



Change of Perspective and - what astonishes us



WFMT, Tsukuba, Japan 06.07.2017

Asian-German-Austrian-Working Group

ADÖ-Roundtable

Aim

- deepening intercultural understanding between Japan and Germany
 - impetus to continue

Basis material

- 3 conversations between 3 people
- A Japanese-German couple and myself as a conversation partner
- Total speaking time: 4 Hours

People

(50-85 years old)

JAPAN

GERMANY

location

lawyer

german teacher

Japan

pianist

violonist

Germany

music therapist

music therapist

Germany

Guide

9 open questions

which should only be understood as an

impetus for own ideas

Astonishment

Astonishment or wonder is an emotional state in response to experiencing something unexpected.

It arouses us because it does not meet our expectations or our prejudices.

Astonishment intrinsic learning

Curiosity

- the question ... why are we astonished?
leads to thinking about the topic
we want to know something
- Intrinsic learning is triggered

Nonverbal Signs of Astonishment

- **Utterance** Ah Oh What?
- **Gestures**
Hands to face, shoulders lifted, shaking head
- **facial expressions** Forehead frown, open mouth
- **breath** audible, inhaling air

Important questions

First impressions in the new country

Misunderstandings

Greatest differences

Japan

- Interspace
- Land of shame
- Association
- Way
- Politeness
- Strong hierarchy
- clean

Germany

Silence-emptiness-pause
Land of guilt
Logic, Analysis
Aim
Orderly atmosphere
not so strong hierarchy
orderly

Fauxpas in Japan

- Do not speak bad Japanese in Japan
 - Dont forget the hierarchy
 - Never come too late
 - Put no sugar in green tea

But one forgives the foreigner a lot.
For a Japanese you are and remains a foreigner.

Themes

- What we mean with the term „Music“
 - Language - writing - thinking

Music

Kabuki - classical music

Japanese expressions for "music," as it is made
at feasts or in the temple

Classical music has an old tradition
and is the best Interculturally connection.

Writing - Thinking

- pictogram
several characters = a term
- alphabetical characters
connected letters = one word

What influence does this difference have on our thinking and language?

pictogram

門 Tor

木 Baum

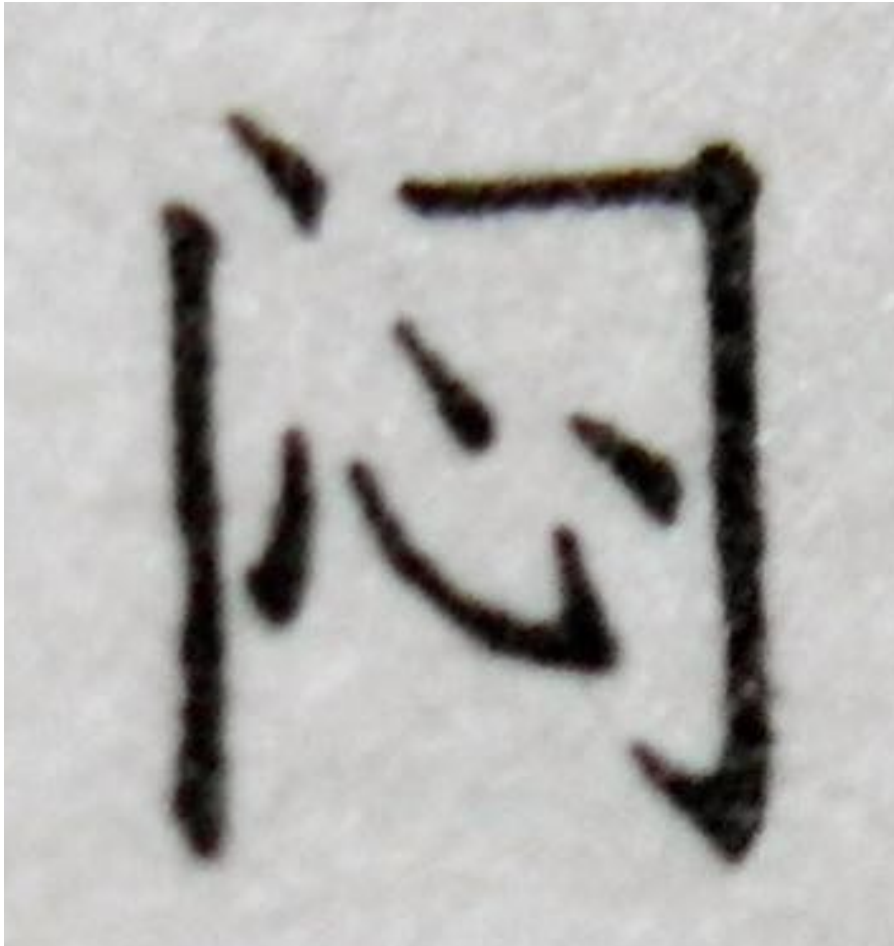
人 Mensch

火 Feuer

川 Fluss

山 Berg

八



Heart is inclosed in a gate / melancholy

Nonverbal expression

- breath
 - utterances
- prosody of language
 - gesture
 - mimic
- body language
 - posture

Astonishment comparing

- To meet the stranger with astonishment would mean learning and enriching us.
- To compare strangers with oneself, however, leads to evaluations
- Knowledge about an other culture reduce fear of strangeness and open the door of meeting.

End

Thanks for your attention!