

Barriers to Intercultural Communication

1. Warm-up Discussion

- a. What types of barriers do we have in intercultural communication?
- b. What effect do these barriers have on communication?
- c. How can we avoid barriers?

2. Anxiety

- a. When have you felt anxiety in intercultural communication?
 - Why did you feel this way?
 - What did you do?
- b. Why do some Japanese have anxiety over speaking English (with native and non-native speakers)?

3. Assuming Similarities instead of Differences

- a. Have you assumed any similarities between your Cambodian partner and yourself when they are actually differences?
 - What are they?
 - Why do you think you made these assumptions?

4. Ethnocentrism

How are these comments ethnocentric and/or prejudicial?

A. Governor Inose's comments about Turkey and Japan:

- a. "The only thing they [Muslims] share in common is Allah and they are fighting with each other, and they have classes."
- b. "Japan's long lifespan is an indication of a 'stress-free' and they [Turks] should create a culture like Japan's if they want to live longer lives."
- c. "Japanese is a unique language impossible to translate or contextualize."

B. Comments made by former Tokyo Governor Ishihara.

- a. "For many years, our country has been a mistress of the United States," he said. "If it is unlucky, it could now end up becoming a mistress of neighboring Shina."
- b. "A black person has become the president of the world's number one country, so those black people's nations in Africa are going to relate to that. And if they all support the U.S., that's going to be a problem."
- c. "Westerners playing Judo is like beasts fighting."

