Intercultural Competence in Second Language Pragmatics Research

Prof. Naoko Taguchi
Northern Arizona University

Abstract

With the recent surge of multiculturalism and lingua franca communication, the field of second language (L2) pragmatics in the last decade has seen a process of epistemological expansion, methodological diversity, and re-configuration of the construct of pragmatic competence (Taguchi & Roever, 2017). As an example of this process I will discuss the concept of intercultural competence and its influence in recent L2 pragmatics research. Within the framework of intercultural communication, the goal of language learning has shifted from approximating native speaker norms to becoming an intercultural speaker who can mediate across linguistic and cultural boundaries (Byram, 1997, 2012). Successful intercultural speakers are considered to possess two competencies—communicative competence and intercultural competence—which jointly contribute to the ability to navigate communication in intercultural encounters (Byram, 2012). In this presentation, I will first present definitions, theoretical models, and key characteristics of intercultural competence. Then, I will propose a relationship between intercultural competence and pragmatic competence by drawing on the construct of adaptability. This relationship will be illustrated with findings from my past research (Taguchi, 2015; Taguchi, Xiao, & Li, 2016). I will conclude my presentation with directions for future research.

Lecture in English

From the main train station: 15 min by foot or by bus (no.1 to Saint-Léonard/Portes-de-Fribourg, code no. 10 to buy a ticket), get off at “Capucins” (3rd stop after the station), walk back about 100 meters.

map: www.institute-multilingualism.ch
References


Short bio statement