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## The differences of greeting with different countries

The greeting is necessary for communicating with people who lives all over the world in our life. I have been here for almost five months, and I have been in the I.E.P. for the same months, too. We say “Good morning, how are you” every morning each other, I can find big different ways in this frequent scene when students say “good morning” to the person who is from the same country with one’s.

There are many students who are from countless countries in the I.E.P. Then I notice that the ways of greeting are totally different from each country or area even though we just say “Good morning and how are you?” The biggest differences of them are not how to say these phrases, are the behaviors and the way of expressing feeling when they say these phrases. You can see the differences of a person perspective behind the greeting of several countries. Though it seems just a matter of the way of phrase, in fact, the greeting is the best way to know their culture and custom.

First of all, it is necessary to know that the basis of greeting. It is a way for human to communicate awareness of each other’s presence and to show attention.

And it suggests a type of relationship or social status between individuals and groups of people coming in contact with each other. Greeting habits are highly custom each countries and change within a culture depending on relationship and social status.

There are two ways to express their feeling: audibly and physically, they change depends on the situations; sometimes we use a combination of both ways, but the other time we use either way of them. Also, the physically greeting is kissing; it is a ritual or social gesture to indicate friendship, to perform a greeting, to comfort someone, or to show respect.

Although cheek kissing is a little bit different with each country, it may be considered respect and affection between a man and a woman, a parent and a child, two



women, or two men in general. When they kiss a cheek kiss each other, both people lean forward and either lightly touch kiss with cheek or lip with cheek. Generally the gesture is repeated with the other cheek, or more, alternating cheeks. Depending on country and situation the number of kisses is usually changed and sometimes associated with hand-shaking or hugging.

It does not necessarily indicate sexual or romantic interest, like a boyfriend or a girlfriend. Cheek kissing is more common in Europe and Latin America than North

America, except for Miami and Quebec, and Asia, especially the southern parts of Europe.



“In general Irish, British and American men are uncomfortable with the whole issue of public kissing issue - for fear of homosexual connotations - so tread carefully. If you are smart you will go for a strong handshake” (Irish). The people who from different countries feel sense of discomfort, when they see the different greeting with their ones, doesn't just Irish, British and American but also other national people.

Secondly, the definition of greeting and kissing are the almost same, but there are many different kinds of ways to say” Hello” in our world which we live. In Colombia, when they meet somebody who know very well or not, they kiss on the cheek just one time and say “ Hello, and how are you?” A cheek kiss is accompanied by a hand shake or a hug. If you hug to someone, it means a sign of deeper trust. Also, cheek kissing may be lips to cheek or cheek to cheek with a kiss in the air, but the latter is more common. This way of greeting is often used by not just the people who are from in Columbia but also the people who are in Latin America.

However, in Brazil they don't kiss one time on the cheek, they kiss twice on

both side of the cheek. They don't care that they know each other or not like Latin people, either. Therefore, what is the Brazilian say "Hallo" and kiss twice on the both side of the cheek to Latin people except Brazilian is brought to Latin people uncomfortable very much.

However, cheek kissing is extremely uncommon in Asian countries, China, Korea and Japan on the other way. We don't have the custom of kissing when we want to express greeting and in addition to that we don't usually say "How are you?" with "Hello." In the result, when someone ask me that how they can say "How are you" in Japanese, I always cannot teach it easily even though I have been Japanese people since I was born. This case is happened in China and Korea and some Asian countries.

Compared with Latin America, the greeting of Asia is really simple and has no cheek kissing and no hugging. When I saw that the person who is from Latin America were kissing each other at the first time, I couldn't believe that the people who don't know very well kiss fairly natural. If I do like these greeting in Japan, I am sure everyone might have a stunned expression on their face. Conversely, if Latin people come to Japan to see our greeting, they might doubt that whether they are friend or family truly.

However, the countries in South East Asia with Muslim or Hindu culture are much harder to think that they kiss when they say to greeting than Asian countries like Japan, Korea and China. Because, kissing between men and women is not socially acceptable way of greeting and also is considered offensive way for them through their religion. There are a few of exceptions though, many of the residents are of Portuguese decent in Macao, and thus cheek kissing is popular in the same situations as in Portugal. Also, cheek kissing is very common in Philippines and it means a sign of respect for relatives.

Third, I can see the difference ways of greeting when you meet the person who never has met for a long time. First, the people who is from Saudi Arabia kiss their family on the hand, forehead, cheek and the top of the head in the place where they meet the first time even public places, like airport. It is one of the things that take for granted for them. However we don't do that like them, and we say "Long time no see" and hug just this situation. For example, even though the father have not seen his daughter for a long time, he doesn't hug to her and because Japanese people don't express their feeling directly.

In conclusion, we can find too many to count differences about the ways of greeting in two situations: dairy greeting and the case which the person has never met

the other person, but I researched just a few countries. One factor common to the nations is that all the countries have the same spirit to think the greeting important very much. And broad distinction is how much expresses their feeling, when they greet with the other. Most Japanese people tend not to say their feeling clearly, because “the words of Japanese are very indirect and Japanese people worry a lot about what other people think and they avoid saying what they really think.” (Thayne 144) Thus, the reason that Japanese don’t kiss when they meet comes from the foundation of Japanese.

“The appropriate social context for use can vary greatly from one country to the other, though the gesture might look familiar.”(wikipedia) Every people want to say the same thing, then it seems like the same, but when we see the inside of greeting all over the world, we can know the differences of the culture and custom.

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