

## A Non-Verbal Communication of Jack McCall on *A Thousand Words* Movie

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### ABSTRACT

*Individuals interact through two components, namely verbal and nonverbal communication. The two components are inseparable. This article aims to examine the nonverbal cues exhibited by the American character, Jack Mc. Call, portrayed in the film "A Thousand Words". This is a high-quality document. It contains two categories of information. The primary data is obtained from the film's screen captures that emphasize Jack's nonverbal cues. The supporting data encompass additional information that bolsters the examination. The method employed for gathering data involves conducting research at the library and utilizing the subsequent procedures: viewing the film and capturing screenshots of the scenes that pertain to Jack's nonverbal communication. Analyzing data is executed by utilizing the principles of nonverbal communication. Initially, the American way of communication is distinctly dissimilar from the Asian approach, which often involves showing respect by bowing during conversations. Secondly, as Americans speak more attentively, they frequently rely on gestures and facial expressions, as mentioned previously. Jack represents American nonverbal communication.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Since language is the primary means of communication, it is essential to human survival (Miladesia, 2022). Without a doubt, language is employed when we speak to one another. However, in addition to verbal exchanges, people also use nonverbal cues to communicate. Speaking and writing are examples of verbal communication. Verbal communication is dynamic, whereas nonverbal communication is subconscious in a native speaker. Verbal language, part of the nonverbal system, is quite mechanically systematic in contrast. Our unconscious minds cause our body language to speak when we speak (Kaluska, 2013).

According to Phutela (2015), communication is an indispensable aspect of human life. Effective communication is crucial for disseminating our desires and expertise to others. Based on Newstorn and Keith Davis said, "*Transmission of ideas, emotions, opinions, facts and principles from one individual to another is known as communication. It is a means of connecting with others by conveying information.*" In their groundbreaking book *Pragmatics of Human Communication*, published in 1967, Watzlawick, Beavin, and Jackson proposed an axiom that states, "It is impossible not to communicate." Communication encompasses both verbal and nonverbal forms. Nonverbal communication refers to the nonverbal cues created by the speaker and listener in a communication context (Stoian et al., 2020).

To grasp what the communicator is trying to convey, gesture, body language, sign language, and nonverbal language are psycholinguistic studies into mental processes in using language. A mental process is a process through which people can grasp what people say and understand what they mean. In addition to using words, nonverbal cues such as movement, gesture, body language, signs, and nonverbal communication are also used

in verbal communication. Body language refers to spoken or nonverbal communication that includes or replaces noises, gestures, and other forms of communication. It falls under paralanguage, which includes all nonverbal modes of human communication (Chaer, 2003, p. 10).

A gesture that serves as a sign (an emblem) "stands" for anything. Such gestures can frequently substitute for whole utterances and correspond to them (Wang, 2009). Verbal and non-verbal communication are the two categories into which communication is separated according to usage. Communication that is produced through means other than speech is referred to as non-verbal communication. When people respond "yes" without a doubt in non-verbal communication, for instance, they use their head, or "Head node," to persuade. Accordingly, nonverbal communication must also finish the communication depending on its functions.

The research aims to explore the nonverbal cues of Americans portrayed in the film *A Thousand Words*. Released in 2012, *A Thousand Words* was helmed by Brian Robbins. The plot centers around a jinx that befalls a loquacious executive, compelling him to be prudent with his speech. A significant literary agent is Jack McCall. Using his unique speaking ability, The secures book deals from all over. Even he has to exaggerate and lie to acquire what he wants. He deals with Dr. Sinja, a self-help teacher, one day. However, he told a fib that caused the bodhi tree behind his house to grow erratically. He becomes cursed. He is unable to speak at all. He is limited to a thousand-word speech. Even one word from him causes the leaf to fall. The tree will die if its leaves are lost, as does he.

Communication with others becomes challenging and rife with miscommunication when Jack must choose words that must be said (Porter et al., 1996). The book deal, his work, and his wife, Caroline, are all affected by this. Jack's active lecture serves as the background for this study. The way Jack speaks is incredibly alluring. The researcher examined Jack Mc Call's nonverbal cues during his days of silence. The nonverbal cues he uses when speaking with his family and business partners. Based on the background of this study, the research question is: How does the interpretation of Jack MC call nonverbal communication in *a thousand words* movie?

