



## COMMUNICATION STYLES OF LEFT HANDED STUDENTS

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**Abstract:** *Individuals communicate differently. The communication style is an indicator of a pattern of how a person organizes his interpersonal relationships. Similarly, people who are left-handed are more skillful in using their left hand than with their right hand thus; use their left hand in carrying out almost all activities. Hence, this study essentially investigated the communication styles of left handed students from the College of Teacher Education in the University. It made use of the descriptive research with 205 respondents who were identified using purposive sampling. The instrument used in the study is the Communication Style questionnaire. Results show that most of the left handed students have narrator communication style. Moreover, there is a significant difference in their communication styles when they are grouped according to campus, course and birth order. Left handed students are people-oriented thus display warm, friendly, gentle and cooperative disposition which make them value relationships over goals.*

**Key words:** *communication styles, left handed students, descriptive research design, purposive sampling, narrator communication style, people-oriented*

### INTRODUCTION

Communication style is an indicator of how a person structures the world of social relations. It is a manner of how to interpret the information and transform that information into active behaviour in social judgments. Each person has a unique communication style, learned earlier or later in life.

The different ways of communicating are pretty much hard-wired into people and seldom reflect conscious choice. Our communication style emerges from a combination of brain dominance, psychological preference, sensory approach and the communication examples that have surrounded us since birth. (<http://tribehr.com/blog/understanding-communication-styles-in-the-workplace>)

Communication skills are very important for the future personality of individuals for it determines the quality in life and professional success. The way in which people communicate is important for their future success. As Zhamilya et al. (2013) says, the



“pedagogical communication is a specific form of communication with its peculiar features and, at the same time, obeying general psychological interrelations, specific to communication as a form of interaction between humans, including communicative, interactive and perceptive components”.

Communication is the key to controlling the interactions in the process of teaching and learning tool and the basis for the social relationships of all the members that compose the university community. Communication competence, as a system of knowledge, skills, abilities, motivational disposition, attitudes and properties in teaching communication and social interaction, is the essential competence of teachers and students.

Similarly, people communicate differently. The different ways of communicating are pretty much hard-wired into people and seldom reflect conscious choice. Our communication style emerges from a combination of brain dominance, psychological preference, sensory approach and the communication examples that have surrounded us since birth. (<http://tribehr.com/blog/understanding-communication-styles-in-the-workplace>)

On the other hand, it is a fact that handedness is the dominance of one hand over the other, or the asymmetrical distribution of fine motor skills between the left and right hands. Human tends to be more dexterous with one hand over the other, or sometimes merely the preference of one hand over the other. It is usually used with reference to fine motor skills and the performance of manual tasks, particularly everyday activities such as writing, throwing, etc.

The left-handers have to put in great effort even for simple tasks of life contrary to their natural tendencies and face problems in the use of tools for routine chores. (Flatt, 2009).

But, left-handedness does not mean that the child is right brain dominant; it simply means his left hand is naturally wired to be more skilled than his right hand.

It is on this context that the researcher embarked into determining the communication style of the left handed students.

## **FRAMEWORK**

People use different styles of communication and one has to recognize which style applies to him to help him relate with himself and others. It is because using an appropriately targeted communication style can be a major boost for ensuring that messages are received, understood and even enjoyed.



In a study conducted by Tannen (1990), there are gender differences in communication styles between men and women. It was found that these differences across gender start at a young age. Tannen noticed that boys create relationships with each other by doing things together; activities are central to their friendship. Girls, on the other hand, create close relationships with each other by simply talking, “talk is the essence of intimacy” (Tannen, 1990). In sectors such as service jobs that heavily rely on direct communication and contact with customers, communication skills are highly valued and extremely important. Therefore, women are more likely to be hired in these positions because they are, by nature of their communication style, more qualified than men for these jobs. So while men have to prove they have the necessary skills for such positions that require direct contact with customers, women are assumed to possess these skills because of the communication styles associated with their gender, giving them an advantage over men in the hiring process.

Academic research on communication differences across gender has shown that men and women differ in their communication characteristics and traits. Women tend to be more expressive, tentative, polite, social, while men are, on average, more assertive and dominant when it comes to communication style (Basow & Rubenfield, 2003).

Popular research has also shown gender differences in communication styles, from men being primarily goal-oriented and result-focused and women being relationship-oriented and placing a high value on closeness and intimacy in interactions with other people (Tannen, 1990; Gray, 1992).

