

Dawn Bailey
February 20, 2023
CS501
Rynkiewicz's *Soul, Self, and Society* chapter 3

Thesis statement: The main idea in chapter 3 is that communication involves much more than the spoken language and it is the speaker's responsibility to communicate correctly to the listener.

Summary: Communication occurs through verbal, facial, and physical actions. It is the responsibility of the speaker to decipher, learn, and then communicate in a way that the listener can understand. First languages are learned in community. Good communication requires an investment of time on the part of the speaker to really know the people. Much research has been done throughout the years learning how languages develop and change. They have also studied the differences between how various people groups connect their thoughts with the subject material and then how they communicate it to others.

Interaction: I had the great experience of befriending a young family a few years ago that was very globally-linguistically aware. The parents first language was English. She grew up in Germany during her elementary school years and consequently also spoke German. He was a high school Spanish teacher. They had two young children ages three years and six months. They were intentionally speaking English, German, and Spanish in the home with them. They lived next door to me for two years. It was amazing seeing these young ones speaking three languages. The family moved on to international teaching. The kids have since learned Arabic and Mandarin as they have moved from country to country while their parents teach.

Two questions:

1. How can I work to improve my communication skills so that my audience truly understands what I am trying to communicate to them?
2. Why are we as a nation not requiring more foreign language taught to our children at a younger age?