

carries its flow.

The Continuum Principle Defined

Let's now give a more concise formulation of the Continuum Principle, based on the above discussion of its three parts.

First, intercultural communication must be seen as a connected and compact space; its meanings are formed by all cultures engaged in interaction. As a result, meaning in intercultural communication is viewed as a continuous succession of points, or one whole meaning. Such a view allows us to overcome the binary vision of intercultural communication ("either/or") and treat every act of intercultural communication in terms of "both/and" and "more/less."

Second, intercultural communication has a digital nature: its meanings can be represented by distinct symbols or points (digits).

Third, intercultural communication has an analogic nature; its meanings can be represented by their likeness to one another. In other words, all meanings are related to one another—they are, to some degree, like one another. In this sense, meanings are discernible by their distance from each other. Hence, cultural differences are only a matter of distance or degree.

In a nutshell, the Continuum Principle can be formulated as follows:

Intercultural communication is a process whereby people from different cultures continuously construct a shared space where meanings are discernible by their distance from each other.

The Continuum Principle is important because it teaches us to overcome binary thinking. This view of intercultural communication is more complex because it shows how people from different cultures construct a shared and continuous universe while maintaining their different positions.