

LESCANT Reflection

By Christina Streit

LESCANT

L: Language

E: Environment

S: Social Organization

C: Context

A: Authority

N: Non-Verbal

T: Time

When we first started LESCONT I admit I didn't really understand what I was supposed to do. But as we continued I realized that it was making me really take in my surroundings and understand the implications and meanings behind the things I never really noticed. I think it will be a useful tool for looking back with stronger memories of my times in Japan.

Language: Daimyo Gyoretsu

With Japan Club and the Japanese program a group of us went to partner with Okayama University (where I happen to be going) to participate in a parade for Daimyo Gyoretsu. Where language came into play was that essentially everyone there only spoke Japanese, forcing the few of us non-natives there to also speak in the same. Regardless of this language barrier, we all got along and made some beautiful memories, as we were all there for the same goal.



Environment: Desensitized Deer

This was taken in the giant groves of Sequoia National Park. Overlooking the beautiful scenery, what struck me about this was the fact that due to the tourist environment these deer live in, they have become completely used to human presence. These deer were coming within six or seven feet of us, and didn't dart off when we moved closer for pictures.



Social Organization: Tin Lizzies

Here in my messy garage is the small car that belongs to my dad. He is a member of the Freemason subgroup known as the Tin Lizzies, which is a group that refurbishes these tiny cars and rides them in parades. What is interesting about the Freemasons as a whole is the strict level of social organization involved. You have to go through certain rites and passages in order to move up, which gains you various responsibilities. But you gain allies for life.



Context: The Potter Stall

Here at CSUMB we have a special stall in the girl's restroom of the student center known as the Potter Stall. Without knowledge of the student run nature of our school and of the Harry Potter universe, someone might take a look at this stall and think of it as very bizarre graffiti. However, this stall has become condoned by the school and is a very popular place for Potterheads to come and leave their mark or enjoy the references to a well loved series.



Authority: That's a Sensei

While back in my hometown for spring break I helped out with the sister city program with the visiting Hanno students. On this particular day we were participating in Undokai. The two on the floor are an American student and one of the Hanno senseis. Even though he is in a position of authority and was helping to run the event, he was able to drop to the student's level to help them relax and have fun in this foreign environment.



Non-Verbal: Steam Powered Giraffe

This is a picture with a band from San Diego called Steam Powered Giraffe. The focal point of this band is that they put on characters of singing robots. They portray this without outright saying it through their costumes, makeup, and their body language. They are all trained in mime, so they have excellent control of their bodies and expressions. They are able to nonverbally immerse you in this fantasy world that they have devised.



Time: Birthday Present

Birthdays are very interesting in that they not only mark the passage of time, but also are a celebration of it. This here is a birthday card I drew for someone. As I thought about it, my present not only was a representation of the time they'd managed to stay alive, but of the time I was dedicating toward them in respect. In a sense, my present was my time.



Culture Strategies

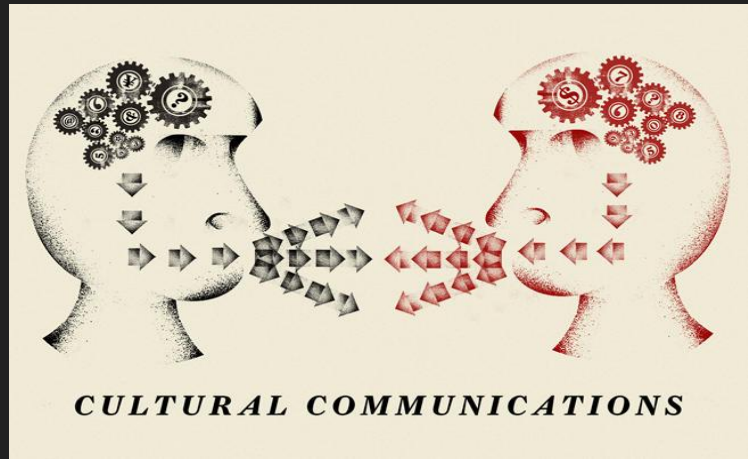
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Immerse yourself in the culture.
- Pay attention to how people of that culture act in various scenarios and with each other.
- The internet and the library are your friends!

Language Strategies

- REPETITION
- Read aloud and go out of your way to speak in the target language.
- Make friends (either in person or a pen pal) who can talk in the language with you.
- Again, immersion and being forced to speak the language will do wonders if you have the opportunity.

My Goals





Preparation

- Over summer work on Japanese skills, especially vocabulary and kanji
- Email my current friends in Japan
- Research the area more thoroughly, such as what the weather is like when
- Get a job over the Summer
- Continue trying for scholarships
- Plan carefully what I am bringing
- Make lists

Thank You!