

Summary

Thesis title: Nonverbal communication of Macedonians from the Poles' perspective

The presented thesis, entitled Nonverbal communication of Macedonians from the Poles' perspective is an original work, containing pioneer research in the area of the comparative analysis of the nonverbal communication of Macedonians and Poles. The thesis has been divided into 6 chapters.

The first chapter (Introduction) is sub-divided into three parts: The research problem, Aim, scope and the area of the research and The chosen research on the issue. This chapter presents the introductory information on the communication process, it's stages and the importance of the issues connected with nonverbal communication (especially in the intercultural context). Also, the research problem of the thesis is stated (identification, description and the comparative analysis of the nonverbal behaviour of Macedonians and Poles). Furthermore, the research group is identified (Macedonian and Polish citizens, aged 7-80 years). The number of people within the same age group was chosen to be comparable (within the age bands considered). The aim of this work is the identification and the description of the model nonverbal behaviours of Macedonians and Poles and their comparison. Despite the relatively similar location of both countries (middle and southern Europe, around 1500km difference in location, which, on a global scale, is a small distance), there are recognizable differences in the ways of sharing information in a nonverbal way in these two societies. Their description and analysis are the main aim of this thesis. To accomplish it, the following hypotheses have been formed:

1. Most kinetic nonverbal messages used by Macedonians are similar to the ones used by Poles, but the intensity and frequency of their usage differs. There are, however, nonverbal behaviours which are characteristic for one nation, but unused in the other country.

2. Haptics is more developed among Macedonians than among Poles. Macedonians touch the interlocutor more frequently and in more situations.

3. Macedonians keep eye contact longer than Poles. This is true both during conversation as well as during neutral situations, e.g. meeting on the street.

4. The range of the intimate, personal and social distance of Macedonians is reduced compared to the analogical distances for Poles.

5. In Macedonia much bigger delays than in Poland are acceptable.

6. In the other aspects of nonverbal communication, i.e. paralangue, appearance and olfactics there are no differences between Macedonians and Poles.

In the Introduction chapter, the current state of research on the topic is discussed, including the main publications from the area: both the latest ones, and the ones published by previous pioneer researchers. The most important literature (both Polish and Macedonian, as well as English) is considered. Also, the main terminology is extracted and defined, and the classification of nonverbal communication is presented.

The second chapter (Research method) explains the methods which were used to obtain the research material and the ways it is treated later. The photographs were mainly taken personally, by the author of this thesis. Additionally, personal observation, questionnaires and interviews were conducted, which altogether allowed for gathering a vast amount of data, being a strong base for further, reliable analysis.

The topic of the third chapter (Historical and cultural aspects) is the description and the analysis of various factors that could have influenced the nonverbal communication of a particular nation. The following aspects are discussed: the historical and political situation, geographical conditions, human migration, tourism, economy, arts and culture, religion and ethnicity.

In the fourth chapter (The characteristics of the nonverbal communication – supplementary comments) additional theoretical information (i.e. not mentioned in the other parts of the thesis) on nonverbal communication is presented.

Chapter number five (Nonverbal communication of Macedonians from the Poles' perspective) is the main part of the thesis. It contains the analysis of the particular aspects of the nonverbal communication of Macedonians and Poles, in the contrastive manner, i.e.:

- kinesics (body movements) – chapter 5.1,
- oculusics (eye contact) - chapter 5.2,
- proxemics (use of space) – chapter 5.3,
- chronemics (use of time) – chapter 5.4,
- haptics (touch) – chapter 5.5,
- outside appearance – chapter 5.6,
- olfactics (smell) – chapter 5.7,
- paralangue (nonverbal elements of voice) – chapter 5.8.

Within this chapter, special attention is drawn towards mimics, gestures and body postures. The analysis of the abovementioned elements focuses on the comparison and contrasting of the kinetic elements used in the Macedonian and Polish culture. Altogether, 284

nonverbal signs are described, presented as 163 articles, illustrated with corresponding photographs.

Chapter six (Summary, conclusions) presents the conclusions obtained based on the research material analysed. Both the statistical and qualitative analysis of the Macedonian and Polish behaviours is presented in this chapter. The summary considers 18 different aspects, according to which it is possible to analyse the nonverbal signs presented in the thesis, such as: the way of performance and the meaning of the behaviours, their convergence (or lack of it) in both cultures analysed, frequency of use, relationship to verbal information etc. The part entitled Conclusions allowed the hypotheses stated in the Introduction to be verified (six of them are supported with the research results, one is rejected), to formulate recommendations for the future teaching of nonverbal communication during Macedonian language lectures, assess the usefulness of the research done and the possible future areas of research in this topic. The actual state of research makes this thesis a pioneer in this area, and therefore, it can become the basis for future scientific research, as well as a useful source of practical information for those people who get involved in any kind of Polish-Macedonian interaction.

The thesis is supplemented with the list of useful literature and the list of tables and photographs. At the end there is a set of Appendices containing the raw numerical data used to formulate the conclusions of this thesis.