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PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

Communication is a process that allows organisms to exchange information by several methods. Communication requires that all parties understand a common language that is exchanged. There are auditory means, such as speaking, singing and sometimes tone of voice, and nonverbal, physical means. Communication is defined as a process by which we assign and convey meaning in an attempt to create shared understanding. This process requires a vast repertoire of skills in intrapersonal and interpersonal processing; listening; speaking Use of these processes is developmental and transfers to all areas of life: home, school, work, community Communication is composed 2 dimensions: verbal and non verbal. Nonverbal communication is very important. Harrison (1965, cited from Nguyen Quang, forthcoming:25) claims that in direct communication. Only 35% of social meaning is conveyed through words. Mehrabian has determined from his research that as much as 93% of communication is non verbal, only 7% of people' attitude was conveyed by words, (Hybels,1992:104)

And gestures are a form of non verbal communication. They are made with a part of the body used instead of or in combination with verbal communication. Gestures are fascinating things, at once wholly expressive and curious mysterious. The flick of the wrist, the wave of finger, or simply the movement of an eyelid can say more than a speech, and sometimes subtle gesture can express a feeling more gracefully than words. "It is gestures that use us as their instrument, as their bearers and incarnations" (Milan Kundera, immortality)

Every day, we respond to thousands on nonverbal cues and behaviors including postures, facial expression, eye gaze, gestures, and tone of voice. From our handshakes to our hairstyles, nonverbal details reveal who we are and impact how we relate to other people.

Without gestures, our world would be static and colorless. The social anthropologists Edward T. Hall claims 60 percent of all our communication is nonverbal. In that case, how can we possibly communicate with one another without gestures?

Gestures expressing offensive and profane seem to have limited to the non public arena. No one wants to be seen or accused of being crude or inappropriate in public. And every country and culture has their own acceptable offensive gestures. So that it is important for foreign language learners to study offensive and profane gestures. So they can use them reasonably.

II. Aims of the study:

With the reasons that are mentioned above, the aims of the study are:

- Giving theoretical background of non verbal communication, especially gestures expressing offensive and profane
- Explore the origins, uses, regional variations (in both meaning and performance) and environments where you most often experience each offensive and profane gesture.
- Raising the awareness of the role of non-verbal communication in foreign language teaching and learning.

III. Scope of the study:

Non verbal communication in general and, gestures in particular are broad subject of study. Due to the limitation of time, knowledge and experience, this paper limits itself to gestures expressing offensive and profane.

IV. Methods of the study:

In this paper, offensive and profane gestures that contains the images, pictures, examples are collected from different sources, including the internet, proper reference books, dictionaries, and so on; then they are described, classified and interpreted.

Design of the study

My paper is divided into 3 parts.

The first part is the general introduction of the study which presents the

rationale, aims, scope, methods and design of the paper.

The second part is composed of 3 chapters.

The first chapter is theoretical background which provides readers with background knowledge of non-verbal communication, body language and gestures.

In the second chapter, two which is the main chapter, concentrates on the origins, general executions of the gestures expressing offensive and profane.

The third chapter brings out some problems in order to help learners understand them when using gestures in communication and some solutions are also suggested.

The last part is the conclusion that summarizes the paper.

PART TWO: DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 1: theoretical background of communication and

non communication

1. General introduction of communication

1.1 Definition of communication

People communicate in order to share knowledge and experience. People communicate to fulfill a variety of needs. A couple, in an intimate relationship, communicate about their thoughts, feelings, desire to develop a bond of trusts between them as well as to maintain that intimate relationship. Members of a family communicate for assistance and emotional support and to maintain a healthy family unit. In career setting, people communicate for the purpose of getting a job with an organization or exchanging information or complaining others' faults, or negotiating various issues in their business activities

Communication is considered as one of the most important and complex part of English. The study of communication has been carried out by many authors for many years. Communication has been defined in many different ways.

According National Joint Committee for the Communicative Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities (1992:2)

“Any act by which one person give to or receives from other person information about that person’s needs, desires, perceptions, knowledge, or affective states. Communication may be intentional or unintentional, may involve conventional or unconventional signals, may take linguistic or non linguistic forms, and may occur through spoken or other modes”.

Lustig (1996:29) defines communication as: "a symbolic process in which people create shared meanings".

Dean Barn Lund (1962)-Radical Untentional Communication

“Communication describes the process of creating a meaning. Meaning is created whenever significance is assigned. Therefore communication occurs whenever significance is assigned to internal or external stimuli. Minimum

external stimuli are sensations, such as might arise as a person watches the New York skyline disappear at dusk. Minimum internal stimuli are unintentional thoughts, such as the fading images of a frightening dream”.

According to this definition, communication is a perception of the receiver. Communication does not require a speaker, message, or listener. Accordingly, for communication to occur neither is there a need for another person to be present or involved, nor is there a need for another person to have any sort of intention in relation to the communication.”

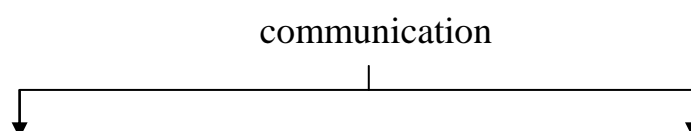
Besides, it fits within the three- part breakdown *Alber Mehrabian [nonverbal communication (Chicago: Aldine-Atherton, 1972)]* found in his research. Mehrabian found that only about 7% of the emotional meaning of a message is communicated through explicit verbal channels. About 38% is communicated by paralanguage, which is basically the use of the voice. About 55% comes through nonverbal, which includes such things as gesture, posture, facial expression, etc. It is behavior other than spoken or written communication that creates or represents meaning.

1.2. Forms of communication

Popular references to communication often include not only spoken and written communication (verbal communication) but also non-verbal communication.

Hybel (1992) states that our ideas and feelings can be communicated only if these ideas and feelings are represented by symbols. A symbol, according to Hybel, stands for something else. The message made up of the ideas and feelings that are communicated is made up of two kinds of symbols: verbal and non verbal communication. Lusting (1996) and Berko (1999) both share the same view with Hybel (1992).

Lusting views a symbol as “a word, action and object”. Berko simply declares that communication consists of verbal and non-verbal communication. Thus, to this point, we can draw forms of communication as a simple diagram below:



verbal

non verbal

2.1 Verbal communication

Verbal communication is the way of communicating in words.

According to *Clyne*, through verbal communication, we express information, ideas, emotions, attitudes and prejudices among other things; we indicate group membership and mark group boundaries, whether at the national, regional or local, ethnic, political or religious level. Verbal communication has function as an instrument of action. Certain important acts are performed purely linguistically. These include promises and apologies.

Communication through words may be in writing or oral.

Written communication involves any type of interaction that makes use of the written word. It is one of the two main types of communication, along with oral/spoken communication

Written communication entails transmission of message in black and white. It mainly consists of diagrams, pictures, graphs, etc. Reports, policies, rules, orders, instructions, agreements, etc have to be conveyed in written form for proper functioning of the organization.

Written communication guarantees that everyone concerned has the same information. It provides a long-lasting record of communication for future. Written instructions are essential when the action called for is crucial and complex. To be effectual, written communication should be understandable, brief, truthful and comprehensive.

