

An Analysis of Headwear Based Communication Techniques in Modern Urban and Sub-Urban Dwellers

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Abstract

A recently emerging trend of communication of detailed data by means of hats is discussed. The technique is found to be widespread in densely populated communities in the western hemisphere, and is beginning to spread to Japan and India as well. Surprisingly detailed concepts are imparted by means of subtle variation in the placement and handling of headwear of all types. Entire conversations have been observed, making possible the decoding of a significant subset of the encoding. A selection of known phrases are demonstrated photographically.

1 Introduction

To date there are several documented cases of dress and ornamentation used not only for signaling broad ideas, such as social class and standing, but for specific, highly detailed information. Perhaps the best known case is that of the intricate communication system used by Newcastle coal traders circa 1850, as documented extensively by Devroye [1]. Under this scheme, intricate details of coal pricing were compactly imparted by means of such detail of the trader's clothing as the ratio of shoe sole thickness to shirt button diameter. However, such methods of information interchange have typically been confined to small, specialist groups, as an extension of their industry jargon. Examples are the French Army Artillery Corp's experimentation

with nonverbal communication via specialized insignia [2], and the mythical colored robe system of the monastic order of the Grauthians [3].

In this paper we examine an emerging trend which does not belong to this categorization. This new development is not a narrow system of jargon, but seems to encompass an entire, general purpose language. Additionally, it utilizes only a single, commonly available wardrobe component, namely the hat. The specific type of hat used appears to have no bearing on the meaning communicated; only the positioning and handling of the hat are important. It should be noted that, like virtually all other forms of in-person, human communication, the actual communication is augmented by body language such as facial expressions, but these are not a required component of the method.

2 Results

3 Conclusions

References

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