## 2. METHOD

Following is an explanation of the study's research methodology. The study's methodology is qualitative, using a descriptive approach. The study's focus is on Jack's American nonverbal communication. The data are of the primary and secondary varieties. The leading information comes from movie screenshots that emphasize Jack's nonverbal behavior. The secondary data cover some information that helps the analysis. The secondary data is gathered using the following steps: watching the film and taking screenshots of the scenes that have anything to do with Jack's nonverbal communication, as well as a few facts that back up the analysis. The theory of nonverbal communication is applied in the technique of data analysis.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1) *Gesture of Jack*

Jack pointing his finger, indicates he wants to try one more time.

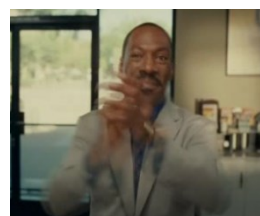
#### a. Jack's gesture at the coffee shop



(Jack says three)

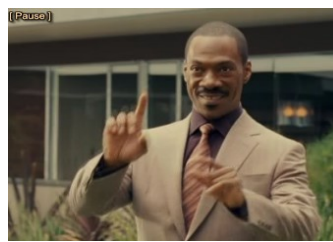


(Jack describes large size)

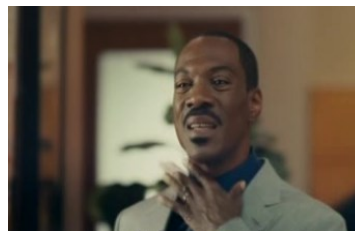
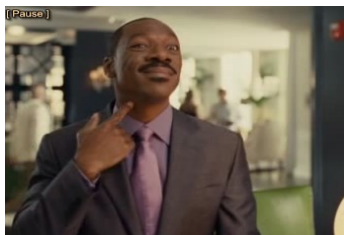


(Jack claps his hands, indicating true)

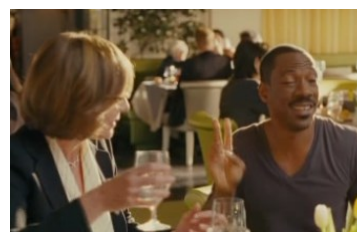
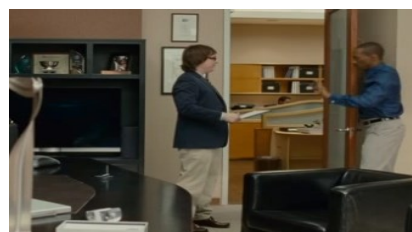
- b. Jack's five hands to say, "Stop talking!"



- c. Jack pointing his throat, indicates he can not speak.



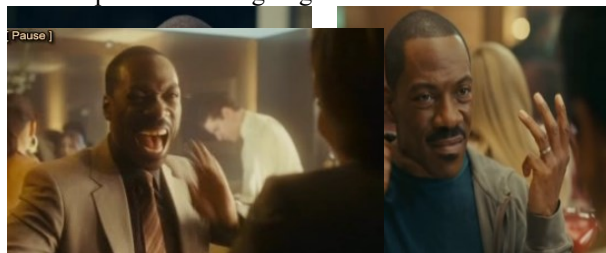
- d. Shaking hands when meeting new people (business partners)



- e. Jack suggests meeting someone

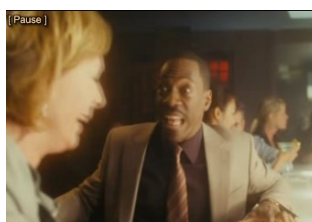
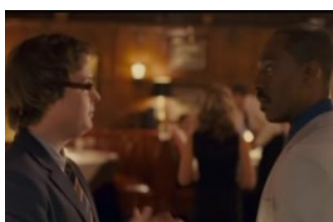
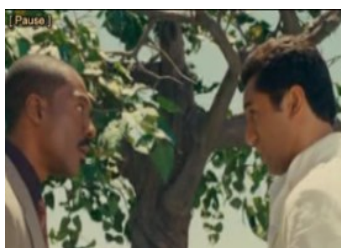
## 2) *Jack's facial expression*

- a. Jack's first impression of wonder is when the leaves fall.  
b. Jack's expression of laughing.