The effectiveness of written communication depends on the style of writing, vocabulary used, grammar, clarity and precision of language

Oral communication is communication by words of mouth, the use of speech. Oral communication refers to the spoken words in the communication process. Oral communication can either be face-to-face communication or a conversation over the phone or on the voice chat over the Internet. Spoken conversations or dialogs are influenced by voice modulation, pitch, volume and even the speed and clarity of speaking.

For example:

“Whatever are you doing up here Bill?” asked the vicar in surprise.

“I’m trying to repair the bell”, answered Bill. “I’ve been coming up here night after night for weeks now. You see, I was hoping to give you a surprise.”

“You certainly did give me a surprise!” said the vicar.” “You’ve probably woken up everyone in the village as well. Still, I’m glad the bell is working again.’

“That’s the trouble, vicar”, answered Bill. “It’s working all right, but I’m afraid that at one o’clock it will strike thirteen times and there’s nothing I can do about it,”

(L.G Alexander, 2003:14)

1.2.2 Non verbal communication (NVC):

1.2.2.1. Definition of nonverbal communication:

Non verbal communication is usually understood as the process of communication through sending and receiving wordless messages. Such messages can be communicated through gestures; body language or posture; facial expression and eye contact; object communication such as clothing, hairstyles or even architecture; symbols and info graphics. Speech may also contain non verbal elements known as paralanguage, including voice quality, emotion and speaking styles, as well as prosodic features such as rhythm, intonation and stress. Likewise, written texts have non verbal elements such as handwriting style, spatial arrangement of words, or the use of emotions”.



([http:// wikipedia.org/wiki/non verbal communication](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/non_verbal_communication))

Nonverbal communication is extremely important in human interactions. Nonverbal communication can be understood as everything except our words. Lustig (1996:187-188) defines "*nonverbal communication is a multichannel process that is usually performed simultaneously; it typically involves a subtle set of nonlinguistic behaviors that are often enacted subconsciously. Nonverbal behaviors can become part of the communication process when someone intentionally tries to convey a message or when someone attributes meaning to the nonverbal behavior of another, whether or not the person intend to*

communicate a particular meaning." With this definition Lustig has focused on its characteristics stating its multichannel process and its both subconscious and intentional occurrences. However, it seems that this definition is not quite reasonable as it considers nonverbal communication as nonlinguistic behaviors. By so doing it just focuses its consideration of nonverbal communication on the body language. Nevertheless, contemporary researchers on nonverbal communication have insisted on linguistic aspects of nonverbal communication emphasizing the existence of paralanguage in nonverbal communication.

In the next two definitions of nonverbal communication: "*Without saying a word you could be communicating by your clothing, your facial expressions, your posture, or any other number of nonverbal signals.*" (Hybels, 1992:104); and "*all external stimuli other than spoken or written words and including body motion, characteristics of appearance, characteristics of voice, and use of space and distance.*" (Berko, 1999:179), we can see that they have added other aspects of nonverbal communication (clothing, facial expressions, postures, characteristics of voice, etc.) that make their views quite appropriate. However, they both do not give us a clear and detailed picture of nonverbal communication as their views on types or classes of nonverbal communication are quite varied.

Nguyễn Quang (forthcoming) has also given his own view on the definition which seems to cover most important dimensions of nonverbal communication. Nonverbal communication, according to him, refers to "*all the components of the message that, when taken together, constitute the communication which is not verbally coded but both vocally and nonvocally channeled. Nonverbal communication is composed of paralinguistic factors (nonverbal-vocal channel), such as rate, volume, etc., and extra linguistic factors (nonverbal - non vocal channel), such as body language (gestures, postures, facial expression...), object language (including clothing, jewelry,...), and environmental language (proxemics, setting,...)*".

According to **Levine and Adelman (1993)**: "Non verbal communication is the "silent" language, including the use of gestures, facial expression, eye contact, and conversational distance".

According to *Dwyer (2000)*: “ Non verbal communication consists of all that part of a message that is not encoded in words. For example, tone of voice, facial expression or gestures and movement.”

e.g:



a wink is a type of gestures

1.2.2.2. Types of nonverbal communication

It is estimated that less than ten percent of interpersonal communication involves words, the remainder being made up of voice tone, sounds and a variety of devices such as kinesics (movement), haptics(touch), oclesics (eye contact), proxemics (space) and chronemics (time) as well as posture, sound symbols and silence, which either replace or accompany words. Different studies have identified a wide variety of types of nonverbal communication.

1.2.2.2.1. Paralanguage

- *Dwyer (2000)*: “Paralanguage is that part of language associated with but not involving the word system. It consists of the voice qualities and vocalizations that affect how something is said rather than what it is said. Voice qualities include: pitch range, pitch control, rhythm control, tempo, articulation control and resonance”.

- *Ekaman and Fiesen*: “Social scientists use the term paralanguage to describe nonverbal communication”

- *Nguyen Quang*: “paralanguage is the total sum of all vocal nonverbal cues found in communication. It is used mostly for the expression of the how

rather than what of communication.”

Examples of paralanguage: crying, laughing, groaning, yawning

Sounds such as: “uh-huh”, “um-um”

Yelling: “hey, stop that!” as opposed to whispering: “hey, stop that!”



crying



laughing

1.2.2.2.2. Kinesics

Kinesics is the study of body movements, facial expression and gestures. It was developed by anthropologist Ray L. Birdwhistell in the 1950s. Kinesics behaviors include mutual gaze, smiling, facial warmth or pleasantness, childlike behaviors, direct body orientation, and the like.

Examples: - shake hands

- Nodding and shaking the head
- Arm raised and the open hand “waggles” back and forth
- Thumb up with a close fist
- Drumming finger
- Foot tapping

“Kinesics is the nonverbal code system of bodily activity” *P.*

Ekman and W. Friesen)

For example, you are going out to dinner with a friend. Your friend asks you what kind of food you want. If it makes no difference to you (that is, if you don't have a preference) you can shrug your shoulders and say: “I don't care”



shrug shoulders

a. **Posture:**

Posture and movement can also convey a great deal on information. Research on body language has grown significantly since the 1970's, but popular media have focused on the over-interpretation of defensive postures, arm-crossing, and leg-crossing, especially after the publication of Julius Fast's book *Body Language*. While these nonverbal behaviors can indicate feelings and attitudes, research suggests that body language is far more subtle and less definitive than previously believed.

Posture can be used to determine a participant's degree of attention or involvement, the difference in status between communicators, and the level of fondness a person has for the other communicator.



e.g.: sit erect



b. **Gesture:**

A gesture is a nonverbal bodily movement intended to express meaning. They may be articulated with the hands, arms or body, and also include movements of the head, face, eyes. Deliberate movements and signals are an important way to communicate meaning without words. Common gestures include waving, pointing, and using fingers to indicate number amounts. Other gestures are arbitrary and related to culture.

e.g.: - scratching the head cupping the ear

- rolling eyes...

- “the man said that the pen was worth \$10, but as a special favor, he would let me have it for \$8. I shock my head and held up a finger indicating that I was willing to pay a pound”.

- military signalmen use hand and body gesture to direct flight operations aboard aircraft carriers.



C . facial expression:

Facial expressions are responsible for a huge proportion of nonverbal communication. Consider how much information can be conveyed with a smile or a frown. While nonverbal communication and behavior can vary dramatically between cultures, the facial expressions for happiness, sadness, anger, and fear are similar throughout the world



Facial expression involves the arrangement of facial muscles to communicate emotional state or reaction to a message.