Indeed, the communication style is an indicator of a pattern of a person organizes his interpersonal relationships. In fact, the style of communication is a way which shows how individuals see and judge the information around them.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This study essentially investigated the communication styles of left handed students from the College of Teacher Education of Cagayan State University. Specifically, it determined the profile of the participants, their communication styles, and the difference in communication styles when grouped according to profile variables.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study made use of the descriptive research design. This research design gathers data through the questionnaire technique to elicit information on the communication styles of



students from the College of Teacher Education of Cagayan State University. There were 205 students who were selected using purposive sampling. The instrument used in the study was the Communication Style Questionnaire. Frequency count, percentage, and chi square test of independence were used in the analysis of the data.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Results disclose that most of the participants have narrator communication style. This means that they are slow-paced and indirect but they are people-oriented. They are warm, friendly, gentle and cooperative. They highly value relationships over goals. They are good at listening, have a sweet temperament, and tend to be open-minded. They tend to display accommodating and helpful attitude, take initiative to create relationships and like both to talk and listen. On the other hand, 52 or 25% of the respondents are demonstrators. They are more likely to be fast-paced and enthusiastic. They usually have more open, animated and outgoing as well as prefer an informal atmosphere. They are spontaneous, excitable and sociable. Moreover, they have trouble being on time and keeping track of detail but take the initiative in a conversation and like to talk about themselves.

The data also reveal that 24 or 12% of the respondents are contemplators while 7 or 3% are assertors. Contemplators have the tendency to be task-oriented but are more indirect and slow-paced. They tend to be analytical, detail-oriented and pride themselves on orderliness and accuracy. They like to hear facts, figures, statistics and proof. Assertors on the other hand, are fast paced and direct but are more task-oriented than people-oriented. They tend to be hard working, ambitious and are good at making decisions quickly and efficiently. They are goal-directed, assertive and confident. They are more likely to prefer a more structured and formal atmosphere as well as take leadership role in most situations.

Moreover, 137 or 77% of the participants are female while 68 or 33% of them are male. Hence, there are more female respondents who are left handed in the College of Teacher Education in the University. This contradicts Richard A. Lippa's (2003) review related to handedness, sexual orientation and gender related personality traits in men and women which noted that there are slightly higher rate of left-handedness in males than females. Studies indicate that left-handedness is more common in males than females.

Also, results reveal that most of the respondents belong to the Bachelor of Secondary Education department with 144 or 70% of the participants followed by the Bachelor of



Elementary Education with 55 or 27% of the participants while 6 or 3% come from the Bachelor of Technical Teacher Education while most of the participants came from Andrews campus, are middle born and belong to one left handed family member.

Furthermore, results show that there is a significant difference in the communication style of the participants when grouped according to birth order. This means that their communication style varies depending on the order of their birth in the family. This can be attributed to the fact that most of the participants are middle born children in the family. According to Alfred Adler, in general, middle children become very socially skilled because they have learned to negotiate and compromise daily with their siblings and their parents. Some of these children are often called the peacemakers of the household.

This result is related with the dominant communication style of the respondents. As narrators, they are people oriented and they put strong value on relationships over tasks or goals.

In a similar study conducted by Eckstein & Aycock et al., (2010), children's parents and siblings can teach each child different ways to interact with others. The children pick up on the ways to interact with others by observing the people in their environment, as well as, being taught values from their parents. When thinking about all the different families in a neighborhood, a person must consider the culture of the family as well. All families will have different cultures and norms that can cause the child's birth order perceptions to be different. Each family has their own beliefs that help shape the children into who they are as they grow older. Hence, they develop different communication styles based on their birth order.

Results also show that there is a significant difference in the communication style and the course where the participants are enrolled in. This implies that the communication style of the participants differ depending on their course. This points out to the differences among the learners in each department as well as the culture that it adopts. Culture and surroundings also affect what communication styles are practically available and socially acceptable.

Likewise, there is a significant difference in the communication style of the participants and campus where they study. This could be attributed to the fact that each campus has its own



culture unique of its own. Hence, through this, their communication styles differ according to the campus where they are enrolled in.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

On the basis of the findings of the study, it can be concluded that the left handed students display different communication styles. Communication style is important because it is an indicator of a pattern of a person organizes his interpersonal relationships. In fact, the style of communication is a way which shows how individuals see and judge the information around them.

Likewise, left handed students are more people-oriented thus are warm, friendly, gentle and cooperative. They highly value relationships over goals. They are good at listening, have a sweet temperament, and tend to be open-minded. They tend to display accommodating and helpful attitude, take initiative to create relationships and like to both to talk and listen.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study is limited to the determination of communication styles of the participants hence, future researchers are encouraged to conduct further study on the same subject but in a wider scope among left handed students. It should include other variables that may affect the personality of left handed students. Also, this area of inquiry would also benefit from qualitative research designed to explore a range of issues in-depth such as the lived experiences of left handed students in the school setting.

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