

# Computer mediated communication for construction-supported constructivism in communication and cultural learning

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## ABSTRACT

This paper aims to explain how CMC has implications for constructivism in communication and cultural learning. The method used to write this review followed previous patterns by work. During collecting articles as main sources, we used Google scholar, Baidu scholars, Science Direct and Mendeley search platform, we also used such keywords as cross-cultural learning, technology, intercultural learning, promoting, facilitating, understanding and competence to find articles. In the end in this paper found conclusions Technology-used can fulfil the today need of learner. Combination of asynchronous and synchronous communication are mostly suggested for the next future research. We also believe by the need of global society and the rapid growth of technology, people around the world need more advanced technology such as Hologram, VR technology, artificial intelligence features, cloud and so on.

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## 1. Introduction

As we know that, nowadays people become more globalized by existing of internet and technology. In all site of our life technology is a main needed and they become more addicted by the rapid growth of technology. One big influence of technology can be seen on education and learning process. In recent years the emergence of communication technology has changed many things in human life including in the world of education. Classical education system that relies on face to face language can now be replaced with a computer intermediary (computer mediated communication (CMC)). Some formal educational institutions and non-formal education have implemented them and they result in changing the system and strategies of existing learning activities [1].

The presence of technology in classrooms affects the design of education. But what to remember is whether the technological presence of it supports constructivist frameworks that are covered in the spirit of education or not [1]. Constructivism is a theory in psychology that explains how humans gain knowledge in education [2]. In the world of technology education designed to support learning activities. So do not constructivist to be not maximums when applying technology in learning activities. Because Technology is actually a tool that facilitates and supports something already established, not the other way around [1].

In intercultural learning, students from different countries and different cultures try to communicate one each other and aim to understand the essential understanding of target culture and target language. In cross-cultural learning, learners acquire knowledge and skills related to different cultures, and they also absorb new attitudes and values as a result of this experience and participation [3]. In this context, I would like to emerge that technology can have a great collaboration to construct learner potential to collaborate technology in cross-cultural learning to reach the essential of blending technology and constructivism. The supported- technologies were divided in asynchronous tools and synchronous tools. For deeper understanding and elaboration, some important questions will be proposed here:

- What was constructivism learning theory?
- What is Byram's model in intercultural learning?
- What were technology used in intercultural learning?
- How did the influences of cultures, languages, different number and level of participants on constructivism?
- What were the learning activities and the topics in terms of intercultural learning?
- What were the issues and the solutions?
- What were the recommendations for future study and practise?

## 2. Theoretical Framework

### 2.1 Computer Mediated Communication

Since 1980s teachers and institution in some schools have thought about whether it is possible if learning activities are facilitated by computers, it is in tandem with the popularity of CMC in that era for other needs [4][5]. CMC is an umbrella that oversees the communication process that offers humans to interact with each other through computers. CMC offers breakthroughs in new human interactions that are not blocked by place and are real time. Can be used by relying on text delivery, audio to video call. able to send mail to hold a conference. Connect all people from around the world [6][7].

Most of us are surrounded by the communication tools that make us continue to be connected to the source of information and people in our community, the current Komniksi channel that claims to be billed for most informers, and the Muis. Facilitated by the CMC, this is the contribution of the Conkri for globalization. In the last decade the concept of communication mediated by the computer is identical. This synergy allows other communication development by relying on CMC such as in business until education [8]. CMC offers a new breakthrough in the process of exchanging human message exchange, focusing on facilitating how face-to-face processes can run more easily without worrying about the presence of space and time-blocking walls[9]. CMC is more than just sending emails to each other, because CMC offers something more than that. Face to face face, one to one to one to many in real time is a priority [10][11].

Therefore the use of CMC in the world Oendidikan need to be studied even further, because CMC is not displayed in the classroom but it is the CMC that becomes a class space. Where learners and educated teachers are together connected in CMC to share their knowledge with each other [12][13]. Early research focuses on the technology that facilitates the communicative effect on the social life, socio-contextual information and the impact on the interaction between existing groups up to how communication technology immersing the concept Self-user [14][15].

