

Interaction Essay: Chapter 3 Soul, Self and Society

In Chapter 3 of *Soul, Self and Society*¹, Rynkiewicz discusses and analyzes anthropological concepts including language, symbols and cross-cultural communication. The author's main thesis in this chapter is that to communicate with other cultures, we must have an understanding of their language, the symbols that they use and barriers to cross-cultural communication.

Two key themes that we discuss from Rynkiewicz are Language Acquisition and language as a barrier to Cross-Cultural Communication. My ability to learn the Spanish language easier and more efficiently as a child supports the author's statement, "It has been a commonplace observation that children seem to learn language easier and quicker than adults do¹". Also, my own past experience as a chemical engineer training Haitian speaking employees on how to operate and troubleshoot chemical manufacturing equipment is in alignment with Rynkiewicz's assertion that, "What we have learned about culture, perception, ethnocentrism, values and worldview will help us communicate with people in our own society, but these same things can be barriers to cross-cultural communication¹".

Two questions for further engaging this topic are:

1. In my own personal ministry context, what examples do I have of proclaiming the gospel to people of other languages?
2. In communicating the gospel to people of other languages, how can I leverage the use of symbols?

¹ Rynkiewicz, M. *Soul, Self and Society: A Postmodern Anthropology for Mission in a Pentecostal World*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011.