Cross Cultural Dynamics

Joseph Jay Breish

Omega Graduate School

October 27th, 2023

Professor

Dr. Brenda Davis

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Asynchronous Cores 2 and 4: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the first week of the term. Post this discussion in DIAL Discussion Forum. Then, provide two peer responses of 100 words each (total of 200 words) in the Discussion Forum.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

# DISCUSSION

LDR810 Cross-Cultural Dynamics contains four essential elements. For this paper, I’m reviewing Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Missions in Global Society. That said, this researcher found that each of the cross-cultural topics has a lot of overlapping concepts.

Mission work is intrinsically linked to the Gospel and relevant to all Christians (NASB, 2020, Matthew 28:19-20). Given the nature of missions as a global phenomenon, Christian Scholar-practitioners must consider cultural factors before attempting to begin cross-cultural communication, program implementation, or witnessing. The Church must consider these factors to fulfill its mission (Tippett, 1987).

Missionaries must consider how to communicate the Gospel in different cultural settings (Winter, 1999). Various factors, including cultural conditioning and communication methodology, can easily obscure the Gospel message and mission strategies (Tippett, 1987). God can only be loved when He is truly known, and He can only be known when His character is intelligibly communicated (Winter, 1999). As such, time and consideration are needed in the methodology, language, and timing of sharing the Gospel.

Conducting mission work requires careful assessment (Rommen & Corwin, 1996). Rommen and Corwin (1996) note that when missionaries have not walked in the native culture’s shoes, especially when they make many assumptions, mission programs can be aesthetically displeasing to the recipients. In other words, Gospel truths will be lost in translation. Rommen and Corwin (1996) note that careful reflection on implementation is essential.

Frunza (2023) adds the importance of understanding community. Missionaries need to value the people and culture they are evangelizing. Jiang and Wang (2018) agree. They note that the more a missionary is exposed to a foreign culture, the more they can understand and embrace it. As missionaries understand the people and culture, they will have more empathy for it. The more empathy they have, the deeper the connection and the more effectively they can articulate the Gospel. Ang and Dyne (2008) call this understanding Cultural Intelligence or “CQ.” CQ is focused on “an individual’s ability to grasp and reason correctly in situations characterized by cultural diversity” (Ang & Dyne, 2008, p. 4). As such, missionaries need to receive cross-cultural training in CQ before attempting to bridge the gap between their home culture and the culture they will minister to.

# WORKS CITED

Ang, S., & Dyne, L. V. (2008). *Handbook of Cultural Intelligence: Theory, Measurement, and Applications*. M.E. Sharpe.

Frunza, S. (2023). Cultural Intelligence, Spiritual Intelligence and Counseling in the Age of Artificial Intelligence. *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies, 22(64)*, 80–95.

Jiang, Y., & Wang, J. (2018). A Study of Cultural Empathy in Foreign Language Teaching from the Perspective of Cross-cultural Communication. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies, 8(12)*, 1664–1670. <https://doi.org/10.17507/tpls.0812.12>

*New American Standard Bible* (NASB). (2020). Lockman Foundation. (Original work published

1960)

Rommen, E., & Corwin, G. (Eds.). (1996). Missiology and the Social Sciences: Contributions, Cautions and Conclusions. William Carey Library.

Tippett, A. R. (1987). *Introduction to Missiology*. William Carey Library Publishers.

Winter, R. D. (1999). Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader (3rd edition). William Carey Library Pub.