

From Argentina to Zambia

How cross cultural awareness can be used to make our students talk

About me ...



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Why won't my students talk?

How?

What?

Three thoughts

EFL teaching and Cross Cultural Awareness Training have co-existed, working in parallel for a long time.

Many EFL teachers, by default, have wide intercultural experience but many may never really applied it to the their classroom practice.

Self awareness is the starting point -and familiarity helps production.

Some assumptions

Cultural issues always interest people - from teenagers onwards.

Globalisation = awareness.

Students equate EFL classes with internationalism, especially business people and university students.

Cross cultural awareness is a 21st century skill.

Objectives

A conversation about cross cultural theory and its application to the EFL classroom.



Outline

A look at what culture is.

A bit of theory.

Classroom implications.

Some examples.

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What is Culture?



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The Best Definition?

Geert Hofstede

“The collective programming of the mind which distinguishes the members of one category of people from another”.

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What Makes Culture?

think about your history religion

population mobility..... geography

..... language country size ...

.....and climate too!



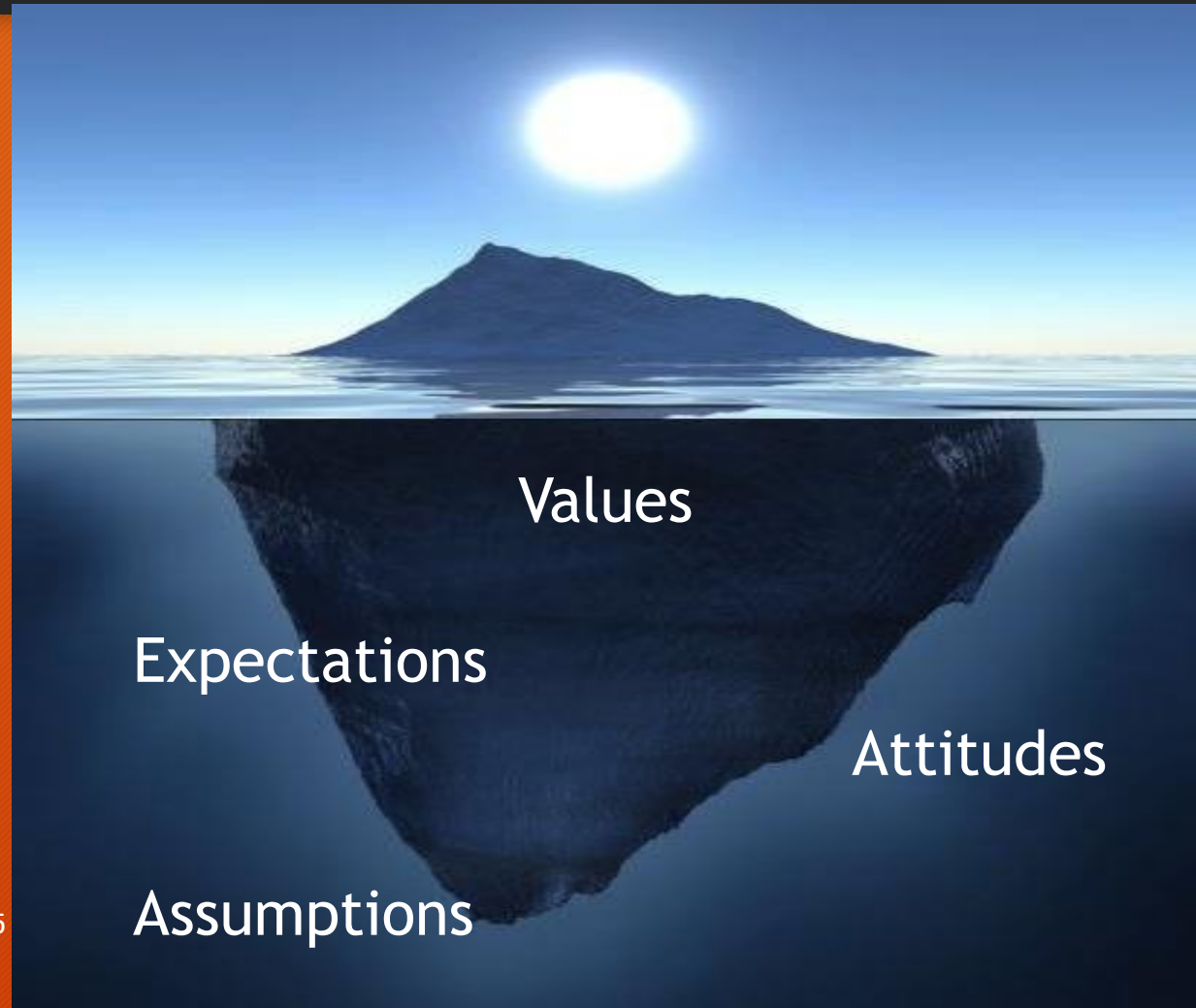
The Cultural Iceberg



Behaviour Customs Language Art

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The Cultural Iceberg (2)



What Cross Cultural Awareness Isn't

Stereotype-led - but there is a risk ...

Anecdotal.

Racist or Supremacist (but it is comparative).

100% Scientific - it's about people.

Culture in Action

Authority Conflict Consensus Money

Relationships Change Status Emotions

Time Trust Transparency

A Theoretical Framework

The main theorists are

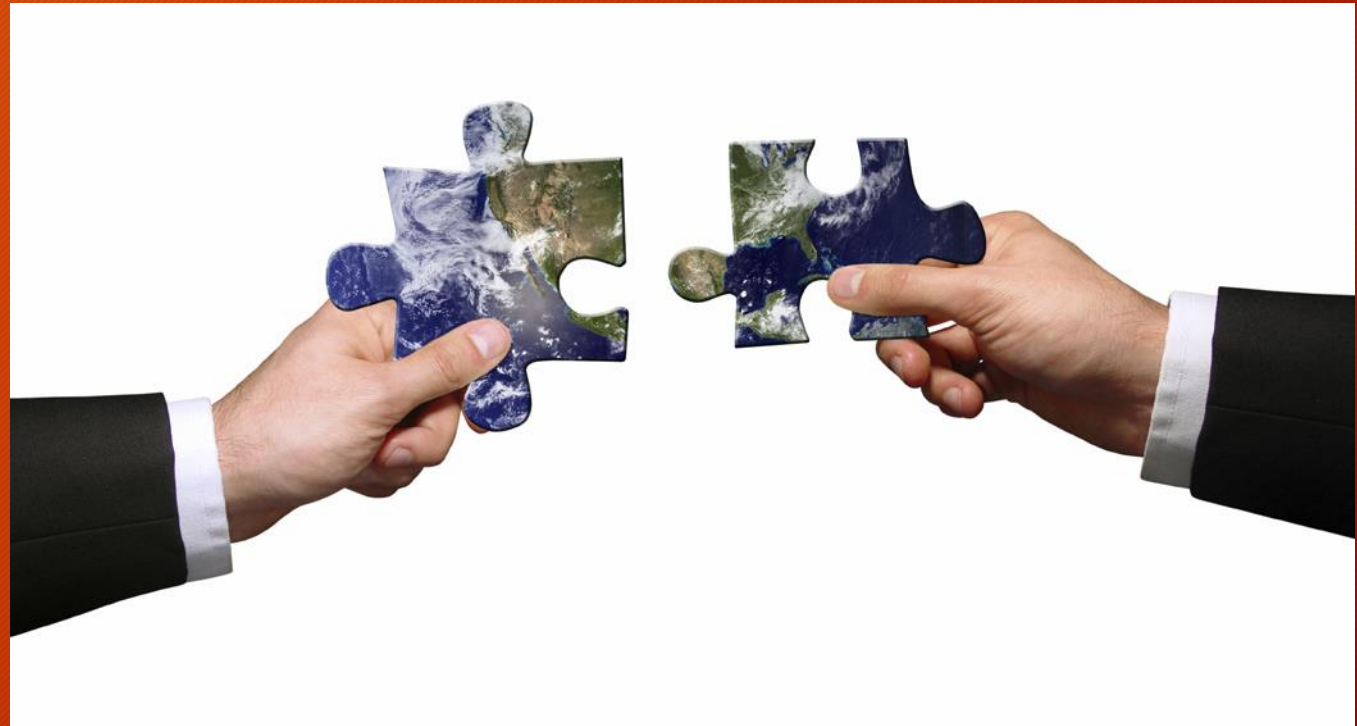
Fons Trompenaars and Charles Hampden-Turner

