

**A typology of communication gaps (with some cultural and methodological implications)**

<i>Type of communication gap</i>	<i>Linguistic and cultural implications</i>	<i>Methodological and practical implications</i>
<i>Type 1:</i> Communicative gap due to linguistic divergence between DSL and DTL and within DTL (dialectal), typically linked to perceived language inequality.	Epistemic, cognitive and social implications of language diversity (and inequality) deeply affect DC and hence the ultimate outcome of development interventions (Robinson 1996).	Study of "representations" (e.g. interviews, observation of spontaneous language choice and language use).  Optimization of DSL/DTL overlap of competence.
<i>Type 2:</i> Conceptual gaps between DSL and DTL; e.g. nutritional components (proteins, vitamins, calories), or "sustainability".	Nativization of innovative concepts: - the "host" principle - the ownership principle	Study of concept representation and terminological innovation (e.g. metaphors) in DTL lexicon and discourse (as compared to DSL).
<i>Type 3:</i> Interaction routines and strategies.	E.g.: Indirectness and proverbial language as preferred strategies of exposition and argumentation.	Study of DTL based protocols, e.g. the Tura <i>Konon</i> and <i>Sono</i> .  (cf. Bearth/Fan 2002).
<i>Type 4:</i> Divergence of social, cultural and historical presuppositions.	<i>Local knowledge (LK) types</i> – O-knowledge (what IS?) – E-knowledge (why?) – P-knowledge ( <i>do's/don'ts</i> ) – H-knowledge (what WAS?) – C-knowledge ( <i>how what when communicate with whom</i> )	Innovative ideas, in order to become debatable, must not only be perceived as relevant to pressing economic needs but also as consistent with cultural norms and standards.
<i>Type 5:</i> Patterns of inference and argumentation	LK types correlate with – local (language) logic (LLL) – language- and culture-specific implications of what is being said and understood Mutual control of inference as a prerequisite to DC-equality	Study of naturally occurring (particularly conflictual) contexts of discourse where implicit assumptions tend to be made explicit.
<i>Type 6:</i> Mutual perception of communicative roles in DC	Redefining communicative roles as a "pre-contract" condition to "participatory approaches" to DC.	<i>Study of meta-communicative activities:</i> an underestimated part of development communication.  Inherent weaknesses and paradoxes of the prevalent <i>translational model</i> in DC.

*Abbreviations*

DC = development communication  
 DSL = development source language  
 DST = development target language