Interpersonal Communication

Language - A system comprised of vocabulary and rules of grammar that allows us to engage in verbal communication

Verbal Symbols -Words, or the vocabulary that make up a language. Grammar - the rules that dictate the structure of language

Encoding - The process of putting thoughts and feelings into verbal symbols, nonverbal messages, or both.

Decoding - The process of developing a thought based on hearing verbal symbols, observing nonverbal messages, or both.



Denotative Meaning - The literal, dictionary meaning of a word that most people in a culture have agreed upon.

Connotative Meaning The meaning a verbal
symbol has derived from
our personal and
subjective experience
with that symbol.

- Concrete Able to be seen, smelled, tasted, or touched.
- Abstract Not able to be seen, smelled, tasted, or touched.
- Referent The thing a symbol represents.

Framing Theory -A theory that argues that when we compare two unlike things in a figure of speech, we are unconsciously influenced by the decision. (Read Why War

Metaphors Matter)

- 1. Why are metaphors for war helpful?
- 2. Why might they not be a good thing?

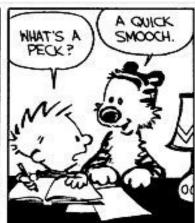
Process of Abstraction our ability to move up and down the ladder of abstraction (our ability to picture things based on descriptions and/or the way we change descriptions depending on receiver and situation)

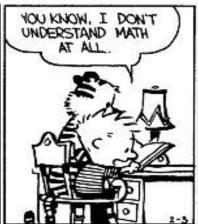
Read <u>Carsten Wendt's</u> <u>description of the Ladder</u> <u>of Abstraction</u> and then add your own definition. Strategic Ambiguity Leaving out cues in a
message on purpose to
encourage multiple
interpretations by others.



Equivocation - A type of ambiguity that involves choosing our words carefully to give the listener a false impression without actually lying.







Euphemism - A milder or less direct word substituted for another word that is more blunt or negative.



Idiom - a word or phrase that has an understood meaning within a culture but whose meaning is not derived by exact translation. Phatic Communication
- communication
consisting of words
and phrases that are
used for interpersonal
contact only and are
not meant to be
translated verbatim.



Code-Switching - Shifting back and forth between languages in the same conversation.



Other factors impacting our understanding of verbal language -

- Sex/Gender
- Generation
- Context
- Our last activity for today is to write a brief letter to your friend that tells us what you did this weekend. Then write a letter to your grandma/pa that tells them what you did this weekend.