### 2.2 Byram's Models

Bryan (1997) defining cross cultural learning as individual ability for make an interaction cross border. Developing foreign language is one of some goals in intercultural learning [16]. because what is more complex than foreign language in cross cultural learning, this is basic competent needed for communication and connecting around the world. So teachers must find the best formula for actualizing this context [17]. Every students must aware intercultural communication skills is most needed today. Bryan stressed this skills is a constantly evolving process of developing cultural knowledge. As many students who have opportunities to engage in interactions and cultural exchange perspective have known intercultural communication is crucial.

Bryam purposed some model in intercultural and cross cultural communicatin. Learners bust have: (1) knowledge, (2) attitudes, (3) skills of interpreting and relating, (4) skills of discovery and interaction, and (5) critical cultural awareness [18]. Cultural traditional learning base in classroom has been Replaced by the education system with communication technology and information. The presence of a web-based visual classroom slowly begins to replace it and is judged to be more relevant in times of faster movement as well as good [18].

### 2.3 Influences of technology-used and learning environment

Many review study use more thane one tool to support and facilitate cross cultural interaction. In table below explain hote the influences.

**Table 2. Technology used**

| No | Technology             | Frequency | Year       | Byram's model |   |     |     |    |
|----|------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|---|-----|-----|----|
|    |                        |           |            | K             | A | SIR | SDI | CA |
| 1  | Facebook               | 2         | 2015, 2017 | √             | √ | √   | √   | √  |
| 2  | Blogs                  | 2         | 2014       | -             | √ | √   | -   | √  |
| 3  | Podcasts               | 1         | 2014       | √             | √ | √   | √   | √  |
| 4  | Twitter                | 1         | 2014       | √             | - | √   | -   | √  |
| 5  | e-mail                 | 2         | 2014, 2016 | √             | √ | √   | √   | √  |
| 6  | Blackboard             | 1         | 2014,2016  | √             | - | -   | -   | -  |
| 7  | Moodle                 | 1         | 2014       | -             | √ | √   | √   | -  |
| 8  | iMovie and Movie Maker | 1         | 2014       | √             | - | -   | -   | -  |
| 9  | online forum           | 1         | 2014       | √             | √ | √   | √   | √  |
| 10 | Skype                  | 1         | 2014, 2016 | √             | √ | √   | √   | √  |

As we can see on the table, there are eleven tools on the literature. Among this technologies, e-mail, Facebook, and Blogs were mostly used. The technologies used only once were Podcasts, Twitter, Skype, Moodle, iMovie and Movie Maker, and online forum. These technical tools were used in this research divided into synchronous communication tools (Skype) and asynchronous communication tools (Facebook, Blogs, Podcasts, Twitter, e-mail, Blackboard, Moodle, iMovie and Movie Maker, and online forum) in intercultural learning.

The influences of technology on Byram's model can be showed that to reach (1) knowledge can be utilized Facebook, Podcasts, Twitter, e-mail, Blackboard, Moodle, iMovie and Movie Maker, online forum, and Skype. To reach (2) attitudes can be utilized Facebook, Podcasts, Blogs, e-mail, Moodle, online forum, and Skype. To reach (3) skills of interpreting and relating can be utilized e-mail, Facebook, Blogs, Blackboard, Skype, Podcasts, Twitter, Moodle, and online forum. To reach (4) skills of discovery and interaction can be used utilized e-mail, Facebook, Skype, Podcasts, Moodle, and online forum. To reach (5) critical cultural awareness can be utilized e-mail, Facebook, Blogs, Skype, Podcasts, Twitter, and online forum.

In 2014 researchers begun the study and utilized asynchronous tools. In the subsequent of the study, authors begun to utilize and combine asynchronous and synchronous tool to create more immersive learning environment. By utilizing both combination between asynchronous and synchronous communication tool, intercultural learning become more worthful. In addition, we found that studies during 2004-2014 [19], there are some new technologies used such as Facebook, Blackboard, Skype, Twitter, Moodle, iMovie and Movie Maker; on the other hand, some communication mentioned no longer used on the previous review to support intercultural learning such as online message board and text-based chat. By rapid growth of technology and the need of global society to interact with people around the world, some more powerful and efficient technology will be created in future to make intercultural learning environment more effective and more impressed such Hologram, VR technology, Artificial Intelligent, cloud, etc [20].

