

Communication is a bridge that connects different cultures together. A constructive view of communication is that communication is an ongoing project of constructing meaning in the midst of dialogue, deconstructing the meaning, and then building it up again. In terms of evangelism, ministry, and mission, there are important questions to be considered such as, *When communicating the gospel, who has to master the foreign language?* Although it is difficult, there should be great level of effort made for learning because we are given a great assignment from the Lord.

Under the topic of language acquisition, it was interesting to see the studies/observations made of children. It's fascinating to see that they not only learn language easier and quicker than adults, but the fact that language are not innate categories. As Rynkiewich mentioned, there are built-in abilities to categorize sounds, recognize boundaries between phonemes, and mimic stress and intonation patterns characteristic of any language. The ability to discriminate phonetic distinctions happen from when one is just an infant. These scientific arguments highlight the importance of language spoken at home and how important a healthy communication environment is for young children. As adults, we should be very mindful of the things we are saying to ourselves and each other. We should be cautious because our communication style will directly influence how our children communicate. We should also have an open mind about accepting new language into our current system. This will allow more room in our hearts to experience new ways of seeing the gospel. Many times especially in my culture, something "foreign" equals "wrong or unacceptable". However, in Christ no culture is wrong. Under gospel, no one can boast of themselves. If our goal is to reach out to the younger generation, we need to learn their way of communicating. What are some ways we can break barriers to cross-cultural communication? How can we practice healthy communication?