You have 80 muscles in your face that can create more than 7,000 facial expressions.

Facial appearance including muscles, tone, skin coloration and eye color offers enduring cues that reveal information about age, sex, race, ethnic and status.

e.g.: children who are angry might *stick their tongues out* at each other



If you do something bad or wrong, and others find out about it. you will probably feel ashamed to show that you lower or hang your head.

1.2.2.2.3. Oculeics

Oculeics is the study of the role of eyes in nonverbal communication. Eye contact can indicate interest, attention, and involvement. In relationships, it serves to show intimacy, influence. The most dominant and reliable features of the face, the eyes, provide a constant channel of communication. They can be shifty and evasive; convey hate, fear, and guilt; or express confidence, love, and support. Referred to as mirrors of the soul, the eyes serve the major decision factor in interpreting the spoken words.



For example: when I returned from abroad recently, a particularly officious young Customs Officer clearly regarded me as a smuggler.

“Have you any to declare?” he asked, *looking me in the eyes*.

“No”, I answered confidently.

(L.G Alexander, 2003:32)

e.g.: direct eye contact

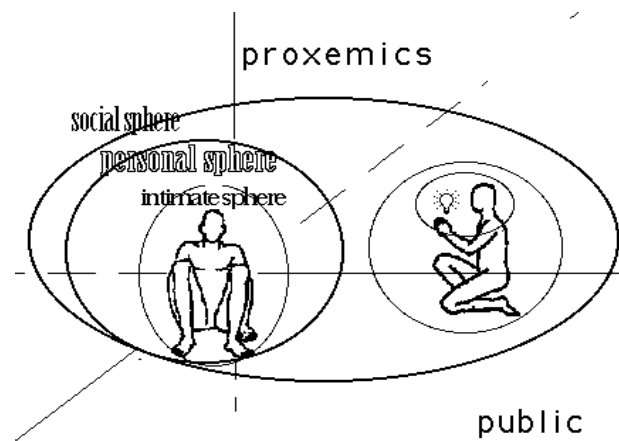
Rolling the eye

Eyebrow flash



Winking with one eye:

1.2.2.2.4. *Proxemics*



According to anthropologist Edward Hall, “proxemics is the study of how people use and perceive the physical space around them. The space between the sender and receiver of a message influences the way the message is interpreted.” (Hall, *the silent language*.1959; *the hidden dimension*.1966).

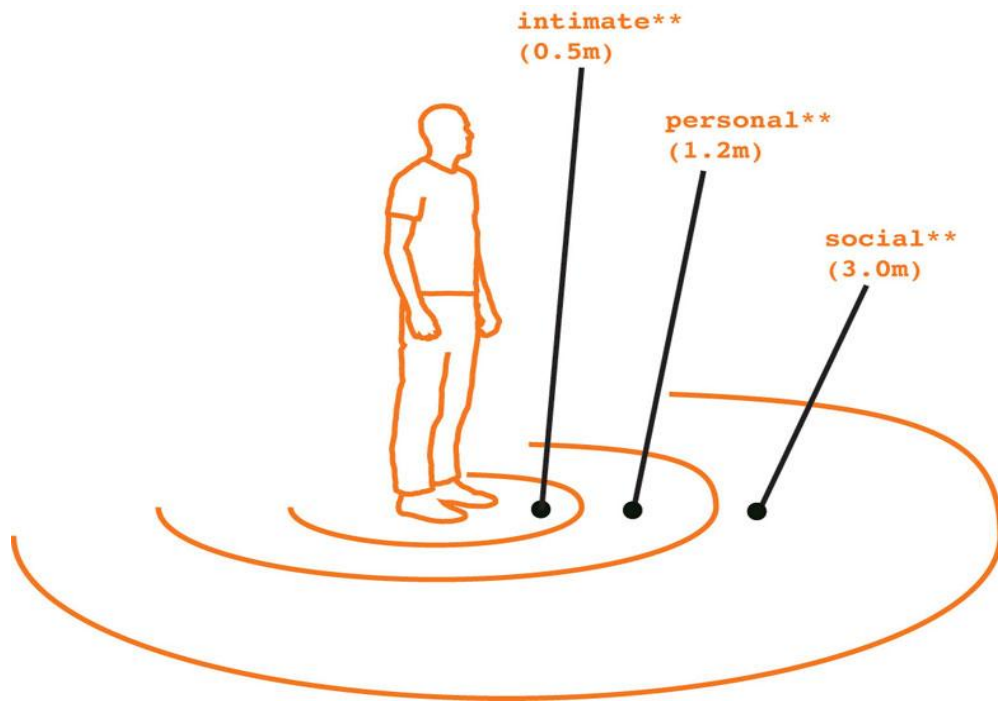
People often refer to their need for “personal space,” which is also an important type of nonverbal communication. The amount of distance we need and the amount of space we perceive as belonging to us is influenced by a number of factors including social norms, situational factors, personality characteristics, and level of familiarity. For example, the amount of personal space needed when having a casual conversation with another person usually varies between 18 inches to four feet. On the other hand, the personal distance needed when speaking to a crowd of people is around 10 to 12 feet.

There are four distinct distances with which communication takes place:

1. Intimate distance: no more than 18 inches apart
2. Personal distance : 18 inches to 4 feet

Causal and personal conventional

3. Social distance: 4-12 feet
Impersonal. Business, social gatherings
4. Public distance: more than 12 feet
Public speaking



Distinct distances with which communication of proxemics

1.2.2.2.5. *Haptics*

Haptics is the study of touching behavior. Touch is an extremely important sense for human as well as providing information about surfaces and textures it is a component of nonverbal communication in interpersonal relationships, and vital in conveying intimacy. Communicating through touch is another important nonverbal behavior. There has been a substantial amount of research on the importance of touch in infancy and early childhood. Harry Harlow's classic monkey study demonstrated how the deprivation of touch and contact impedes development. Baby monkeys raised by wire mothers experienced permanent deficits in behavior and social interaction

e.g.:

- Handshakes
- Kissing
- Holding hand
- High five



Mother kisses baby



handshake gesture

1.2.2.2.6. Others

Chromatics

Chromatics is a nonverbal communication of messages through colors. It is actually a scientific movement, which explores the physical properties of color and the effects of color on humans. The connotation colors have, which may be positive or negative and it depends on culture.

e.g.“ a Canadian supermarket chain uses yellow bargain tickets and buildings. There are 2 strong psychological factors involved here: yellow is striking and highly visible to the eye; and it has negative associations, connoting an image of cheapness.

However, it is well to remember that connotations of colors as well as other environmental cues are different in different cultures.

Chronemic

Chromenics is the study of the use of time in nonverbal communication. The way we perceive time, structure our time and react to time is a powerful nonverbal communication tool, and helps set the stage for communication. Time perceptions include punctuality and willingness to wait, the speed of speech and how long people are willing to listen.

Olfactics

Olfactics is the nonverbal communication study of smell. We react to people based on their smell: body odor, too much perfume

e.g.: Holding the nose with thumbs and forefinger
wrinkling the nose



the picture of wrinkling the nose

Silence

Silence is another important aspect in nonverbal communication. A whole web page could be written about the role of silence in our communication. When we are silent, we are also communicating. What we communicate depends on what kind of silence it is. Mostly the subject of the conversation plays a major role in this. Again, the time between words provide feeling and thinking space for people.