## 2.4 Influences of cultures, languages, number and level of participants

Regarding to the languages, different number and level of participants in this studies, Spanish ( $n=1$ ) and English ( $n=4$ ) [20]. This study involved 28 participants, 10 participants were American participants and 18 students were Spanish students, the participants level were post graduate and undergraduate. [21] this study involved 52 participants, 32 participants were Korean and 20 participants were American, the participants level were undergraduate students with age range 19 to 22 years old [17]. This study involved 15 Taiwanese participants and the level of the participants were junior high school [18]. This study involved 40 participants and the level of participants were undergraduate. Figure 2 below illustrates the cultures, languages, number and level of participants.

Table 3. Language, number and level

| References | Language | Number | Level                      |
|------------|----------|--------|----------------------------|
| [20]       | Spanish  | 28     | Graduate and undergraduate |
| [21]       | English  | 52     | Undergraduate              |
| [17]       | English  | 15     | Junior high school         |
| [18]       | English  | 40     | Undergraduate              |

As for the language in this study, it is suggested to use another language as language communication such as Chinese or another international foreign language. The most participants according the studies was 52 participants and the lowest was 15 participants, it is always be suggested to utilize more participants to reach different learning result in intercultural learning. The level that we can see above mostly undergraduate level participants and only one study conducted research on junior high school level. It is always suggested to conduct research in different of participants such as senior high school, elementary school and so on.

## 2.5 The learning activities and the topics in terms of intercultural learning

According to the result, we can summarize the pattern of learning activities and topics on the studies on the table below.

Table 4. Learning activities and topics

| References | Activities   | Topics   |
|------------|--|--|
| [20]       | Getting to know each other, exchanging cultural perspectives, discussing controversial issues.   | Taiwan culture, controversial issues and daily life.   |
| [21]       | Promote discussion, choose topic for discussion and reflecting, interview.   | Culture differences.   |
| [17]       | Storytelling, video conference, email exchange.  | Folk tales, traditional story, custom and daily life.  |
| [18]       | Assigning participants randomly in two groups, administration of the background questionnaire and IES, intercultural instruction and discussions, Re-administration of the IES, interviews and essays. | Culture, identity, gender roles, speech communities, language, communication, physical space (the perception of time), definition, stages, and Stereotyping. |

As we can see above, the activities on the studies generally created such patterns as follow, (1) introduction, (2) pairing students, (3) choose topic, (4) exchanging culture, (5), reading lesson and writing essay (6) video conference, (7) e-mail exchange, and (8) interviews. The topics mostly

utilized on the studies were culture (n=4), daily life (n=2), controversial issues, language, communication, physical space (the perception of time), definition, stages, and Stereotyping.

### 3. Method

The method used to write this review followed previous patterns by work of [19]. During collecting articles as main sources, we used Google scholar, Baidu scholars, Science Direct and Mendeley search platform, we also used such keywords as cross-cultural learning, technology, intercultural learning, promoting, facilitating, understanding and competence to find articles. After getting the list of the articles according to keywords and then we applied some criterions for further screening: (1) the studies that were published on 2014-2018; (2) studies focused on intercultural learning supported by technology; (3) studies indexed by Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) in Education and Educational Research category; (4) studies that were published as full text in the top nineteen journal related to educational technology, e.g. *ReCALL* (rank 46), *Language Learning & Technology* (rank 47), and *Computer Assisted Language Learning* (rank 58). It is an important journal retrieval and paper reference channel with high authority in the field of social sciences. Table 1 illustrates studies during our work-in-progress, which were studies related cross-cultural learning (CCL) and intercultural learning (IL).

