

Nuances of Voice Dynamics

Voice Dynamics

- Voice has many features such as ‘vibrant’ ‘thick’ or ‘flat’ with such non-verbal expressions as a furrowed brow or expansively stretching out one’s arms.

Paralinguistic features of Voice

Selection of Words:-

- Words are the vehicles of communication. One and the same theme presented by different persons carry different impression and effect. The words you select for your speech, should add to your presentation and to the understanding of your audience.

Use of Voice:-

- Use of voice helps in delivering controlled, interesting rational and comprehensive message. Following points should be considered in this respect:
- **Volume** of voice should be according to the size of audience and environmental factors. You need not to shout to be understood.
- **Tone** of your speech should be according to the status and attitude of your audience. Speaking softly increases the concentration of the audience.
- **Pitch** of your voice should indicate that you have finished a particular point and you are taking up the next point. It makes the speech co-ordinated and effective.
- **Speed** of speech should be according to the need of message. Speaking at one constant speed does not carry a good impression. Presentation should begin slowly and be speeded up as you get into the presentation.
- **Specific points** of your speech should be stressed upon.

- **Semantic Barriers:** - Semantic barriers are the barriers related with the language of speech. It should be simple and of common usage. It should match the standard and status of audience.
- **Cognitive Barriers:-**Cognitive barriers are the barriers related with the feelings, opinions, attitudes, behaviour and experience of both the presenter and audience.
- **Compliance:** - Compliance between the presenter and audience makes the presentation effective.
- **Personality of Presenter:** - Personality of presenter bears an important relationship with the effectiveness of presentation. Following points should be considered in this respect:-

- One should be dressed in a comfortable manner.
- One should be having attractive posture. One should look comfortable, natural, alert, and attentive.
- Walking during presentation can be good or bad depending upon the need of presentation and the way you do it. However, too much walking carries negative impression.
- One should walk only when you are sure that it will add to your presentation.
- Facial expression of presenter should be natural and convincing. Eye contact is very important in oral presentation. It tells about the sincerity, goodwill and flexibility of speaker.

Dimensions of Speech

Intonation

- Voice varies due to emotions. Various pitch patterns in voice are referred to as intonation. No two individuals are alike in their intonation, but cautioned against drawing any firm conclusions as to the meaning of a particular intonation without knowing the speech habits of a person's linguistic community.

Rhythm

The combination of stressed and unstressed words makes rhythm in language. As individuals we well tend to be more or less terse in our rhythms, to accent certain syllables more definitely, to lengthen more vowels, to shorten unaccented vowels more freely; but rhythm is also determined by the cultural background in which we grew up and the habits of that speech community, as well as of the one to which we currently belong.

Reactive continuity of speech

A great many people speak brokenly, in uneasy splashes of word groups, others speak continuously.

Speed of speech

We can be slow or rapid in our utterances only in the sense that we speak above or below certain socialized speeds.

- **Vocabulary**

Personality is largely reflected in the choice of words, but here too we must distinguish carefully the social vocabulary norm from the more significantly personal choice of words.

- **Clarity**

Speak clearly. Face the audience and hold your head up. Your speech will be clearer if you look directly at the members of the audience while you speak. Keep your hands and notes away from your mouth and keep your eyes on the audience when you are talking about overhead transparencies. If you have to look at the whiteboard or the overhead projector, stop talking until you are ready to face the audience again.

- **Pronunciation:** - There are very limited variants on pronunciation, though we do nevertheless find highly individual variants.
- **Time Dimension:** - It is said that killing of time is not a murder; it is a suicide. Management of time is the most important thing in making a good presentation. If the speaker takes a lot of time in his presentation, his speech becomes dull and uninteresting for the audience. The speaker should sum up his presentation within time allotted.