In Western society (Beisler: 2002, Nguyen Quang), silence is use as a mark of respect. This is emphasized in schools-children may not speak while the teacher is speaking. But as a matter of fact, this holds true of the Vietnamese school than American school.

2. Gestures

2.1. *Definition*

A gesture is a form of non verbal communication made with a part of the body used instead of or in combination with verbal communication. The language of gesture allows individuals to express a variety of feelings and thoughts, from contempt and hostility to approval and affection. Most people use gestures and body language in addition to words when they speak. The use of gesture as language by some ethnic groups is more common than in others, and the amount of such gesturing that is considered culturally acceptable varies from one location to the next.

For example: - nodding

- Eye rolling
- Head shaking
- Thumb the nose
- mooning

e.g:



Picture of mooning

2.2. *Gestures expressing offensive and profane*

2.2.3 *Definition of offensive and profane*

- **Offensive:** - Rude in a way that causes you to feel upset, insulted or annoyed, extremely pleasant (Oxford advanced learner's dictionary, 2000:1202)

- Giving pain or unpleasant sensations; disagreeable; revolting; noxious; as, an offensive smell; offensive sounds. (Ardictionary, 1999: 298)

- The state or posture of one who offends or makes attack; aggressive attitude; the act of the attacking party; opposed to defensive. (Cambridge dictionary, 2001: 371)

- e.g.: his comments were deeply offensive to a large number of single mother.

- **Profane:** having or showing a lack of respect for God or holy things. (Oxford advanced learner's dictionary, 2000:1422)

- Not sacred or holy; not possessing peculiar sanctity; unconsecrated; hence, relating to matters other than sacred; secular; opposed to sacred, religious, or inspired; as, a profane place. (Ardictionary, 1999: 362)

- To violate, as anything sacred; to treat with abuse, irreverence, obloquy, or contempt; to desecrate; to pollute; as, to profane the name of God; to profane the Scriptures, or the ordinance of God. (Cambridge

dictionary, 2001: 401)

e.g.: profane language

2.2.4. *List of gestures express offensive and profane:*

- Chin flick
- Crotch grab
- Cunnilingus
- Fellatio
- The fig
- The finger
- Limp wrist
- Little penis
- Masturbation
- The moon
- Sex finger
- Ticking out of the tongue
- Thumb bite
- Thumbing of the nose
- Up yours
- “V” on the nose

Chapter two:

GESTURES EXPRESS OFFENSIVE AND PROFANE

1. Chin flick



- Usage and origins: *the fingernails of one hand are brushed under and away from the chin in a continuous motion.* The chin flick is a gesture that has several meanings, all of which are certainly negative and some that are quite insulting. The chin flick gesture represents a symbolic beard flip (in France, this gesture is known as *la barbe*, or “ the beard”) and it is used to express supreme disinterest.

Its meanings are variable-from “get lost” to “shut up” to “under no circumstances will I put up with you any more” to “you are boring”. It is in this latter context that the gesture’s meaning is more evident: “you have been talking so long that my beard has grown while I’ve been listening to you”.

In southern Italy, you’ll find men using this gesture as a means of saying “no” from a distance, as in “there are no more parking spaces left in the lot, so don’t pull in here”.

In some cultures, this gesture carries with it a more disrespectful connotation. While the meanings is not clearly defined, it translates roughly to “get the fuck away from me !” It is gesture that gets children in serious trouble with adults and is responsible for countless fights among peers.

- Region: as a gesture of disinterest, the chin flick gesture is common in

French-speaking nations, as well as in northern Italy and the former Yugoslavia. As a simple way to express negative feelings, it is used

In southern Italy and the Italian islands, you'll see this gesture used insultingly in Tunisia Isles.

- Environment: the chin flick gesture is like many insulting or offensive gestures in that it will not be used nearly as much as one might like to use it, due to rules of propriety and manners. However, you may see the chin flick gesture during a boring lecture in France or just before a street fight in Tunisia

A particularly famous incidence of the chin flick gesture occurs in the film Grease as part of Rizzo's song "look at me, I'm Sandra Dee." Sandy is so horrified at the insult that she bursts into tears.

- Execution:

1. Touch the top of your neck, along the bottom of your chin, with the back of the fingertips of one hand. Your fingers will make a relaxed 45-to 90-degree angle with the rest of your hand and forearm, palm facing in.

2. Drag your fingertips along the base of your chin

3. When you reach the end of your chin, flick your fingers into the air

4. Spread your fingers slightly and hold them in the air in front of your face for less than one second.

5. Drop your hand

- Variations of performance: increase the intensity of the insult or disinterest by repeating the flicking motion.

2. Crotch grab

- Usage and origins: *a man loosely grabs his own genitals in one hand and shakes them.* If you are a man, it's tough to find a more offensive and insulting gesture to perform. Indeed, you'll rarely see women enacting the crotch grab gesture though there was a brief in the mid-1990s when pop-

sensation Madonna attempted to claim the gesture as a strongly feminist one and used it to express herself in music video. This is an extreme exception,



however, as the fact of actually shaking the genitals at another is quite obviously impossible for those without penises.

The gesture itself has two insulting layers: First, disrespect is expressed by the fact that the gesture thinks so little of the recipient of the gesture that he will perform the intimate act of touching his genitals in public without embarrassment. The second part is very simple: It means “Up yours!” and draws attention to the appropriate part of the anatomy to enact this insult.

- Region: The crotch grab gesture is most common in Central America (especially Mexico) and the United States.

- Environment: Due to the very disrespectful attitude that this gesture conveys, it will hopefully not be directed at you very often. A rude man might enact the crotch grab gesture in a bar or at a rowdy sporting event, where alcohol flows freely and reduces any sense of propriety.

Additionally, this is a very common pose to see in Michael Jackson’s videos, where it is not an insult so much as a dance step, for reasons unknown.

- Execution:

1. Place one hand over your crotch.
2. Bend your knees and arch your back slightly to make your crotch area more prominent.
3. Cup your fingers under your crotch and make a squeezing motion once.
4. For a finishing flourish, shake your hand from side to side slightly while still holding your crotch.

- Variations of performance: In Argentina, a gesture with the same meaning is performed when a man uses both hands to slap and grab his own inner thighs. For a woman to express the same sentiment she may lift one of her breasts; this is very rarely performed.

3. cunnilingus

- Usage and origins: *the forefinger and middle finger are splayed and raised to the face in front of the mouth; the tongue peeks*



through and wiggles about, imitating the act of cunnilingus.

The cunnilingus gesture is clearly profane but will seldom be used in a disrespectful way to hurt or insult another person. It is more commonly a way to refer to an act that is somewhat taboo and create embarrassment when it is talked about, or to shock someone with its over bawdiness. It is rare to see this gesture outside of particularly silly rock'n'roll videos or amongst giggling girlfriends who may be shy to talk about such an intimate act.

As with all overtly profane gestures, performing this one policy is against the law in some more proper areas of the United States. It will certainly earn a detention in any middle or high school in the country, and if directed toward a female teacher, you may find yourself suspended.

If a man or woman flashes this gesture at a woman, it might be interpreted as a sexual suggestion or request, albeit a rude and clumsy one. The woman may choose to respond with interest or with disgust and anger whatever suits her fancy.

