

## Language Exercise

We identified a number of cross-cultural variables in how people use language. I organized them into the following groups:

- A. words, syntax, meaning
- B. tone, volume, rate
- C. direct/indirect, turn-taking, interruption
- D. content
- E. use of silence

Now, we'd like you to choose either group C, D, or E and make some finer distinctions among the variables. (Group A is too difficult unless you are a linguist, and Group B is too simple!). For example:

Group C:      What does it mean that one way of talking is more direct than another?  
                  What are different ways people can interrupt one another and take control of the conversation?

Group D:      Brainstorm a few examples of what is acceptable/unacceptable content to discuss in different cultures. Are some topics acceptable for only some subgroups to talk about?

Group E:      From your reading, how is silence viewed in different cultures?

Be ready to discuss your findings with the rest of the class.

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