

## COMMUNICATION STYLES AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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### Abstract

Adolescents' development/growth is associated with many physical and emotional changes, affecting them greatly. Depending on these changes, adolescents significantly differ from each other. The communication style is also a characteristic of these changes. This article on communication styles aims at examining the styles used by the teens (16-18 years old) to communicate and how these styles vary in male and female adolescents. The purpose of this article is to provide new information about adolescents (16-18 years old) in the city of Shkodra, thus on their communication styles and see how these styles differ between the male and female adolescents. The results of this research showed that both male and female teens (16-18 years old) in the city of Shkodra use at a moderate level all Norton communication styles taken into consideration. This implies that we have to do with female and male adolescents (16-18 years old) who have an interactive, attentive and expectant style during a conversation. The information about the communication styles of male and female adolescents are focused on documenting and guidance of informative and argumentative conversations. According to the data, it was noticed that during a conversation male and female adolescents use nonverbal and physical elements such as eye contact and facial expressions. In addition to the abovementioned, male and female adolescents have a lot of expectations from others during the communication, for example to change their behavior or to adapt them. Adolescence is today a way of being and presenting. In addition to their emotional instability, this study showed that adolescents are instable even in their communication style, as they don't have a distinctive style according to their gender, becoming part of all styles at moderate level.

**Keywords:** *adolescents, communication styles, male, female, Shkodra*

## Introduction

Adolescents' development is accompanied by many physical and emotional changes that affect them very much. Depending on these changes, adolescents vary greatly from one another. One characteristic of these changes is the style of communication. This article on communication styles aims to see what styles use teenagers (16-18 years old) to communicate and how these styles change in male and female teenagers. This article focuses on communication styles, emphasizing that, however, subjects do not only use a style of communication but with many styles ranging from case to case even to subject humor. Among other things, we recall that what distinguishes the skills owned and used by a person and styles is the fact that the latter do not have an absolute value, are not applied regularly but have a relationship value in the context which is the subject. So if one person can be said to be capable of solving mathematical problems, to quote his ability as something that characterizes the subject for a long time, we can not say the same thing if we define an individual as open, precise or friendly. During the adolescent period, they pass many physical and emotional changes. Growth changes are often painful and affect adolescent personality and their way of communicating. Different development theories, from Piaget and beyond, have underlined how, during the course of his life, man passes through different stages, however, adolescence as a specific period of human development, only in the last fifty years has found the attention of researchers who, in relation to the delay they have considered, have defined it as a product of modern society. The purpose of this article is to provide new information on adolescence, on adolescent communication styles (16-18 years old) and to see how these styles change by gender, female / male.

## Methodology

400 subjects have been studied, of which 200 are female and 200 are male. Subjects are pupils of "Oso Kuka" school and "28 November" and belong to 16-18 years of age. These subjects have undergone a questionnaire on the Styles of Communication. The questionnaire used in this study is part of the study of Norton (1983). This instrument is a communicator style measure (CSM), a structured questionnaire based on a five-point Likert scale consisting of 51 topics, which investigate the constructs described on the theoretical side. For this study were taken in

consideration four of the ten styles that Norton mentions. For this, the questionnaire consists of 12 statements, out of three for each style.

Data collection and calculation is processed with SPSS. Subsequently, a detailed analysis of the data was made in accordance with the objectives of the study. To accomplish the above-mentioned objectives, based on the research literature on Norton's communication styles, this hypothesis was raised: "Teenage males (16-18 years old)" have a dominant and precise communication style while female teenagers have an open style and animated.

## **Literature review**

Messick (1994), noted the connection between the style of communication and called the idea of binomial style-communication appropriate. While Norton (1983) was the first to use the term communicator style in his work entitled "Communicator Style: Application Theory and Measurements." Norton, in his studies, writes "The communicator style can be defined as the way a person communicates within an interpersonal relationship or otherwise said signals are used to help contextualize the interpretation of the transmitted message. This type of style is characterized by three features: observer, multiform, multi-column, varied or structural.

Norton (1978) defines the communicative style based on verbal and parable signals that show how the written meaning of a message can be interpreted, filtered and understood. Here are some of the following styles:

1. Dominant - which focuses on 3 aspects: a) physical manifestations, b) psychological and verbal connections, c) dominance of behaviors, vices etc.

Dominant persons in most cases respond with determination, and security. They have many demands on others: to change their behaviors or to adapt them. They also appear as confident, enthusiastic, active, combat, strong, self-confident, safe because they are understood by others when speaking to them.

2. Dramatic - dramatic people usually exaggerate, use a lot of fantasy, tell stories, use metaphors. It is a style that has the ability to transform a message of simple literary meaning into something more or something else.

Very often people ignore the fact that different information may change through this style. Bales in IPA, treats dramatists as people who like to play with tension.

### Verbal communication with teenagers

It is essential to consider the interaction between personal development, which includes the capacity of the subject's expression, and the means used by the subject in order to perceive the reality and to report about it. It is a variable language but also structured in a way so as to be individualized as an element of itself, a language characterized by what can be defined as an internal conformism of its anti-conformism, and that is what makes it possible to hypothesize the opportunity to deepen the ways of using a typical youth language. These are the operative factors in maturing the language of youth, based on the context of development.

The factors used in this case are three:

1. No psychic, psycho-facial stability related to the uncertainty about the language inadequacy used
2. Influence of physiological development in languages
3. Mass media, among which are quite noticeable, the writings, the tv and the cinema.

