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GENERATION GAP IN COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

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Generation gap is to a great degree realized with the help of language: to learn a foreign language properly.

Speaking and understanding are complicated even if you have been brought up in a home rather than in a desert. We might know language very well but can we always express ourselves so that the other person can understand what we are trying to communicate?

Generation gap is presented with the help of language: words, tones, pronunciation habits and even grammatical structures. People who speak the same language may misunderstand each other. Very often we hear complaints like those given below

He doesn't understand! It's like talking to a brick wall! I just can't get through to him! I can't get it into his head! He misunderstands everything I say! He always seems to get hold of the wrong end of the stick! You failed to communicate!

People of 40 usually have different interests, concerns and worries than people of 20. They may also have different ideas on what is valuable and what is right and wrong. These are aspects of the generation gap. People of different generations may even use different words for the same things.

* Think of someone you know from a different generation. Can you think of any words which he or she doesn't know? Do they know the meaning of any words that you don't know?

Wright's checklist for successful communication includes several well known questions:

Can he or she hear me? Can he or she understand the words? Is he or she interested? Can he or she see me? Does he or she understand the expression on my face and the gestures I am making? Does he or she understand my behavior? (For example, raising my glass of beer and saying, 'Cheers!') Does he or she want to look at me?

If the answer to any of the questions above is NO you will probably fail to communicate. (1, p. 4, 9) An English school student (in Manchester) explained the meaning of the below words to him knowing them helped him to talk to the young.

sound = good 'Last night was really sound'
brill = brilliant, good (Sound and brill are more or less the same in meaning.)
tight = nasty and mean 'He's really tight to his little sister.'
slag off = criticize 'She slagged him off because he was late again'
poser = someone who thinks they look good and wants to show it
weirdo = someone of the same generation who behaves very individually
trendy = daring and fashionable (not just fashionable)
square = someone who is conventional, ordinary and boring
sap = square
dead = very 'He's dead brill. She's dead tight.'

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Some of them have become widely used English words example: 'dead' in the meaning of 'very' trendy. Others are not so widely used. But they all came into being in oral conversations of the young and for a certain while distinguished their talking from the talking of other generations.

Conclusion. The above examples prove that generation differences among other things are always presented with the help of language: words, specify tones, some pronunciation habits and even preferences in using grammatical structures. That's why people who speak the same language may misunderstand each other. It's even more so about speakers from different cultures. To learn a foreign language properly means to take into account the generation gap phenomenon seriously.

REFERENCES

1. Wright, A. How to communicate successfully / A. Wright. - Cambridge : CUP, Tenth printing, 2007. - 86 p.