

In H. G. Klinzing, N.E. Polemikos, A.Th. Kontakos, P. I. Stamatis (Eds.) (2014). *Non-verbal Communication in Education: Theory & Practice*. Athens: Diadrasi Publications, pp. 111-142

Non-verbal Communication in the Classroom

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Chapter Summary

The purpose of this paper is to point out the significant contribution of teachers' and adolescent pupils' nonverbal behavior, to the learning process and the teacher-pupil relationship. Various expressions of nonverbal behavior in the classroom are presented and analyzed especially for their emotional content. Nonverbal communication in the classroom defines and influences the social and emotional aspect of learning and therefore the learning process and outcome. Our argument is supported by relevant international research as well as from findings of a recent research with Greek adolescent pupils and teachers; findings from the Greek study are summarized in the end of the paper. We consider the study of nonverbal behavior exceptionally important nowadays, that online –and distant- learning contexts alter significantly the teacher-pupil communication, the pedagogical relationship and the learning process.

Keywords: nonverbal communication, classroom, teacher, pupil.