

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN ENGLISH CLASSROOM: GREETINGS, WAYS OF EXPRESSING POLITENESS

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Abstract: Politeness is an important positive character that students should acquire in learning processes. Having a polite character, the students will be able to respect teachers and fellow students and, in return, obtain respects from them. This paper explores the way local cultural politeness is incorporated in English language classrooms.

Keywords—politeness, local culture, English culture.

Learning English is basically to use English language and this often means learning the grammatical structures, uttering them in good English pronunciation. In Indonesia, English language is a third language or a foreign language learned after Indonesian language studied as a second language and used as a means of communication and a medium of instruction at schools. While the students commonly use the first language or mother tongue out of school contexts, English language is confined only within English classes and it is, thus, seen as foreign language.

In an English language classroom, the teaching of cultural expressions of politeness, such as greetings, is important for promoting intercultural communication. Greetings form an integral part of communication in which people intentionally show attention to one another and suggest a type of relationship. While greeting customs are highly culture-specific, they exist in all known human cultures. In English language teaching, it is important to teach not only the language but also the cultural contexts in which the language is used. Different cultures have different ways of expressing politeness, which can impact the success of interactions between people from different cultures. Therefore, cultural awareness is necessary for effective communication in English language classrooms.

There are several challenges involved in teaching expressions of politeness in a multicultural classroom. For example, certain forms of politeness may not translate directly between cultures. In some cultures, certain forms of politeness might be seen as insincere or overly formal, and can even hinder communication. Therefore, it is

important for English language teachers to be aware of these differences and adapt their teaching style to suit the cultural context of their students.

Several strategies can be used to teach expressions of politeness in the English language classroom. For example, role playing and simulations can be used to provide students with opportunities to practice using these expressions in a variety of situations. Additional resources, such as videos and online materials, can also be used to supplement classroom instruction. Teachers can also encourage students to share their own cultural practices and beliefs, providing opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and learning.

In conclusion, teaching cultural expressions of politeness in English language classrooms is important for effective intercultural communication. Due to the differences in cultural expressions of politeness among various cultures, it is essential for English language teachers to be aware of these differences and to adjust their teaching strategies accordingly. Using a range of interactive teaching methods and techniques, English language teachers can help students understand and appreciate the cultural contexts in which the English language is used.

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