- Region: This gesture will rarely be seen outside of Western regions, where, while still somewhat taboo in conversation, oral sex is openly and often disrespectfully discussed.

- Environment: Slumber parties and music videos from the early 1990s are the best places to see this gesture shyly and cartoonishly performed, respectively. Sexually open television series, such as Sex and city, will make use this gesture, as will kids and young adults who want to provoke others into embarrassed- shock.

- Execution:

1. Make a fist with one hand.
2. Extend your index and middle fingers.
3. Splay apart the extended fingers to form a "V"
4. Turn your hand so that your palm faces your body
5. Raise the "V" so that its base rests on your chin
6. Stick your tongue through the "V" made by your fingers

7. Wiggle your tongue.

4. Fellatio

- Usage and origins: *the tongue is pushed against the cheek in a closed mouth so that it forces the cheek to protrude.*

Used to imitate what the face looks like while in the act of fellatio, this gesture has much the same insulting yet silly



interpretation as its female counterpart, the cunnilingus gesture, though it is more commonly used. This may be because fellatio is a more acceptable sexual act to discuss and therefore, to make fun of.

It is used most often by pre-teens to naughtily refer to the sexual act in order to embarrass their peers or as a joke. The fellatio gesture is often evoked in middle-school settings, such as the cafeteria or playground to spread rumors that some young woman is “easy” because she performs fellatio.

- Region: This gesture will rarely be seen outside of Western regions

- Environment: Places where adolescents gather, such as malls, school hallways, and dinners, are common areas to see this gesture in use amidst much giggling. College campuses may be a venue for the performance of this gesture, since it is here where the battle for maturity is fought and often not quite won.

- Execution:

1. With your mouth closed, move the tip of tongue over to one side of the inside of your mouth.

2. Push your tongue into your cheek from the inside, making the cheek puff out slightly.

3. Repeat if desired, for emphasis.

- Variations of performance: In a variation of this gesture, you might move one hand, closed into a fist as if holding an erect penis, in rhythm with the

tongue to further accentuate the gesture.

5. The fig

- Usage and origins: *the hand is closed in a fist, with the tip of the thumb protruding between the knuckles of the index and middle fingers.* The fig gesture dates back to antiquity, and while there is widespread speculation as to the origin and meaning of the name, there is no agreement among experts and



therefore no definitive answer. Historians also disagree about the exact origin of the gesture, but most speculate that it is a reference to female genitalia.

There is evidence to suggest that the fig gesture was used in ancient Greece to break magic spells. For this reason, its likeness was used on good-luck amulets worn around the neck to ward off the evil eye and in artwork. It was thought that an overt sexual display would distract the evil spirit from committing destruction. This ancient meaning of the gesture still exists-to this day, people in Portuguese-speaking nations wear amulets in the shape of a hand performing the fig gesture as good luck charms.

The sexual origins of the gesture have been lost in some cultures. Today, the most widespread and common interpretation and use of this gesture is as an imitation of the act of copulation, in which the thumb represents a penis and the fingers represent labia.

The meaning expressed behind the gesture varies across Europe and The Americas, but it is usually interpreted either as a sexual proposition or as an insult, depending on region and context.

- Region: In Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Germany, the fig gesture is a sexual comment that means “I would like to have sex with you”. In France, Greece, and Turkey, it is more of a sexual insult, as in “Up yours”. In Portugal and Brazil, this gesture is still a good luck charm that is represented on jewelry, in the United States, the fig gesture is not used as a particularly offensive or even insulting gesture; it is usually only evoked in a child’s game in which some one

tends to grab the nose off another's face and hold it between the fingers to mean "I have got your nose". This game is also played through out most of Europe.

- Environment: places where things become chaotic and tasseled due to alcohol consumption, such as bars, parties, or carnivals, are likely spots to see the fig gesture in use, whether as insult or an invitation to sexual activity.

In Portugal and Brazil, the fig will be seen the worn around the neck at sporting events and anywhere else good luck or protection is desired. Remember that here it carries no insulting connotation.

- Execution:

1. Begin to make a fist with one hand.

2. Instead of setting your thumb across your fingers, tuck it between the index and middle fingers, near the knuckles so that just the pad of the thumb is exposed,

3. Hold out your fist at mid-torso

4. Shake your fist back and forth slightly.

6. The finger

- Usage and origins: *the middle finger is extended while the other fingers are predded into a fist.* Anthropologists contend that the finger gesture has been in use for more than 2,000 years. The Romans called it "digitus impudicus" or "indecent digit", and there are countless references to it in writing by classical authors. Its translates to "fuck you", and the most obvious origin of this insulting and obscene meaning is the gesture's resemblance to a phallus, with the middle finger as the erect penis and the tucked under fingers as testicle.



Despite its beginnings as a phallic-symbol insult, it has evolved into one of the more widespread displays of anger and insolence and has lost much of its sexual meaning. It can even be a playful or humorous, insult, especially when it is flashed in a seemingly innocent way, as when one scratches one's head or points to something using the middle finger. It is unclear why Americans often

refer to performing the finger gesture as “flipping the bird”.

- Region: the finger gesture has made its way around the world and can be seen everywhere these days. (There are analogous gestures in other countries, such as Britain’s use of the “V” gesture). Use of this gesture is more prevalent in the United States than anywhere else.

- Environment Since people their tempers in an endless variety of locales, it is difficult to pinpoint specific sports that will see an increased use of the finger gesture. Road rage could be the leading catalyst for the gesture, so highways or road will see an abundance of extended middle fingers.

- Execution

1. Make a fist with one hand, palm facing in.

2. Raise the middle finger of this hand. Extend the finger as straight up in the air as possible.

3. Hold the hand up in the air, act face-level.

4. Jerk your hand once.

Variations of performance: you may hold your hand arm and finger still or you may jerk it in the air, as directed above. Some people will slap their other hand against the crook of their elbow as they make the gesture.

In Arab nations, the same gesture is performed by splaying out the fingers, palm down, with the middle finger pointing straight down. In Lebanon and Syria the back of a closed fist, with knuckles facing up, is brought quickly toward the open palm of the other hand, with the middle finger popping out of the fist a the moment of impact. This implies a violent sexual action, such as a rape and adds a slapping noise to the gesture.

Final, Russians bend back the middle finger of one hand using the forefinger of the other hand. This is called “looking under the cat’s tail”, and expresses the same meaning as giving the finger gesture as directed in “Execution”.

7. Limp wrist

- Usage and origin: *the hand is raised and held slack at the wrist.* The limp wrist is an insulting



gesture that implies a man is gay. In previous centuries, tight sleeves were popular in women's fashion, so women could only gesture from the wrist down. This made any wrist movement awkward, and thus, the flaccid, flapping wrist is associated with effeminacy.

This gesture is not seen as often in the twenty-first century; it experienced its heyday in the mid-1980s, when being accused of homosexuality held more of a stigma than it does today. Many men may still balk at the limp wrist if it is flashed their way, but as time passes it is possible that fewer people will evoke this gesture as an insult.

- **Region:** the limp wrist gesture is generally only seen in Western countries.

- **Environment:** used fairly openly in public places during less "politically correct" times, this is a gesture that will rarely be used publicly today. You may catch a glimpse of it in a bar, frat house, or anywhere one might wish to indicate on the sly that someone is gay or joke that a friend is homosexual.