Table 1. Studies during work-in-progress.

| No. | Authors | Title  | CCL | IL |
|-----|---------|--|-----|----|
| 1   | [22]    | A study of the facilitation of cross-cultural understanding and intercultural sensitivity using speech-enabled language translation technology                             | ✓   |    |
| 2   | [20]    | A study of learners' perceptions of online intercultural exchange through Web 2.0 technologies   |     | ✓  |
| 3   | [23]    | Strategies for Smooth and Effective Cross-Cultural Online Collaborative Learning   | ✓   |    |
| 4   | [21]    | Using Facebook to Promote Korean EFL Learners' Intercultural Competence  |     | ✓  |
| 5   | [24]    | Applications of speech-to-text recognition and computer-aided translation for facilitating cross-cultural learning through a learning activity: issues and their solutions | ✓   |    |
| 6   | [3]     | Facilitating cross-cultural understanding with learning activities supported by speech-to-text recognition and computer-aided translation                                  | ✓   |    |
| 7   | [25]    | A pilot study: Facilitating cross-cultural understanding with project-based collaborative learning in an online environment  | ✓   |    |
| 8   | [26]    | Using an online collaborative project between American and Chinese students to develop ESL teaching skills, cross-cultural awareness and language skills                   | ✓   |    |
| 9   | [17]    | Fostering Foreign Language Learning Through Technology-Enhanced Intercultural Projects   |     | ✓  |
| 10  | [18]    | Promoting EFL learners' intercultural communication effectiveness: a focus on Facebook   |     | ✓  |

After screening the articles according above criterions, finally four studies were selected to be a review related to intercultural learning. In this review, we firstly report and checked selected studies into tables and then reviewed the studies from the following six dimensions: (1) What is constructivism? (2) Byram's models, (3) influences of Byram's models on technology-used and learning environment, (4) the influences of Byram's models on cultures, languages, different

number and level of participants, (5) learning activities and the topics in terms of intercultural learning (6) issues and the solutions, (7) recommendation for the future study.

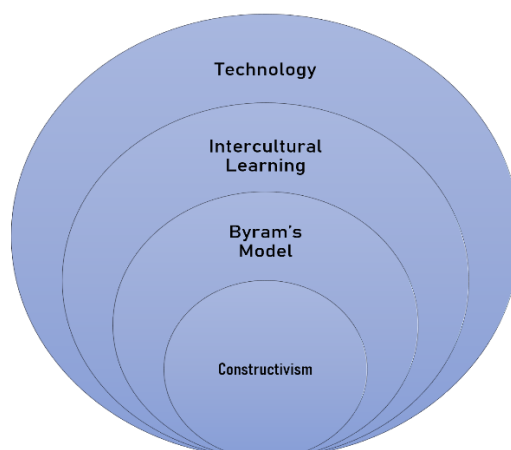


Figure 1. Technology-enhanced constructivism in intercultural competence model.

Our result showed that reviewed studies focused on (a) constructivism, (b) intercultural learning. We report our result divided into five dimensions: (1) Constructivism (2) Byram's models, (3) influences of Byram's models on technology-used and learning environment, (4) the influences of Byram's models on cultures, languages, different number and level of participants, (5) learning activities and the topics in terms of intercultural learning (6) issues and the solutions, (7) recommendation for the future study and practise.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1 The issues and the solutions

Some teachers can make a good integration among technology and education activity, and success make a good learning style for students [27]. In their interaction learning also having preference constructivist teaching methods [28]. Here we showed the issues and solution on the studies during our work-in progress.

Table 5. Issues and solutions.

| No | References | Issues   | Solutions   |
|----|------------|--|---|
| 1  | [20]       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Making an interactive podcast is a time consuming.</li> <li>2. Students did not find topics of tangible culture informative</li> <li>3. Small sample size</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Familiarizing learners with these topics, and expanding project beyond one semester.</li> <li>2. Students should submit topics in advance.</li> <li>3. Increase the sample</li> </ol>                       |
| 2  | [21]       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Korean learners had misunderstanding</li> <li>2. Significant weakness intercultural exchange through asynchronous written interaction</li> <li>3. Student's reluctance to change his perspective of another culture</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teacher guided learners to get accurate knowledge</li> <li>2. Supporting by use a real time oral-communication.</li> <li>3. Pay more careful attention to promoting critical cultural awareness.</li> </ol> |
| 3  | [17]       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students did not enjoy Fold tales project especially creative writing.</li> <li>2. Language barrier such as low vocabulary.</li> </ol>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revise the learning to become more familiar with synchronous communication.</li> <li>2. Asking instructors to help and using translator tools such STR and CAT</li> </ol>                                   |



