

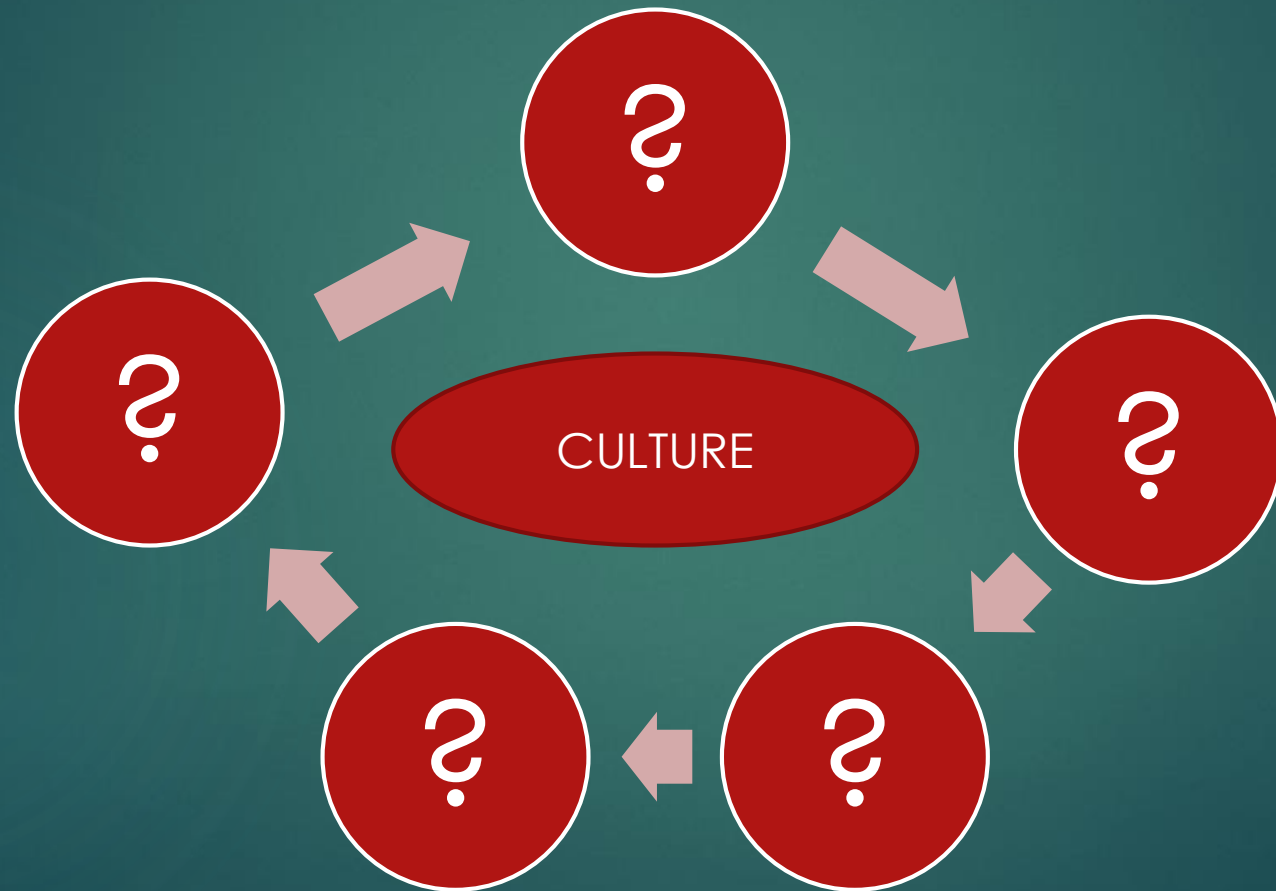


Culture and Language Learning


Lidija Elliott

Nagoya University of Foreign Studies

What is culture? What defines culture?





- 
- ▶ Culture is a fuzzy set of basic assumptions and values, orientations to life, beliefs, policies, procedures and behavioural conventions that are shared by a group of people, and that influence (but do not determine) each member's behaviour and his/her interpretations of the 'meaning' of other people's

Discussion questions:

- ▶ What tips would you give to someone who is coming to teach English at University in Japan?
- ▶ Have you ever felt confused by the actions of your students? Explain.
- ▶ Are cultural differences positive or negative? Why do you think so?

Japanese Socio-Cultural Patterns that affect Learning and Use of Foreign Language

- ▶ **Silence**

- ▶ **The use of direct vs. indirect
statement**

- ▶ Gestures

- ▶ Interrupting, asking questions/saying
you don't understand

SILE



Classroom Silence in Universities in Japan and the UK


Challenges and Strategies in Cross-cultural Education



JAPAN FOUNDATION

SILENCE

- ▶ Lack of confidence
- ▶ Afraid of negative evaluation
- ▶ Intimidated by competition
- ▶ Struggle to move from reserved to assertive

- 
- ▶ In classroom context , students are not only afraid of loosing their face in front of their classmates, but also unwilling to stand out from others through speaking up and showing their abilities (Brown, 2004).
 - ▶ Respect to teacher and Respect to students (Banks, 2016)



The use of direct vs.
indirect statement

Speaking English with People from Overseas (by PETER LYONS)

Starting a conversation with someone from another country often depends on how long they have been in Japan.

Label the following with.....

O = OK to ask anyone

L = OK to ask someone who has lived in Japan for a year or more

S = OK to ask someone who is just visiting Japan

X = Not OK to ask anyone

1) How old are you?	
2) Can you use chopsticks?	
3) How is your Kanji ability?	
4) Are you married?	
5) Where is your favourite place in Japan?	
6) How about Japan?	
7) Are you enjoying yourself in Japan?	
8) Do you like Japan?	
9) Are you American?	
10) What's your blood type?	
11) Can you eat natto?	
12) Did you know much about Japan before you came here?	
13) How is daily life different in _____ compared to Japan?	
14) Do you want to go home?	
15) How well do you speak Japanese?	

Bibliography

- ▶ Banks, S. (2016). Behind Japanese students' silence in English classrooms. *Accents Asia*, 8, (2), 54-75.
- ▶ Brown, R. A. (2004). Learning consequences of fear of negative evaluation and modesty for Japanese EFL students. *The Language Teacher*, 1.
Retrieved from
http://jaltpublications.org/old_tlt/articles/2004/01/brown
- ▶ Kumagai, Y. (1994). The Effects of Culture on Language Learning and Ways of Communication: The Japanese Case. *Master's Capstone Project 80*. Center for International Education, University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Retrieved from :
https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1081&context=cie_capstones
- ▶ Miller, T. (1995). Japanese Learners' Reactions To Communicative English Lessons, *JALT Journal*, Vol. 17, No.1. 31-52 . Retrieved from:
file:///C:/Users/NIIES/Desktop/ji_17_1_art2.pdf