- **Execution:**

1. Raise one hand to shoulder-level.

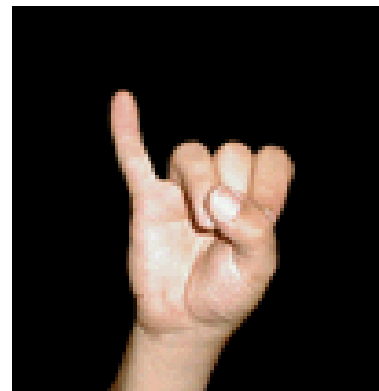
2. Let your wrist go limp

- . For added effect, bob your wrist up and down a few times.

- **Variations of performance:** some people will perform this gesture with both hands.

8. Little penis

- **Usage and origins:** *the pinkie finger is extended from a fist.* This is a popular gesture among women engaged in sharing secrets of sexual exploits in order to indicate a certain man's shortcoming. The pinkie is symbolic of the penis, but since the gesture employs the little finger, this implying that he doesn't measure up.



If a woman is feeling particularly insulting toward a man, she might flash this gesture at him directly to let him know that she is, was not, or never could

be sexually satisfied by him. Though men rarely, if ever, employ this gesture themselves, they do know what it means and they will be sufficient embarrassed by its use.

Region: As a sexual insult, this gesture is used all over the world but is most common in the Mediterranean. In Bali, the extended little finger means “bad”, while the extended thumb means “good” and does not always imply failure or success in the bedroom.

In parts of Europe and South America, extending the pinkie to refer to a person implies thinness-one is so thin that he or she must be ill or a woman is so skinny as to be considered unattractive. The gesture can be considered insulting but not sexually.

- Environment: places where “girl talk” is common, such as coffee shops, restaurants, bars, and kitchens, are likely to see the most use of this gesture. A woman might insult a man virtually anywhere, though using this gesture in the bedroom or other sexual arena is certain to be extremely offensive to any man, so be cautious.

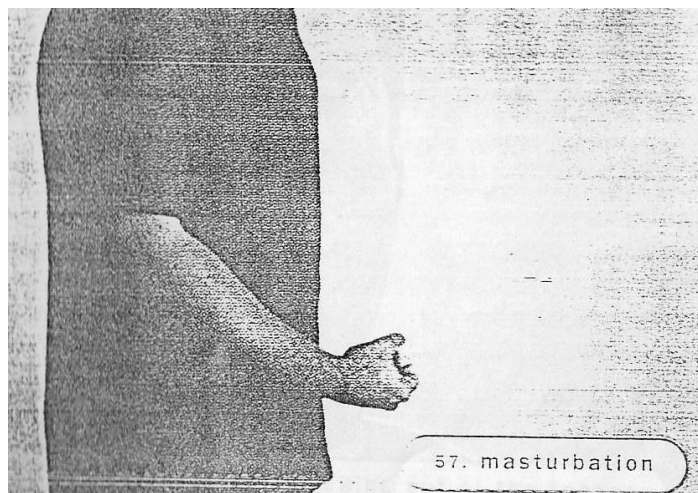
- Execution:

1. Hold one hand at a comfortable distance from your body
2. Make a loose fist.
3. Extend your pinkie finger.
4. You may wiggle the finger for emphasis, but it is not necessary.

9. Masturbation

- Usage and origins: *the hand is held in a loose fist and shaken up and down in front of the body, just below the waist.*

Like many obscene gesture, this one mimes a sexual activity: male masturbation. In Britain, this gesture is often



used by large crowds of spectators at football matches when a player on the opposite team makes a massive error, as if to say “you may as well have been masturbating for all the good that play did you”.

In the United States, the masturbation gesture is performed to indicate disinterest or disbelief and it is used to accentuate a story or to insult someone behind his back. Loosely, the message is that the person being gestured to or about (usually a man this gesture is rarely used toward women) may as well be masturbating for all the attention you’re paying or for all the good it’s doing him to say what he’s saying.

It can also be used to imply that someone is being self-indulgent or self-centered.

- Region: this is a gesture you’ll rarely see outside of the United States and parts of Europe.

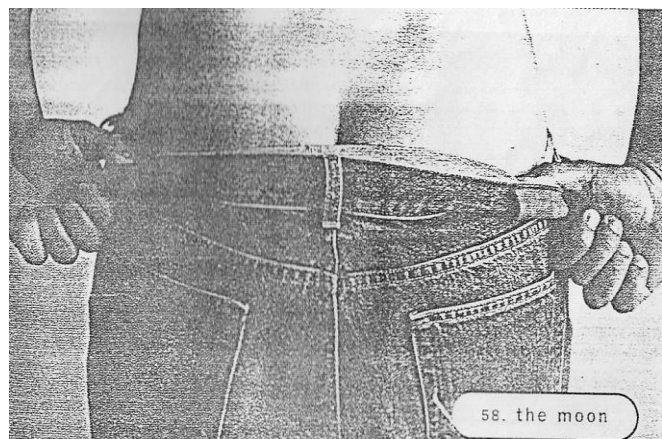
- Environment: British football fans are reputed to be a rowdy lot and they are likely to employ this gesture at matches or sports bars throughout the British Isles while watching a game. College campuses, urban office buildings, local taverns, and other sports where individuals tend to ramble on or exaggerate are common places to see this gesture used to indicate boredom, doubtfulness, or self-indulgence.

- Execution:

1. Slightly curl your fingers.
2. Hold your hand at waist-level.
3. Shake your hand back and forth, as if you were rolling dice.

10. the moon

- Usage and origins: *the trousers are briefly dropped, exposing the bare buttocks to a person or a group of people.* Mooning to insult is ancient in origin, and experts speculate that its roots are semi-



religious. Centuries ago, believers supposed that the devil was extremely jealous of the curvy, symmetrical buttocks of humans, and they felt that showing him your naked backside would distract his evil-doing and protect against evil.

Additionally, Satan was believed to possess another face on his posterior; when the gesture was aimed toward others, it implied they were devil-worshippers. Though the anti-Satanic sentiment has been lost, the insolence of it has remained.

These days, mooning is often illegal, depending on whether or not the genitals are exposed in addition to the buttocks.

This insulting gesture is practiced far more often by men than by women, for women, the buttocks can sometimes be used to entice others to sexual feelings, while men usually display their rumps to offend.

- Region: this gesture is largely confined to Europe and North America.

- Environment: you are likely to see mooning at high school hangouts, on college campuses, in cars, at corners, at sporting events and especially in locations where alcohol is sold and/or consumed.

Adolescents on long bus excursions—perhaps field trips to historical locales—are the biggest proponents of the moon gesture, as to them, nothing is funnier or gives greater pleasure than appearing bare-assed for passing motorists.

- **Execution:**

1. Drop your trousers and undergarments.

2. Raise your shirt to fully expose the buttocks

3. Bend over, taking care not to expose your frontal private parts.

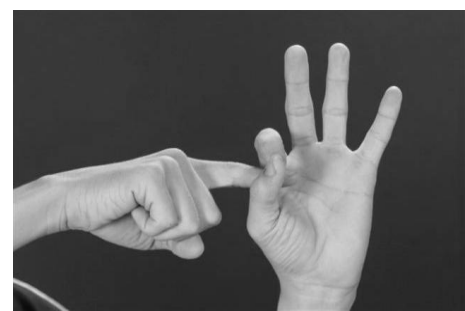
4. Aim the exposed buttocks at the object of mockery/derision. The posterior may be wiggled for emphasis.

