

THINKING TRAPS IN CRITICAL THINKING & COGNITIVE STYLES OF COMMUNICATION

Avoiding thinking traps and creating thinking traps is the goal in developing critical thinking skills, in cognitive styles of communication. Critical thinking in Military service members, and civilians, depends on effective communication strategies. If these audiences are to function in an officer's interest, then the officer has to master rhetorical strategies for covert, and overt, multi-directional, short-term and long-term communication effectiveness. The mind is why any gain or loss through thinking traps results from any use of symbol in communication strategies. A strong mind advances, while the weaker recedes. Communication and symbol effectiveness begins with a rigorously developed critical cognitive style in reading, thinking and writing strategies to depict, and perceive, the implications of any message, even physiologically manipulated messages.

Critical strategies help us detect and create thinking traps in reading, interpreting, and writing. A skilled officer improves the communication of valuable details, sometimes unspoken, in formulating professional assessments, action plans, and other formal correspondences, that an aspiring officer must produce for their subordinates, ordinates, and superiors. Effective and ineffective communication strategies determine the outcome of military engagements, the possibility of promotion, and can save or sacrifice lives. Thus the state of the mind of the officer is crucial, beginning with their cognitive style of communication. Cognitive styles reveal preconscious motivations that can help or hinder message effectiveness. Failure to critically develop an effective cognitive communication style ensures failure via improper interpretations of messages, and actions. Critical to an effective cognitive communication style is developing basic argumentation, bargaining, analytical, and ethnographic narrative or descriptive rhetorical strategies for persuasive message effectiveness, and polysemic message interpretation; particularly when more than one audience is involved. This is also the basis of forming a diplomatic officer, which is part of the formation of an effective military officer.

With civilians, and within a military branch, or across the services and with foreign military members, diplomatic correspondences are the modern option to preventing conflict, as well as part of the art of a psychological war based on understanding a possible opponent's basic cognitive communication style, the weakness of their cognitive style, and their preconscious motivators. Critical exercises improving an officer's reading, writing and thinking, style also has the simultaneous effect of the officer better understanding, or anticipating, the reading, writing, and thinking style of their audience(s). My own professional experiences presenting my research to Russian, Ukrainian, Swedish, Australian, Chinese, Italian, Turkish, Armenian, German and U.S. audiences have taught me that social rank, funding, cultural immersion, follow-up questions for clarification, multiple presentation strategies used simultaneously, as well as plain text on a plain piece of paper, and developing and maintaining formal social interactions skills, greatly affect message effectiveness. Social distance itself guarantees message effectiveness.

Thus, in a sense, control itself, and a communication war, can be effectively waged psychologically through understanding cognitive communication styles, and critical use of thinking traps, adapted to the cognitive style. To not become a victim of a communication war, of the psychological type, the formation of the officer stresses intense self-discernment and self-confidence, so as to understand one's vulnerabilities to methods of external communication persuasions in interpersonal, intrapersonal, and media-usage interactions. Mastering these critical skills, an officer then can understand how to improvise and use these personal attacks on their thinking as a weapon against those utilizing these psycho-physiological strategies, by giving a false sense of confidence to the challenger. Being underestimated by a challenger opens a means to rhetorically overthrow the challenger's position in an argument, or a contract, which is useful if an officer's superior is challenging the lower ranking officer. Utilizing effective communication strategies can, quickly and inexpensively, stifle an ineffective superior's promotion, while simultaneously advancing the effective officer's standing, since a higher rank and greater responsibilities are the outcome in military message effectiveness. This tactic requires an innately formed confidence in the aspiring officer's cognitive communication style, much like mental judo, utilizing information as a form of mental warfare through alliances, mediations, negotiations, contracts, treaties, attacks, defenses, camouflage, bait-and-switch, illusions, and diversions in verbal and non-verbal communication signals. Everything begins with the mind, and visualization is a means to achieving a strong mind that executes message effectiveness.

Effective communication strategies do not reveal an officer's motivation, and anticipate the opponents' motivation. My expertise is relying on former soviet and U.S. funded motivational studies, as well as my own funded research, on the symbolic structure of images as a language residing in the preconscious mind of a human subject, as part of executing message effectiveness. Understanding the preconscious motivation of civilian and military members helps us discern who should have access to communication, and who should not. I am convinced electronic media must collaborate with military goals of a sovereign nation. The military itself is to be involved in rating, editing, and censoring information through the various forms of communication. Thus it is essential that military officers understand even how and when to function as communication ethicists, editors, and censors, as part of everyday national security, defending existing positions until the various national and international publics, both civilian

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and military, are capable of safely advancing using those communication subjects. From my perspective communication offers officers strategic opportunities, while avoiding creating opportunities for ideologically motivated delinquents, religious fanatics, hackers, criminals, terrorists, saboteurs, corporate spies, and the enemy nation-state.

The media horizon opens, in the natural environment, a mental battlefield for information wars requiring mental maneuvers for officers to rehearse, and quickly implement control to complete their individual mission in a sea of conflicting interests and thinking traps. In this manner the officer is then prepared for the dangers of direct conflict, winning those confrontations when they are forced upon the officer. Improvising meaning, in reading and writing, optimizes variations and adaptability so that the intent and motivation of the officer remains unpredictable; key to success in out-maneuvering others as a systematic and improvisational means of dominance. A good mind in an officer is successfully prepared to respond to shifting circumstances, while communicating movement, and development, of personnel as they move through new horizons in media and communication territories. Much of this requires evaluating the motivations of others, while maintaining your own overarching motivation in your will to power, making the other lose control, position, and territory. In this mental scenario the communication landscape, and thinking traps, are our environmental weapons which the officer optimizes against a challenger.

SOURCES

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