

Proxemics, Territoriality, and Haptics in Relationships

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Presented to the Philosophical club of Cleveland, February 7, 2017

Abstract: “I called to the Lord from my narrow prison and he answered me in the freedom of space.” These words were uttered by Viktor Frankl a few days after being liberated from three years in a Nazi concentration camp. Dr. Frankl’s experience in the prison camp led to his insights on psychotherapy, as described in his global best-selling book, Man’s Search for Meaning. While most of us have not experienced the brutality of being confined in such a space, we do experience a variety of spaces in our lifetime, from spaces that are invigorating, to spaces that are depressing. Proxemics is the study of how physical space influences thoughts, emotions, and relationships in a variety of settings and cultures, including Haptics. Haptic communication refers to the way in which people and other animals communicate and interact via the sense of touch.

1. Context:

--Kinesics - the interpretation of body motion communication viz. facial expression, eye contact; everything but the words; nonverbal communication.

- Voice tone, posture, touching, gestures, appearance-dress, objects worn/placed in environment, time, use of {excludes specialty systems, viz. sign language }

--Proxemics - explains how people perceive and use space to achieve communication goals; distances as intimate, personal, social, public

-- Territoriality - conveys ownership of space, "territorial markers," office at work, a nation's borders

-- Haptics - touching behaviors

II. Sabbatical Study - CCC Humanities Bldg. - Metro Campus

A. 1970 - 2005 - 25 years instructor; 10 years assistant dean
windowless offices

B. SBS - occurs when the concentration of pollutants, and or interaction between pollutants causes temporary illness among occupants (viz. headaches, fatigue, etc.)

BRI - quantifiable evidence of cause/viz. Legionnaires disease, asbestos

infiltration, fungi, etc.

III. State Dependent Learning:

"The basic principle that links our places (physical environment) and states (emotions and behaviors) is, that good or bad environments promote good or bad memories, which inspire a good or bad mood, which inclines us toward good or bad behaviors. Subliminal cues may trigger. eg. addiction

IV. The Sapir- Whorf Hypothesis

- Does language reflect reality or create reality?

V. Feng Shui in Chinese Culture ("fung shway")

- good energy - chi ("chee")
- negative energy - "sha" or "sha-chi"

VI. Viktor Frankl- Man's Search for Meaning

VII. Brief bibliography

The Silent Language. Edward T. Hall

The Hidden Dimension. Edward T. Hall

Kinesics and Context, Essays on Body Motion Communications. Ray L.

Birdwhi stell

Man's Search for Meaning. Viktor E. Frankl

Color and the Human Response. Faber Birren

The Power of Place. Winifred Gallagher

Primary research:

- Developed comprehensive survey of students and faculty who receive or deliver services in the Humanities Bldg. of CCC.
- Florida Gulf Coast University: visit and interviews
- Nela Park Visit, Class and Interviews re: educational lighting
- Cuyahoga Companies, Steelcase and Ohio Desk visits and interviews
- Moen Corporation - Visits and interviews at World Headquarters
- Progressive Corporation - Visit and interview (10 hour visit)
- Feng Shui in Chinese Architectural design (multiple sources)
- Bio Brite and Microsun Corporations, Business letters responding to lighting, circadian rhythms and human behavior questions
- Ford Motor Company research project, with visits, interviews, and data analysis connecting work environment and creativity (U. of Michigan research project)