Richard Lewis

Geert Hofstede

Self Awareness - ask yourself

..... where do I fit in?



Trompenaars/Hampden-Turner 1

“Riding the Waves of Culture”, 1997.

Seven cultural dimensions:

1. Universalism vs. particularism (What governs us, rules or relationships?)
- 2 Individualism vs. collectivism (Do we function in a group or as individuals?)

Trompenaars/Hampden-Turner 2

3. Neutral vs. emotional (To what extent do we show our emotions?)
4. Specific vs. diffuse (Do we separate or mix our work and private lives?)
5. Achievement vs. ascription (Do we have to work for status or is it given to us?)

Trompenaars/Hampden-Turner 3

6. Sequential vs. synchronic (Are we linear active and do one thing at a time or multi-active and do several things at the same time?)
7. Internal vs. external control (Do we think we control our environment or do we feel controlled by it?)

The Lewis Analysis

Linear Active
Multi Active

Data-oriented
Dialogue-oriented

Linear Active

One thing at a time

Concentration

Scheduled time

Deadlines

Plans ahead in detail

Works fixed hours

Brief on the 'phone

Multi Active

Interrupted schedules and activities

Several tasks at once

Reality not deadlines

Human transactions are vital

Outline plans only

Unpunctual

Talkative

Works any hours

Data Oriented

Research
Information
Action

Facts and Figures

Dialogue Oriented

Networks

Queries

Discussions

Business and family connections

Flexible agendas - it's about people!

Geert Hofstede (USA/NL)

'Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind: Intercultural Cooperation and its Importance for Survival,' 1997.

PDI: Power distance index

IDV: Individualism index

MAS: Masculinity index

UAI: Uncertainty avoidance index

LTO: Long-term orientation index

So where are you?



A few classroom applications

Self-awareness is the starting point ...



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Any ideas?



I have!

Here are my six ideas

..... and here is the ideas guy!



General English - what do 'they' think of 'us'?

Idea One



A mini project. Discuss-plan-poster-present. Good skills integration

Categories such as time, money, rule-keeping etc.

General English - self-awareness

Idea Two



Mini Algerian cultural profiles. Discuss-write-share. Guided by the theory?

Idea Three



My cultural group vs me! Think-plan-present or write.

General English - cross cultural awareness

Idea Four



Mini profiles of other countries (web assisted - self or class research or teacher notes).

Discuss-write-share-present or

Discuss-write-share-compare with e.g.
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Business English - idea five - geographical



Where are you going/Who do you work with?

‘Target’ culture profiles. Think-pair-share.

Identify the potential conflicts. Discuss.

Prepare some action points. Discuss-agree-present.

Business English - idea six - business function



Identify and agree some key business functions such as meetings, presentations or negotiations. Group task.

Agree 'target' culture or cultures. Group task.

List cultural issues and agree strategies. Share ideas-present.

A final thought



References 1

References

Fons Trompenaars and Charles Hampden-Turner , “Riding the Waves of Culture”, NB Publishing 1997.

Geert Hofstede, Gert Jan Hofstede and Michael Minkov, “Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind”. Revised and expanded 3rd Edition. McGraw-Hill USA, 2010.

Richard Lewis, “When Cultures Collide: Leading Across Cultures (Third Edition): Leading, Teamworking and Managing Across the Globe” 2005.

References 2

Also visit

<http://geert-hofstede.com/>

<http://www2.thtconsulting.com/>

Reflection



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