### 3) *Distance and eye contact*

- a. Distance Jack and his business partners.



- b. Distance between Jack and the shop clerk at the coffee shop.



Jack McCall portrays various facial expressions and body language gestures in the movie *A Thousand Words*. The movie showcases 15 types of gestures and facial expressions, with 7 facial expressions and 8 gestures. The male protagonist, Jack McCall, displays 7 facial expressions, including a simple smile, upper smile, broad smile, raised eyebrows, staring eyes, and teary eyes. Additionally, Jack McCall also exhibits 8 different gestures such as pointing with the index finger, raising the index finger, shaking hands, placing arms behind the back, touching the nose, covering the mouth, stroking the chin, expressing boredom, clapping hands together, crossing legs at the knees, and crossing legs at the ankles.

The facial expressions and body language gestures exhibited by Jack McCall, the male protagonist, reflect those commonly displayed by individuals worldwide. In other words, Jack's nonverbal communication represents universal body language: male main character, Jack McCall. The upper smile consists of two examples. Broad Smile consists of two examples. Eyes Raise consists of one example. Eyes stare consists of three examples. Moreover, Eyes Weep consists of one example.

Based on the gesture data, four instances of pointing with the index finger exist. One instance involves raising the forefinger, while three instances involve shaking hands. Other examples include placing one's arms behind one's back, touching the nose, covering the mouth, stroking the chin, expressing boredom, clenching the hands together, crossing the legs at the knees, and crossing the legs at the ankles and knees. Categorizing the facial expressions and physical movements displayed by the male protagonist reveals the typical traits, illustration, purpose, and context of body language gestures and facial expressions.

The male protagonist, Jack McCall, conveys a variety of facial expressions and body language gestures that hold different connotations depending on the context. For instance, when Jack raises his eyes, it indicates he is experiencing intense shock and anger. As per the information, Aaron (Jack's secretary) informs him that Dr. Sinja's book has been accepted. Jack desires to publish the book but is taken aback when Aaron reveals that it is only five pages long. Raising one's eyes can have two significances - firstly, it can signify frustration or intense anger, and secondly, it can indicate surrender to God. In Jack McCall's case, his raised eyes indicate that he is furious.

**One illustration:** Handshake is an instinctive practice that frequently happens when two or more individuals meet for the first time. Nevertheless, it serves as a way to seal a deal. Jack McCall and Dr Sinja are clasping their right hands as they negotiate a contract. Dr Sinja consents to Jack McCall's proposal to publish



his book. Subsequently, Jack McCall agrees to publish Dr. Sinja's book. Handshake symbolizes the agreement to collaborate and enter into a contract.

The context used to interpret meaning pertains to the social scenario, encompassing the surroundings, storyline, dialogue, circumstance, and previous encounters. The previous encounters pertain to the predicament of Jack McCall, who is afflicted by a curse from a mystical tree that sheds a leaf with every uttered word. Scrutinizing the meaning of facial expressions and bodily gestures reveals the authentic sentiments. Nonetheless, facial expressions and bodily gestures signify candor. One may deceive through verbal communication, but concealing genuine emotions through physical cues is arduous. Facial expressions and bodily gestures are expressed deliberately and automatically. Furthermore, they are employed to complement spoken utterances.

The male protagonist, Jack McCall, uses his facial expressions and body language to convey favorable and unfavorable impressions to those he interacts with. These nonverbal cues reflect courteous or discourteous conduct, allowing the recipient to decide whether or not to accept them. For instance, a smile conveys happiness, and Jack McCall often greets his clients with a broad smile, indicating his respect and hospitality. Through doing it, he expresses appreciation and makes a positive impression on the other party or interlocutor. Consequently, the interlocutor is not offended by Jack McCall's facial expressions, which, in turn, demonstrates his courteous behavior.

Furthermore, pointing one's forefinger is a gesture that indicates a specific direction or object to a person. For instance, in a conversation between Jack McCall and a valet, the former uses a forefinger point to respond to the latter's inquiry about his manuscript. However, Jack McCall appears annoyed by the valet's question, and the valet perceives his response as insulting. This leads to Jack McCall using the forefinger point again to assert his dominance over the valet, commanding him to park his car. In both instances, using the forefinger point conveys negative emotions towards the other person and may be interpreted as impolite.

