

## **The relationship between language and other modalities such as eye contact, body gestures facial expressions and context in communication in a bilingual classroom**

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This study investigates the relationship between language and non-verbal modalities in a bilingual classroom at a Sri Lankan university. The central research question examines the existence and nature of the relationship between language and other modalities, including eye contact, body gestures, facial expressions, and contextual factors in communication. Employing qualitative research methodology, the study focuses on group discussions among a group of undergraduates at a Sri Lankan university, capturing the dynamic nature of bilingual interactions. The thematic analysis serves as an analytical lens, providing insight into the multiple dimensions of language and non-verbal dynamics in different communicative contexts based on two different discussions, one on an academic topic and the other on a general topic, which were video-recorded and meticulously observed using a predefined observation checklist. The findings show that the non-verbal cues are aligned with their communication, which are subtle communication patterns that reveal the simultaneous influence of non-verbal cues and contextual factors in their communication. In academic discourse, participants grapple with linguistic complexities and discussions on the general topic revealed the delicate balance between the academic discussion and the general discussion, emphasizing the powerful influence of language contexts on personal interactions. This study contributes to the developing body of literature on bilingual communication elements of language and non-verbal modes in the context of a Sri Lankan university. The implications of the study are for improving communication strategies in bilingual educational settings to ELT instructors, policymakers, and curriculum developers to look into how to make language communication more effective with the psycholinguistic aspects.

**Keywords:** *non-verbal modalities, language, bilingual communication, context in communication*