

Lecture Questions in American Classrooms vs India Classrooms

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Motivation for Research

- Schools are an important site of human development, and culture is reflected in classroom environments (Mehan, 1980).
- U.S. classrooms tend to be relatively dialogic, or learner-centered, with teacher speech depending on the flow and pace of the class (Kumar, 2015).
- In contrast, Indian classrooms tend to be more monologic, with lectures and students competitively bidding for teachers' approval (Brinkmann, 2015).
- Teachers in the United States school system are encouraged to get to know students on a personal level and somewhat become "friends" with students (Kumar 2015).
- We consider the teaching style of a teacher will be associated with the types of questions they ask.

Prediction

We predicted the U.S. teachers' dialogic style would be questions expanding on students comments of lecture, whereas Indian teachers' monologic style, would lead to more lecture-focused questions.

Methods

Participants:

There were 6 Christian Schools and 3 secular schools from each country. Topics of these classrooms: moral values, history, geography, economics and civics.

-9 United States teachers and 10 Indian teachers (1 female, 8 male in the U.S. and 9 female and 1 male in India).

Procedure:

One regular class was recorded for each classroom in both countries and the recordings were transcribed.

Sample:

816 questions total were analyzed from transcripts (415 for U.S. teachers and 401 for Indian teachers).

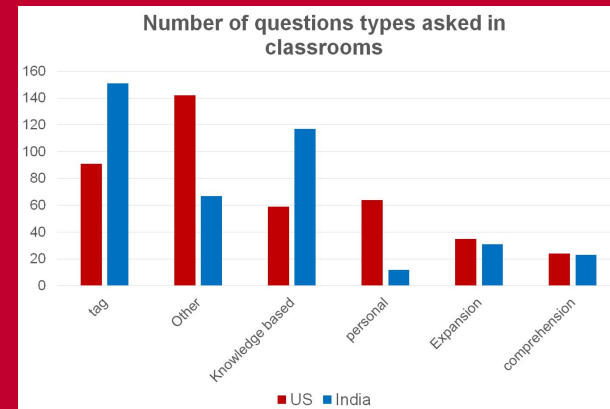
Content Analysis:

(Coding Categories) **Tag question:** A question at the end of a statement to confirm agreement. E.g. "Yes?"

Other/unclear: Any question that does not align with the other categories. E.g. "You don't want to ask?" or "What happened?" **Knowledge-based:** A question that quiz the student 's basic knowledge of the topic. E.g. "What are the reasons of deforestation in India in the colonial period?"

Personal: A question about student's personal life or personal being. E.g. "How was your track meet?" **Expansion question:** A question that allows the students to expand or broaden their answers. E.g. "Can anybody give the example of plantation agriculture?"

Comprehension: A question that elicit a response by the students to confirm what they learned in the lecture. E.g. "What does this refer to?"



$X^2(5, N = 816) = 96.5, p < .01; \text{Cramer's } V = .34$

Results

Conclusions

- Our results show that U.S. teachers did not use expansion questions the most overall. They used other questions the most overall. However, U.S. teachers still used expansion questions more than Indian teachers.
- Additionally, our results show that Indian teachers did not use knowledge-based questions the most overall. They used tag questions the most overall. However, Indian teachers still used knowledge-based questions more than U.S. teachers.
- We argue that it is harder to predict what each teacher will ask the most overall. However, based on our results we can predict which type of teacher is more likely to ask a certain question,
- Therefore, teaching styles are associated with the types of questions a teacher asks.

Literature Cited

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