The Role of Culture in National Language Service Corps Language Sustainment and Enhancement Training

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NLSC Membership

- Public organization of American citizens
- Age 18 and older
- To Serve the Nation in times of crises, emergencies and National need
- With their Language Skills -- S3/L3/R3
Sources of Language Skills

- Heritage: 62%
- Native: 23%
- NSEP: 7%
- USG: 5%
- Academic: 3%

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The Problem of Language Loss

- May Affect Anyone
- Context and Culture
- Changes Over Time
- Socio-Cultural and Political Implications
- Language Use Opportunities
- Language Interference
- Personal Motivation
Conceptualizing Culture

- Assumptions
- From Generation to Generation
- Values Endure
- Changes over Time
Features of Culture

• Emotional Reactions When Observing Violations
• Punctuated During Well-Meaning Clashes
• Fill-In-The-Blanks
• Not Widely Discussed
Examples of Culture in ILR

Overt Cultural Themes

• 0 -- Limited to areas of immediate survival needs
• 1 -- Courtesy, introduction, and identification requirements; exchange greetings
• 2 -- Difficulty in situations that require specialized or sophisticated knowledge
Culture in Level 3

Can easily repair the conversation

- Comprehension is quite complete
- Cultural references, proverbs and the implications of nuances and idiom may not be fully understood
- Answering objections
- Clarifying points
- Justifying decisions
- Understanding the essence of challenges, stating and defending policy, conducting meetings, delivering briefings, or other extended and elaborate informative monologues
Culture in Level 4

Marked By Adaptability and Flexibility

• Understand concepts that are culturally or conceptually different from his/her own (bidirectional)
• Varied audiences, purposes, tasks and settings
  • Official
  • Semi-official
  • Non-professional
• Varied contexts: Conferences, lectures and debates on matters of disagreement
Progression of CCC

Levels 1 Through 2
Overt Cultural Themes

Level 3
Can Easily Repair The Conversation

Level 4
Marked By Adaptability And Flexibility
Challenges

• Volunteers
• Geography
• Schedule
• Motivation
• Advanced Learners
• 100% Online
• No Instructors
Sustainment or Enhancement Training

Authentic Material

Advantages

- Language In Context
- Culturally Relevant
- Timely

Challenges

- Time-Bound
- May Contain Errors
- Potentially Controversial
One thousand five hundred were martyred in Gaza and 5,000 injured and we brought some of these injured to our hospitals in Turkey. I visited them in hospitals and saw with my eyes [the impact of] phosphorus bombs. I cried from the bottom of my heart, as I am a human before anything else. I am a father before anything else. I was with my wife. My wife is a mother. Oh, brother! I cannot see a man getting killed before my eyes without saying anything. When I saw those amputated and injured people in the hospitals I cried... I cried.
Sustainment or Enhancement Training

• Cultural Dimensions of Variability
  • Collectivism vs. Individualism
  • High vs. Low Context
  • Views on Authority etc.

• Communication Style Differences
  • Politeness
  • Argumentation (e.g., Linear, Point Logic)
  • Other Style Differences (e.g., Indirectness, Metaphor, Hyperbole)
turkica بلغة عربية مفهومة. يُرجى إتباع المثال:
مثال: وقفت بالطابور
الحل: وقفت بالصف

كتبت اقود الطرومبيل الخاصة بي ومشيت على كوبري 6 أكتوبر في القاهرة وكان هناك طابور طويل من السيارات فقلت لنفسي طفر سوف اذهب الى الكوبري الآخر لأنه أقل ازدحاماً. كنت أبحث عن بسطي جديد ليصلح لي سيارتي العاطلة. وكذلك كنت أبحث عن شقة لأوضحة واحدة لأسكن فيها أنا وزوجتي.

I was driving my trombil, and walked on the October 6th cobry in Cairo. There was a long tabour of vehicles, and I said to myself tuzz I will go to the other cobry for it is less crowded. I was looking for a good ustta to fix my broken car. I was looking for a one udda apartment to live in with my wife.

I was driving my car, and walked on the October 6th Bridge in Cairo. There was a long queue of vehicles, and I said to myself it doesn’t matter I will go to the other bridge for it is less crowded. I was looking for a good mechanic to fix my broken car. I was looking for a one bedroom apartment to live in with my wife.
Cultural Competence

• Is Inextricable From Language Learning
• Influences Communication on Many Levels
  • Vocabulary
  • Discourse is Structured and Delivered
• Distinguishes Superior Performers from Others
NATIONAL LANGUAGE SERVICE CORPS
Language for the good of all.

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