



Aging

Perspectives, Communication Approach,
Inter-generational Communication
(Stereotypes, Identity, Relationships)

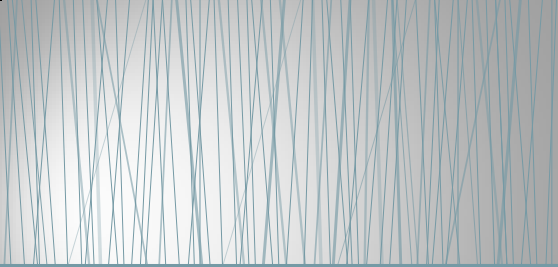
Perspectives

- Increase in aging population
- Approaches:
 - Bio-Medical (Free-Radical Theory)
 - Psychological (Socio-emotional Selectivity theory, Continuity theory– what does not change– personalities, preferences, Activity theory)
 - Sociological (Modernization Theory, Social Stratification, Political Economy)
 - Selective Optimization with Compensation Model (Baltes & Baltes, 1990)
 - Communication (Normal/ Challenged)
 - Linguistic complexity
 - Speech rates
 - Names
 - Off-target verbosity

Key Propositions

1. Communication reflects/shapes understanding of aging
2. Communication shapes experience of aging
3. Age-group memberships are fundamental to our sense of self
4. Age-group memberships influence communication phenomenon

Myths of aging (scales pp. 50-51)
Positive and Negative Stereotypes
Intergenerational Communication schema (p. 69)



Communication Accommodation Theory (Giles)
Communication Predicament of Aging Model (p. 77)
Activation of Stereotypes in Interaction Model (p. 81)

Intergenerational Relationships in Older Adulthood (Harwood, 5)

- Marital relationships
 - U-shaped curve
 - Get used to individual differences?
 - Decreased field of conflicts?
 - Increase passivity?
 - Cohort effect?
 - Selective attrition?
- Buffers to the negative effects
 - Organized activities
 - Structures of connection

Culture, Communication & Aging

- Three major dimensions (Hofstede, 1980)
 - Power Distance (High-Low)
 - Individualism-Collectivism (Filial piety)
 - Co-residence norms
- Examples across cultures
 - East Asia
 - South Asia (India)
 - US Latino
 - Native American
 - African (African-American) (Socha & Diggs, 1999; Socha & Beigle, 1999; Socha, et al. 1999)
- Multi-cultural families