|   |      |   |   |
|---|------|---|---|
|   |      |   | [24]  |
| 4 | [18] | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two students said rarely using Facebook and prefer to use other tools.</li> <li>2. Some of the students expressed their fears about using Facebook for educational purposes.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving students' skills of discovery and interaction to make discussion on Facebook more interesting for students.</li> <li>2. Examining as this appeared to be a problem in terms of using Facebook.</li> </ol> |

As we can see above, each study had two to three issues. The most issues that mostly we found here were familiarization (n=3) such as making an interactive podcast is a time consuming, students did not enjoy Fold tales project especially creative writing, and two students said rarely using Facebook and prefer to use other tools. Solutions given for these issues were familiarizing learners with these tools, revise the learning to become more familiar with synchronous communication, and improving students' skills of discovery and interaction to make discussion on Facebook more interesting for students.

## 2.6 Recommendation for the Future Study and Practise

In figure 10, the is familiarization on technology tools both synchronous and asynchronous tool to bring the learning activities more active, avoid the fear of participants and avoid the misunderstanding between instructors to learners and learners to learner.

Secondly, training participants is not sufficient for successful interaction and communication during intercultural learning. A stimulating learning environment must be created to simultaneously motivate and engage the learning. Motivating and engaging learner can be utilized the most updated technology. Like we can see now, young people mostly engage with Instagram, Instagram is the most trending social network for teenagers aged 15-22 years.

Finally, in the terms of reach all of IC's components, author should utilize various projects to help students to reach the level of IC. In study by [1] reach five key component of IC (knowledge, attitudes, skills of interpreting and relating). Next future study should focus on how reach these five levels to give learners more depth learning activities.

## 5. Conclusion

Here, we can well say that our review consists of Byram's model influences of technology-used and learning environment on Byram's models, cultures, language, different number, level of participants, learning activities, the topics in terms of intercultural learning, issues, solutions, recommendations for future study and practise [29].

We discovered some following finding during our reviews and provided some suggestion for future research and development. Firstly, people who want to conduct same research interest as intercultural learning must pay serious attention on the how to reach five components of Byram's model (1997) about intercultural competence (IC). IC components are the most vital indicator to say that intercultural learning according to Byram's model reach successfulness.

Technology-used should fulfil the today need of learner. Combination of asynchronous and synchronous communication are mostly suggested for the next future research. We also believe by the need of global society and the rapid growth of technology, people around the world need more advanced technology such as Hologram, VR technology, artificial intelligent features, cloud and so on. This does not close the chance for near future research to conduct research in more powerful technology to support intercultural learning. Most of the articles we reviewed correlated with two culture, we hope in the future that will be more culture involved. We also planning to work in other review such as a review on cross-cultural learning [29].

We also discovered mostly language use in this research was English and Spanish. IC can be developed by foreign language in special or in common language. In this context we still can consider other foreign language such as Chinese, Russian, Germany and others. We also can broaden our future research by enlarge the number of participants to make a more depth study in research and development and by utilizing different level of participants such as college students, senior high school, elementary school, kindergarten and so on to get richer study comprehension.

In addition to elaborate the learning activities and the topics, we also discovered that learning activities in the intercultural learning activities showed a various composition of learning activities as follow: (1) introduction, (2) pairing students, (3) choose topic, (4) exchanging culture, (5), reading lesson and writing essay (6) video conference, (7) e-mail exchange, and (8) interviews. Most of the topics mentioned above were culture and daily life, we suggested the near future research to enrich the learning topics on intercultural learning such as how to get more authentic and more immersive intercultural learning by outdoor online intercultural learning [30].

Finally, we find some issues, solution and the suggestions for future study and practise. The most issues that mostly we found here were familiarization. Solutions given for these issues were familiarizing learners with these communication tools.

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