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BA English Honours | Semester II | ENG2MN103

English Language Teaching: Foundations and Practice Level 2

Module 4: Body Language and Non-Verbal Communication in the ELT Classroom • Comprehensive Notes

Chapter 4: Kinesics, Proxemics, and Non-Verbal Teaching Dynamics

Non-verbal communication comprises over half of interpersonal classroom communication. In second-language environments, a teacher's somatic awareness—kinesics, proxemics, facial expression, and eye contact—functions as an indispensable instructional resource that clarifies meaning, reduces anxiety, and orchestrates smooth classroom transitions without excessive Teacher Talking Time (TTT).

4.1 Non-Verbal Pedagogic Techniques

Key non-verbal strategies deployed by skilled ELT educators include:

- **Silent Viewing & Mime:** Using silent video clips and physical gestures to elicit student dialogue and vocabulary.
- **Gesture Cues for Grammar:** Indicating past, present, and future tenses through spatial hand gestures behind, beside, and ahead of the body.
- **Classroom Proxemics:** Moving strategically between teacher-focused whole-class zones and peripheral supportive zones during group work.
- **Facial Reinforcement:** Projecting encouragement and warmth to alleviate language anxiety and build student confidence.

Advanced Critical Theory, Hermeneutics & Literary Praxis

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1. Hermeneutic Paradigms and Textual Mechanics

Critical inquiry into Module 4: Body Language and Non-Verbal Communication in the ELT Classroom reveals how textual forms construct meaning through complex aesthetic strategies and structural choices:

- **Structuralism and Semiotic Deconstruction:** The organization of signs, tropes, and syntactical structures establishes narrative authority while simultaneously revealing internal fissures. Binary oppositions embedded within the discourse—such as center versus margin, tradition versus modernity, and subjective interiority versus objective reality—are systematically problematized through textual slippages and ambiguous signifiers.
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- **Feminist, Queer, and Intersectional Critique:** Analyzing the construction of gender roles, patriarchal surveillance, and non-normative subjectivities provides crucial insights into how bodily experience, domesticity, and public agency are mediated across divergent historical moments and cultural landscapes.
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2. Historiographical Context and Reception Theory

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3. Comparative Aesthetic and Thematic Matrix

The following analytical matrix summarizes key comparative dimensions across traditional interpretive paradigms and modern critical frameworks relevant to Module 4:

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