### Links between styles

Styles can be grouped according to different criteria from a mathematical and thematic perspective.

Variables are most active - are variables that show the communicative behavior they enter: the dominant, dramatizing, polemic, animus, open, precise, and impacting style. Variables are the most passive - are the variables oriented by others, from the recipient of the message. Here comes the caring, friendly and relaxed style. According to Smallest Space Analysis by Guttman (1968), also used by Norton, it is said that similar variables are close to space and less similar variables are related to distance. The types to be considered are six: 1. Precise style - which focuses on documenting, caring and conducting informative and argumentative talks, 2. Careful and friendly - both of these variables are driven by the hearing of others considered as an incentive to know, react, encourage, and be meaningful; 3. Open-who is considered loose in expressing thoughts and

feelings is conceivable as a good interlocutor; 4. Animated-this style points out mainly the nonverbal and physical elements of communication, through observation: is the behavior of the eyes, the frequent use of facial expressions, dominant 5 (polemic and exact) - dominant style is characterized by less negative aspects than the polemic style which is divided into two types: Polemic style The simplest (which has fewer negative aspects) and the polemic precision style (which may look like the most negative), the 6-dramatic- indicates an energetic communication, exaggerated, deformation of the message, which style itself demands something like this.

## **Methodology**

To complete this study, a sample of 400 teenagers aged 16-18 years has been selected, of which 200 are female and 200 are male. These teenagers are school pupils "Oso kuka" and "28 November" in Shkodra. These two gymnasiums were selected as being the two largest gymnasiums in the city and with heterogeneous composition. Selection of subjects took place at random. The study included 400 students. The subjects were part of the X and XII classes, with the aim of involving students from the age of 16-18. The questionnaire aims to measure communication styles. The instrument built by Norton (1983) is the CSM (communicator style measure). This questionnaire is structured on the basis of a five-point Likert scale consisting of 51 Items, which investigate the constructs described on the theoretical side.

## **Analysis and discussion of data**

This is a quantitative research for the realization of which are asked 400 subjects, teenage female and male 16-18 year olds. Firstly, it has been sought to explore how the communication styles are for all gender-neutral participants. The analysis showed that all the participants in the study have a moderate level of communication for each of the communication styles. The values reached are 8.27-8.85 which indicates that the relevance for each style is at the same level. Otherwise we can say that adolescents can use a certain communication styles and identify with them but use a moderate way of all communication styles considered for this research. In addition to the emotional instability that characterizes teenagers, it is worth pointing out their instability in the style of communication, in what Norton calls the way of communication. Within an interpersonal relationship or otherwise, the signals are used to help the context, in the interpretation of the

transmitted message (Norton, 1983). Another important element noted in this research refers to teenagers' communication styles 16 to 18 years old by sex. We hypothesized that female teenagers (16-18 years old) have an open and animated communication style while adolescent males have a precise and dominant communication style. The results of this research showed that there is no clear distinction between women and men regarding their style of communication. According to data, both female and male teenagers use moderate (8.0-9.0) four styles, precise, dominant, open, and animated. Today we are dealing with teenagers who communicate moderately all the communication styles. So we're dealing with female and male teenagers who have a conversational, attractive, and talk style during a conversation. The communication style of adolescent men and women focuses on the documentation, care and guidance of informative and argumentative talks. According to the data, male and female teenagers when communicating point out nonverbal and physical elements such as eye expression and the use of facial expressions. In addition to the aforementioned, female and male adolescents have a lot of demands on others when communicating, for example, to change their behaviors or to adapt them. The results of this research showed that both women and teenagers (16-18 years old) of Shkodra used moderately all Norton communication styles received under consideration. This means that we are dealing with female and male adolescents (16 to 18 years of age) who have such interpersonal, appealing and expected style during a conversation. The style of communication between women and men in teens focuses on documenting, caring and conducting informative and argumentative talks. According to data, male and female adolescents when communicating point out nonverbal and physical elements such as eye expression and the use of facial expressions. In addition to the aforementioned, female and male adolescents have a lot of demands on others when communicating, for example, to change their behaviors or to adapt them. According to the data obtained from the analysis of CSM for the four styles considered, the precise, open and dominant style, animated, in the very small margin between the styles we have this result:

- Teenage women express facial emotions slightly more than men of this age
- Male teens insist more about discussion than women and raise their voice
- Women like more than teenage males to communicate things more clearly and paying attention to details

- Teenage women try to keep their opinions at all costs when they are discussing
- Women think that their emotions are easily expressed through their faces
- Teenage women like to document and demonstrate what they say more than men.
- Men do not talk much about themselves with people they do not know well
- Men feel more comfortable than women in conversations involving fewer people
- Teens are a little easier than women to talk to a newly-known teenager

Nonverbal communication of male and female teenagers (16-18 years old) has almost the same characteristics for both genders. This means that all teenagers (16-18 years old) in Shkodra city find it difficult to stop when they are involved in a heated debate. Based on the overall outcomes of gender-based communication styles among 16-18 year-old adolescents in Shkodra, the results in this study showed that they communicate relatively in this way:

- Express emotions through face and eyes
- Use expressive signs to enrich what they say
- It is relatively easy to communicate with newcomers
- They like to communicate clearly, paying particular attention to details
- They like to document and demonstrate what they say
- Among the discussions are insistent
- Try to keep their opinion at all costs
- If involved in a heated debate, it is difficult to stop them

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