In addition, Jack McCall remains silent due to an issue he has been afflicted with. A curse from a mystical tree causes him to shed a leaf for every uttered word, leaving him with no choice but to convey his emotions through nonverbal cues. Unfortunately, his peers and acquaintances often misinterpret these gestures and facial expressions. Through research, it has been discovered that there are numerous instances of miscommunication between Jack McCall and the other characters in the story.

## DISCUSSION

The protagonist of *A Thousand Words*, Jack Mc. Call, frequently employs nonverbal cues. Based on Matador (2016), the components are movement, distance, eye contact, facial expression, tone of voice, volume, touch, and clothing. The scope of this study is restricted to three factors: gesture, facial expression, distance from the subject, and eye contact. Jack Mc. Call uses these factors frequently when the curse is in effect. Gesture is the first aspect of nonverbal communication that the researcher will talk about. Jack Mc. Call's finger-pointing gesture marks the beginning of this section. It is impolite to criticize people in American and European cultures (McNeill et al., 2006). In the business world, this hand gesture denotes a dominant-to-subordinate behavior (Obemeier, 2012). To pick one person out of a group is regarded as a gesture. Many people dislike this hostile gesture since nobody likes to be singled out. This obscene gesture is arguably the most infamous and well-known throughout the entire world, and it is almost indelibly recognized as a sincere "Fuck You" everywhere.

When Jack McCallum is in the coffee shop, that is one scenario in which he makes many hand gestures. He is unable to communicate. Therefore, he must order coffee to clarify his meaning to the cashier. He makes a numerical hand motion to indicate how many coffees he wants to purchase while expanding his hands to indicate his colossal stature. Then, Jack Mc. Call also uses his five-finger gesture to signal "stop talking" in this film. He gestured with his throat to indicate that he could not talk, but observers mistook this for a painful throat. He also demonstrates handshakes with strangers for nonverbal communication. In the USA, handshakes are typical (even for strangers), as are embraces and kisses for people who are the other gender or who are typically family members.

When Jack enters the hotel and informs the front desk staff member that he has a meeting scheduled, he clasps his hands. He slashes his throat as his final motion. Slashing the throat by moving the index finger, thumb, or entire handheld straight and with the palm down—horizontally. Strong disapproval, great rage, or displeasure with others or with oneself are shown by the gesture, which resembles the act of slicing someone's throat with a knife. Jack's actions demonstrate that his marriage is no longer valid.

Face expression is the second nonverbal communication component. Jack has many expressions on his face because he is an attractive man. His facial expressions include astonishment, laughter, shock, and fury. According to prior research by Rosenthal (2005), facial expressions are naturally occurring, and each person

will have a different facial expression in some situations. The third nonverbal cue Jack uses is distance, followed by eye contact. In the USA, eye contact is critical in managing others' perceptions because it communicates emotion, regulates interaction, communicates power and position, and impacts attitude modification or persuasion. Western societies encourage youngsters to look at others because they value direct eye contact. The amount of space between the speaker and listener can reveal their relationship. While Jack speaks with his business colleagues, the cashier, and his family in *A Thousand Words*, there are variances in their geographic locations. He maintains a tight distance when he speaks to his mother and wife.

Furthermore, comprehending those facial indications and actions necessitates comprehending the societal milieu that underpins those conducts. According to this investigation, knowledge of the social context can be achieved by examining the dialogue, storyline, circumstance, and prior experience. In the movie *A Thousand Words*, Jack McCall confronts a significant predicament with his verbal communication. Jack McCall cannot speak due to a mystical tree that sheds a leaf with each utterance.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The call makes numerous gestures, especially when his curse prevents him from speaking. Jack Mc. The call is very expressive and frequently makes hand gestures like pointing fingers and cutting throats. He exhibits a variety of facial expressions, including happiness, sadness, shock, and fury. Distance and eye contact represent the final nonverbal cues in this film. The protagonists in this story correspond to the nonverbal communication theory that holds that Americans mostly use eye contact to convey respect. The following conclusions can be drawn from the analysis above. First, the way Americans communicate is much more appealing than Asian cultures, which frequently bow when speaking to others. Second, because American speech is more appealing, as previously indicated, they frequently use gestures and facial expressions. Jack lastly stands in for American nonverbal communication.

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