5. Stand and replace trousers.

- Variations of performance: to be extra-offensive, the genitals can be exposed.

11. Sex fingers

- Usage and origins: *the forefingers is extended,*



interested into a ring made by the other hand, and then pushed in and out quickly several times. The symbolism of this gesture is so simple that it will not be lost on even the dullest individual: the ringed hand is the vagina, the opposite forefinger is the penis, and the action they perform together mimes intercourse.

Most children and pre-teens are fond of this gesture as a naughty way to talk about sex; they are intrigued by sexual matters, yet do not possess any understanding of them beyond the in-and-out motion. Since talking about sex with just about anyone is the most embarrassing thing to confront during childhood, often this gesture is mercifully used to indicate something sexual without words.

- Region: the sex fingers gesture is used throughout Europe, the Americas and the Middle East.

- Environment: since this gesture is a favorite with the under-13 set, it will be used throughout middle schools, from locker rooms to lunch tables, as well as on buses, at slumber parties, and on the playground,

- Execution:

1. Make a fist with one hand
2. Extended the index finger
3. Make a fist with the other hand, keeping a slight space between the fingers and the palm.
4. Insert the index finger into the space between the fingers and the palm in the clenched hand.
5. Pull the index finger out
6. Repeat several times

12. Sticking out of the tongue

- Usage and origins: *the tongue is protruded.* This universal gesture originates in infancy, when a baby rejects food by naturally sticking out her tongue. From childhood into adulthood, the gesture



predictably evolves in meaning from “ I reject this food to” “ I don’t want you” and becomes insulting.

Apart from its disdainful meaning, sticking the tongue out is an unconscious gesture practiced when an individual is concentrating very hard on a manual task. This unconscious form of the gesture shows only a slight protrusion, very different from the deliberate insult most often attributed to sticking out the tongue. Anthropologists believe that the sentiment implied in this instance is “don’t interrupt me”, essentially an extension of the more obvious rejection discussed above. In this case, however, the gesture is not intentionally done to hurt or exclude another.

- Region: both meanings are evoked with this gesture around the world, with one notable exception. In Tibet, people sometimes stick their tongues out to greet one another.

- Environment: this is an insult popular with children and will therefore be seen in elementary schools, on field trips, and at the playground.

As an unconscious gesture of concentration, the sticking out of the tongue gesture can be seen in garages all over the world, as people tinker with all manner of contraptions. It will also be seen in laboratories, operating rooms, and dentist’s offices worldwide.

- Execution:

1. Open your mouth slightly.
2. Protrude your tongue out of your mouth until it is fully extended,
3. Keep your lips pursed against your tongue.

- Variations of performance:

In East Africa, this gesture is coupled with a right handed throwing-away movement, and has the same insulting.

In some Latin countries, the in-and-out motion of the tongue is considered very erotic and will be used to indicate sexual feelings or attraction.

In Lebanon, the protruded tongue moving from side to side is a disrespectful proposition from a man to a woman. Additionally, see the raspberry

gesture

13. Thumb bite



- Usage and origins: *the thumb is bitten gently and flicker away from the mouth*. Considered by experts to be the Elizabethan equivalent of the finger gesture, the thumb bite is gravely insulting gesture. Though it is no longer included in the popular canon of gestures, it does make what is arguably the most famous appearance of a gesture in all of literature.

In Act 1, scene 1 of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Sampson of the Capulet bites his thumb at Abram of the Montages, which causes the fight that ultimately leads to the tragic demise of the title characters.

While you won't see the thumb bite gesture practiced very often these days, literature buffs and historians may invoke it now and then as an allusion.

- Region: you may experience the very occasional thumb bite in North America and Europe. In Syria, there is a gesture in which the thumb is bitten, but it does not carry the same meaning as the traditional thumb bite gesture.
- Environment: Academic settings, such as libraries, lecture hall, and campus coffee houses may be the only sport to see this archaic gesture in use.

- Execution:

1. Make a fist with one hand.
2. Extended the tip of your thumb so that it is visible above the fist.
3. Bring your thumb to your mouth.
4. Bite the tip of your thumb with your front teeth.
5. Gently release your thumb and flick it toward the object of your decision.

14. Thumbing of the nose

- Usage and origins: *the hand is held erect, fingers splayed and wiggling with the tip of the thumb resting on the tip of the nose.* Thumbing the nose has the distinction of having more names than any other gesture-14 in the English language alone and a wide variety in other languages. Some of its most common English monikers are cock a snook, pull a snook, cut a snook, make a long nose, take a sight, Queen Anne's fan, Japanese fan, Spanish fan, pull bacon coffee-mill, and the five-fingers salute.



It is an ancient gesture that has fascinated historians for hundreds of years; there is half a millennium's worth of well-documented history but no definitive origin. There are at least seven different theories of the origin of the thumbing of the nose gesture, and though each arrives at a different specific beginning, none can be completely proven. The theorized origins include the deformed salute, a modification of thumbing sucking, a threat of snot flicking, a grotesque nose, a phallic nose, a threatening cock's comb, or the implication of a bad smell or that someone stinks.

Though it has a variety of possible origin and at least twice as many names, there is no debate over the intention behind thumbing the nose: mockery and insult. Internationally, everyone knows the sentiment behind this gesture, and studies have shown that thumbing the nose is the most well-known gesture across Europe.

- Regions: though it has many names in English and other languages, this gesture is recognized and causes offense the world over.

- Environment: this is a gesture that is more likely to be employed by children than by adults and will therefore be seen most often in elementary schools, on playgrounds, in backyards, at sleep-away camps, and any other place where children interact with one another.

- Execution:

1. With your palm flat and your fingers splayed, place the end of your thumb to the tip of your nose.

2. Wiggle the extended fingers back and forth.

3. for emphasis, stick out your tongue

- Variations of performance: you may use two hands in tandem to make the nose even longer (and the taunt even greater). Additionally, the splayed fingers may be wiggled or held still, depending on preference.

15 .Up yours.

- Usages and origins: *the forearm of one arm jerks upward as the fist or palm of the opposite hand slaps down hard at its elbow.* The up yours gesture is generally meant as a sexual insult, and it literally translates to “Up your anus”. It is meant to mime the action of a penis becoming erect, and it is most often used as a phallic threat from one man to another.



This gesture, which often goes by the euphemistic name “forearm jerk,” may be used in Britain to indicate that a woman is so sexually attractive that a man is getting an erection at that moment, but it is performed to elicit the disrespectful, obscenely insulting interpretation everywhere else.

- Region: the up yours gesture is employed as an insult throughout the Americas and Europe, as well as in several other countries. Avoid the use of this gesture in Malta, where it illegal.

- Environment: because men lose their tempers in an endless variety of locales, it is difficult to pinpoint specific spots where an increased use of the up yours gesture will occur. Certainly bars, sporting events, and parking lots will see heightened usage due to frustration and/or inebriation.

- Execution:

1. Hold both arms straight out so they are perpendicular to your body, palm up.

2. Make both hands into fists, with your palm facing up. Or make the right hand into a fist and leave the left hand flat.

