

Chapter Two

SCENARIO ONE: DECODING AN INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Decoding a Swiss-Asian Indian Intercultural Dialogue: A Dialogue Between Mr. Schumacher and Mr. Singh

Mr. Schumacher: Well Sanjay, it looks like we will need to wrap up the final project with an intense meeting of non-stop work on Saturday. At least we will be able to get a couple of brews in after! See you then!

Mr. Singh: I see ... well....

Mr. Schumacher: Yep. See you!

Mr. Singh: Well ... yes ... I think ... um.... Mr. Schumacher, maybe....

Mr. Schumacher: Think of it! The project we have been going crazy over will be out of our office on Saturday. Can't wait to celebrate!

Mr. Singh: Yes ... well, this coming Saturday is a very special day in our family. It is my grandfather's 80th birthday. It is a big day and many relatives will be coming from out of town.

Mr. Schumacher: Ah huh.

Mr. Singh: So ... you understand my situation?

Mr. Schumacher: Heck yes! I also like to get away from my relatives and in-laws when they come to visit. Now you have a great excuse to get out of it. See you on Saturday, Sanjay!

Mr. Singh: But ... Mr. Schumacher, perhaps we can talk about this later? Mr. Schumacher?

SCENARIO TWO: DECODING AN INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Decoding a Brazilian-British Intercultural Dialogue : A Dialogue Between Roberto and Ian in a studio design engineering office:

Roberto: What did you think of the New Millennium Design project?

Ian: Very nice. I am quite pleased.

Roberto: So it is good then? We thought it was a tremendous project, a superbly designed project that will bring the company great rewards due to its amazing details and engineering feats.

Ian: Yes. There is one drawing that needs to be changed. Other than that, the design will work fine.

Roberto: Hmm. I see.

Ian: What about that other assignment you were working on? The Gallatica Project? Any chance I could take a look at it?

Roberto: Well, we can make it a priority, if you want. My group of designers is the best in the business, and we work night and day to come up with such projects as the Gallatica-which is a stupendous design, a tremendous effort for all my employees.

Ian: Good going. You're a good sport. Thanks, Roberto.

Roberto: So, you want my team to scrap the Millennium design?

Ian: Pardon me?

NAME: _____

CHAPTER TWO: INTERACTIVE PROBES FOR “DECODING AN INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE”

(Ask yourself and probe your classmates’ reactions)

Decoding Analysis for Scenario One:

1. Do you perceive any communication problems in the above dialogue between Mr. Schumacher and Mr. Singh?
2. What are the specific communication problems?
3. Can you infer some cultural assumptions and expectations that Mr. Schumacher has concerning communication?
4. Can you infer some cultural assumptions and expectations that Mr. Singh has concerning communication?

Decoding Analysis for Scenario Two:

1. Do you perceive any communication problems in the above dialogue between Roberto and Ian?
2. What are the specific communication problems?
3. Can you infer some cultural assumptions and expectations that Roberto has concerning communication?
4. Can you infer some cultural assumptions and expectations that Ian has concerning communication?