

Cultural Sensitivity - Language

Facilitation Guide - 60 minutes

Description

In this module, participants explore the idea that meaning/s conveyed through language are not static [or immutable WC?] This is because both the specific and broader contexts in which we use and hear language are ever-changing and often historically and geographically contingent. Further, we can manipulate it to convey more nuanced meanings including ones that are intangible, such as feelings. It's important to understand how and why language shifts and to recognize how powerful language can be in shaping systems and structures. While language can be used to support positive change, due to the complicated structures in which we operate - language can be wielded to manipulate, confuse, and cause harm. Understanding the multiple/dual? sides of the power of language promotes a deeper or more nuanced [WC]when considering the words we use, how we use them, and how we understand/interpret them.

Learning Objectives

Participants will...

- Be able to articulate the impact of key factors, such as geographic location, historical/cultural change, as well as social and academic contexts, on language.
- Recognize that language is not always neutral/objective; nor is it static.I.
- Engage in exercises to explore their own connection to language based on personal perceptions and individualized context.

Materials [should there be reading assignments before this and other sections of the training?

Presentation

Pre and Post Assessment

Optional: Virtual Question Parking Lot (i.e. Jamboard)

Facilitator Guide

Welcome and Getting Started (Slides 1-3) - Introduce yourself and your role. Share the purpose of the session and discuss the Learning Objectives.

Tips & Tricks

- Key Ideas to Highlight
 - This is going to be fun! You'll learn a lot.
- Resources to Share

5 Minutes	○ Pre-Assessment
● Introduce the learning objectives: ● We will... ○ Be able to articulate the impact of key factors such as geographic, social, and temporal contexts on language ○ Recognise the constantly changing, situational, and non-neutral nature of language ○ Engage in exercises to our own connections to language based on context, perceptions, and experiences This presentation includes interactive exercises. Check in with participants to make sure they are prepared/have any supplies necessary for the exercises. <i>Consider – Using a virtual tool like Jamboard to serve as a question parking lot for participants to share questions that come to mind throughout the module. Cultural Sensitivity - Language Jamboard</i>	
<i>What is Language? (Slides 4-11)</i> - In this section, we'll cover what language is, including what makes a language, their purposes, and its relationship with speakers/signers. 15 Minutes	Tips & Tricks ● Language is not always neutral or unchanging. It is developed by and for people to communicate specific ideas and needs.
● Introduce the section with Carl Sandburg's poem about language. ● Explain what language is, how it is used, and how it changes as a communication system with time, geography, social context, and people. ● Explain how language and its speakers/signers can have profound impacts on each other, including the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. ● Show examples of words with changed or multiple meanings.	
<i>Exercise 1 (Slides 12-13)</i> - In this section, we'll practice identifying potential vagaries/confusion in language. 15 Minutes	Tips & Tricks
● Get participants into small groups, and show the prompts for the exercise	

- Give the groups 10 minutes to come up with examples and answer the prompts on the exercise
- Regroup and give each group a minute or two to share their answers and discuss how the exercise went

Power: Dictating the terms of dialogue (Slides 14-19) - In this section, we'll cover the way language can foster communication, miscommunication, and reinforce existing biases or hierarchies.

10 Minutes

Tips & Tricks

- Each person has slightly different experiences and associations with certain words/phrases.

- Introduce the section with quotes from William Burroughs and Zora Neale Hurston
- Explain how the definitions we chose can expand or limit dialogue
- Explain how communicators and audiences both interact with language based on their past experiences and associations
- Explain a few common ways miscommunication can happen
 - Consider how we interpret language when we don't know the broader context (i.e. documents)

Exercise 2 (Slides 20-24) - In this section, we'll practice creating definitions and deciding which words we use. We'll then recap what we've learned and how we're thinking about language now.

15 Minutes

Tips & Tricks

- Get participants back into their small groups and show the prompt for the exercise.
- Give participants 10 minutes to practice creating their own definitions and comparing similar words
- Regroup and give each group a minute or two to share their answers to the exercise and discuss how the exercise went
- Introduce the concept of praxis, and give participants a chance to reflect on how this presentation has affected their perspectives on language
- **Questions?** - Check to see if your audience has any questions about the presentation. If used, refer back to the virtual question parking lot (i.e. Jamboard) to answer any last questions.
- **Thank you!** – Give yourself a round of applause! Share link to post-assessment for the final Check for Understanding.