3. Put your left fist or palm in the crook of your right elbow

4. Quickly bend your right arm, raising your right fist

- Variations of performance: the variations of this gesture do not change its basic meaning, only the intensity of the insult. In Italy, the forearm jerks forward instead of upward, imitating actual penetration rather than just an erection. In Lebanon and Syria, to gesture “up your”, a person thrusts his right

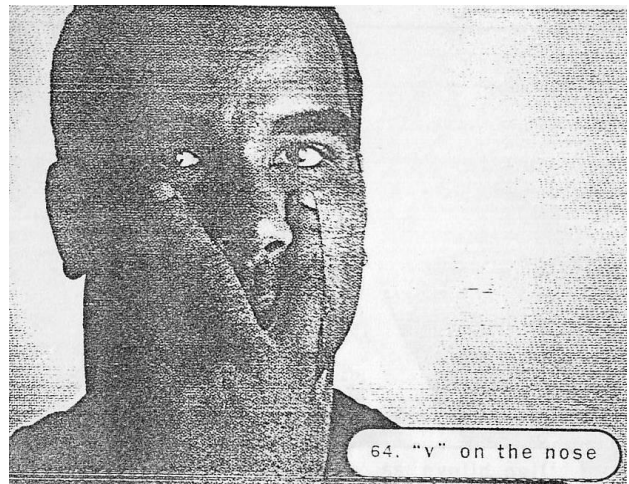
fist through his loosely curled left hand; here the fist is the penis being thrust into an orifice, the curled hand.

In Yugoslavia, only one arm is used to employ this gesture-the arm with the fisted hand is jerked upward.

In Brazil, the middle finger of the hand that is jerked upward is raised is raised; this is known as the “banana”

16. “V” on the nose

- Usage and origins: *the index and middle fingers splay out to make a “V” on the nose* gesture mimes sexual intercourse, with the fingers standing for the vagina and the nose symbolizing the penis. Also like most obscene gestures, this one is used as an insult. It is used in much the same way the middle finger gesture is used; that is, to indicate rage or disrespect



- Region: this gesture is common in parts of Central and South America, as well as the Middle East.

- Environment: anger and derision are expressed in a variety of locales, so the “V” on the nose gesture will be seen everywhere from neighbor bars to gridlocked traffic

- Execution:

1. Make a fist
2. Extend your index and middle fingers to form “V”
3. Raise your arm and place the crotch of the “V” against the base of your nose.

Chapter 3: Gestures expressing offensive and profane in different cultures and environments

3.1 Misunderstanding and breakdowns caused by cross-culture:

It is often assumed that gesture is a transferable skill. However, there are two major problematic factors: firstly that, like speech, it has both form and function, and, secondly, that it is not always directly translatable. It is the first of these factors which leads to breakdowns and misunderstanding in intellectual communication. Misunderstanding occurs because the functions of paralinguistic forms vary culture to culture, and according to gender and age.

For example: you can use thumb bite gesture in North America and Europe. But in Syria, you should not use this gesture. Because in Syria, thumb bite gesture does not carry the same meaning as the traditional thumb bite gesture. So that, if you can this gesture in Syria, it can be misunderstanding.

3.2 Negative environment caused by using gestures.

Failure to understand gesture correctly and failure to give appropriate gesture in communication can cause some problems for people living in cultures different from their own. These problems can range from exclusion, to lost friendship opportunities, and even to unintentionally provoking aggressive assaults.

Mistakes that can not only annoy and make negative environment around him or her, but can also cause lost jobs and relationships.

For example: the up your gesture is employed as an insult through out the Americas and Europe, as well as in several other countries. But you should avoid the use of this gesture in Malta, where it is illegally. So if you can this gesture in Malta, you will be imprisoned.

3.3 Solutions

Good communication skills can help us in both our personal and professional life. While verbal and written communication skills are important, research has shown that nonverbal behaviors especially, gestures make up a large percentage of our daily interpersonal communication.

How we can improve our nonverbal communication skills? The following solutions for nonverbal communication can help us learn to read the non verbal communication signals of other people, enhance our own ability to communicate effectively. Especially, understanding and apply gestures express offensive and profane clearly.

- Ask questions about gestures

If we are confused about another's gesture, do not be afraid to ask questions. A good idea is to repeat back our interpretation of what has been said and ask for clarification. An example of this might be, "so what are you saying is that"

- Consider context

When we are communicating with others, always consider the situation and the context in which the communication occurs. Some situations require more formal behaviors that might be interpreted very differently in any other setting. Consider whether or not nonverbal behaviors are appropriate for the context. If we are trying to improve our own nonverbal communication, especially, gestures, concentrate on ways to make our signals match the level of formality necessitated by the situation.

- Consider past experience

We can more accurately interpret the behavior of people we know. For one thing, we notice changes in behavior more than the behavior itself. Unless we know someone, we cannot know that something has changed. For another thing, we interpret patterns of behavior.

- Be aware that gesture can be misread

Always remember to look for group of behavior. A person's overall demeanor is far more telling than a single gesture viewed in isolation.

Part three: conclusion

Nonverbal communication is extremely important in human interactions. Nonverbal communication can be understood as everything except our words. Nonverbal communication takes place whether humans think it is important or not. The importance of nonverbal communication has been established. We are evaluating everything about what the person is doing, not just what they are saying. All the studies on the subject by different researchers have come to term that "*nonverbal communication is extremely important in human interactions.*" (Hybels, 1992: 104). All experts in communication agree that communication is culture-bound. The way we communicate emanates from our culture. Nonverbal communication, as a form of communication, is culturally determined. Most forms of nonverbal communication can be interpreted only within the framework of the culture in which they occur. The rules and norms that govern most nonverbal communication behaviors are culture-specific.

A gesture is a form of nonverbal communication made with a part of the body or the body as a whole, and used instead of or in combination with verbal communication (Nguyễn Quang, forthcoming). He also argues that gestures are used "*to stress or substitute verbal codes, to hold back or show our feelings and emotions, or to express what is going on inside us as well.*" We use gestures daily, from beckoning someone to waving goodbye to our friends.

As a form of body language and nonverbal communication in general, gestures are culture-specific. Gestures vary from culture to culture. People from different cultures tend to use and read gestures in a different way. For example, the "O.K." gesture so familiar to North Americans is considered obscene in several Latin American cultures, money in Japanese culture.

It can be said that the field of gestures expressing offensive and

profane is one of the most complicated but interesting for studying. Gestures have effect in communication. And every country and every culture has their own acceptable offensive gestures. So that we should pay attention to use offensive and profane gestures reasonably. The reason why I choose this topic: gestures express offensive and profane.

In the study, the rationale, aims, methods, scope, and design of the study are mentioned in part one in the hope that the readers can have an overview of my study.

Part two consists of three chapters:

The first chapter presents an overview of verbal and non verbal communication, especially offensive and profane gestures

Then, in depth analysis is made into the usages and origins, environment, region, execution of offensive and profane gestures. This is conducted in the chapter two.

Finally, with the basic of the study of gestures expressing offensive and profane, a brief discussion of some problems that may be occur in communication conducted and some suggestions are given out to help the users to overcome these problems.

In short, the study focuses on offensive and profane gestures from around the world with an aim of not increasing our repertoire but helping us avoid embarrassment. Gestures we probably employ safely and routinely each day are considered not only rude but obscene in certain other parts of the world.

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