cultural context.

3. **Respect and Empathy:** Demonstrating respect for the cultural practices and beliefs of others is essential in cross-cultural interactions. Showing empathy and understanding towards individuals from different cultural backgrounds can help build trust and rapport.

Examples from some countries' ways of showing their politeness

France:

- Be polite, say please and thank you often.
- Chew with your mouth closed and do not slurp.
- Thank people for their time and help.

Korea:

- Do not extend your hand for a handshake, especially to women.
- Keep a respectable distance and avoid touching.
- Offer to pay when dining out.

Japan:

- Dress conservatively and bow lower than others.
- Accept gifts with both hands and open them later.
- Avoid direct questions and be vague in conversations.

Sweden:

- Respect personal space and avoid touching.
- Keep quiet dignity, avoid discussing religion or politics.
- Wait for the host to offer a toast before drinking.

Mexico:

- Women can initiate handshakes with men.
- Avoid too much eye contact and burping.
- Do not make the okay sign with your hand.

Kenya:

- Shake hands with right hand and grip wrist with left.
- Ask about health and family before major topics.
- Do not start eating until the eldest male does.

Jordan:

- Keep voice low and quiet, be respectful.
- Expect closer distance and light touching during conversation.
- Polite jokes and asking about family are okay.

Germany:

- Be reserved and polite, use Mr. or Mrs. with surname.
- Maintain good table manners and say please and thank you.

China:

- Say thank you often and take gifts with both hands.
- Don't take comments about appearance personally.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the expression of politeness is deeply intertwined with cultural norms, customs, and traditions. By understanding and respecting the diverse ways in which politeness is expressed across different cultures, individuals can navigate cross-cultural interactions with sensitivity and effectiveness. In doing so, they contribute to building a more inclusive and harmonious global community.

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