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INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AS A SPACE OF MORAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG YOUTH

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Abstract: The article explores intercultural communication as a space for the formation of moral understanding among youth in the context of globalization. Particular attention is paid to the ethical dimension of intercultural interaction, through which moral values, attitudes, and patterns of behavior are shaped. It is argued that intercultural communication among young people functions not only as a channel for information exchange but also as a moral dialogue that fosters mutual respect, tolerance, and responsibility. The study emphasizes that youth, as a socially dynamic group, play a crucial role in developing new forms of ethical interaction capable of ensuring social cohesion and intercultural harmony in contemporary societies.

Keywords: intercultural communication, youth, moral understanding, ethics, globalization, cultural identity, tolerance.

In the contemporary globalized world, intercultural communication has become an essential element of social interaction, particularly within the youth environment. The intensification of global mobility, digital communication, and cross-cultural contacts has significantly expanded opportunities for interaction among representatives of diverse cultural backgrounds. Youth, due to their openness to change and active engagement in global communication networks, occupy a central position in these processes [1, p.84]. At the same time, intercultural communication increasingly affects not only cognitive and social dimensions of interaction but also moral orientations and ethical attitudes. In this regard, the analysis of intercultural communication as a space of moral understanding becomes particularly relevant. Philosophical and ethical reflection allows this phenomenon to be examined beyond its functional and instrumental aspects, emphasizing its role in shaping moral consciousness, value-based identity, and ethical responsibility among young people.

From a philosophical perspective, intercultural communication may be understood as a form of dialogue that presupposes openness to the other, recognition of difference, and willingness to engage in mutual understanding. Unlike purely pragmatic communication, moral dialogue involves ethical reflection, empathy, and respect for the dignity of the interlocutor.





For youth, intercultural communication creates conditions for encountering alternative value systems and moral norms. This encounter often leads to the reconsideration of previously internalized beliefs and encourages moral self-reflection. Through dialogue with cultural “others,” young people acquire the ability to view moral issues from multiple perspectives, which contributes to the development of ethical sensitivity and critical moral thinking [2, p.44].

Thus, intercultural communication functions as a space where moral meanings are negotiated, contested, and redefined, rather than simply transmitted.

Youth represent a social group characterized by ongoing identity formation and heightened sensitivity to social and cultural influences. Participation in intercultural communication allows young people to develop moral competencies that are essential for coexistence in culturally diverse societies.

Moral understanding among youth is formed through practical engagement in intercultural interactions that require tolerance, responsibility, and the ability to manage value-based differences [2, p.45]. Such interactions foster the recognition of moral pluralism while simultaneously highlighting the importance of shared ethical principles, such as respect for human dignity and justice.

However, the process of moral understanding is not without challenges. Exposure to diverse and sometimes conflicting value systems may result in moral uncertainty or relativism. This underscores the need for reflective and ethically grounded approaches to intercultural communication, particularly within educational and social institutions.

One of the main ethical challenges of intercultural communication among youth lies in overcoming stereotypes, prejudice, and cultural dominance. Superficial engagement with cultural diversity may lead to misunderstanding and the reproduction of simplified or distorted images of other cultures.

The digital environment further complicates these challenges. Online communication reduces physical and emotional distance but may also weaken moral responsibility due to anonymity and the absence of direct interpersonal contact [3, p.89]. In such contexts, intercultural communication risks becoming fragmented and ethically impoverished.

Therefore, the ethical quality of intercultural communication depends on the cultivation of moral awareness, dialogue skills, and reflective attitudes among youth.





Globalization intensifies intercultural communication while simultaneously reshaping moral frameworks. On the one hand, it promotes universal ethical ideals such as human rights, freedom, and equality. On the other hand, it challenges traditional moral systems and cultural identities.

In this context, intercultural communication among youth becomes a space for balancing universal and culturally specific moral values. The ability to integrate global ethical principles with local moral traditions is essential for the formation of stable moral understanding and social cohesion.

Youth, due to their adaptive capacities and openness to innovation, are particularly capable of developing new ethical forms of intercultural interaction that correspond to the complexities of the global world.

Intercultural communication among youth constitutes a significant space for the formation of moral understanding in contemporary society. It functions not merely as a means of exchanging cultural information but as a moral dialogue grounded in respect, tolerance, and mutual recognition.

Philosophical and ethical analysis reveals that intercultural communication has the potential to strengthen moral consciousness, foster ethical responsibility, and contribute to social harmony. In the context of globalization, the development of morally grounded intercultural communication among youth represents an important condition for sustainable social development and peaceful coexistence in culturally diverse societies

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