Interpretation of Body Language in Jordan

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Abstract

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This thesis is about the interpretation of body signs.

Most people don't realise just how much they use this unspoken language every time they communicate with others. They use it unconsciously.

This piece of work will attempt to study the interpretation and meaning of body signs in Jordan. Hopefully, it will reveal people's awareness of body signs and how these signs can be interpreted. Consequently, an inventory of body signs will be established, along with the associated interpretations of every sign. These should provide a significant aid to the interpreter of messages, notably in simultaneous translation.

This thesis comprises two chapters and a conclusion.

In Chapter One, the reader finds an introduction that talks about nonverbal communication and its source of signals, i.e. the body. It explains to the reader that the mastery of body language can be achieved and improved through the observation of parts of the body during speech, especially the head, the face, and the hands.

It also adds that gestures, postures, touching, appearance, physique, and time are of vital importance.

A Brief review of literature provides the reader with points of view of a number of writers and researchers concerning this new science.

Finally, it talks about the methodology used in this study. It focuses on the questionnaire, the sample, and some of the generalizations expected.
Chapter two deals with the actual interpretations of each of the thirty signs. The discussion covers the objective interpretations provided in the questionnaire, as well as the subjective interpretations suggested by the respondents. Then, the most popular interpretations, both objective and subjective, are determined on the basis of percentages provided in the Tables; the most popular meanings are those associated with the highest percentages.

The conclusion presents a review of what has been written in chapter (2). Each sign is presented with the most popular interpretation. These interpretations are then compared with those found in other cultures to determine similarities and differences between the Jordanian culture and cultures of the United States, Australia, France.