

## THE PHYSICIAN: ASPECTS THAT INFLUENCE A DOCTOR'S LANGUAGE AND HIS/HER COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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**Abstract:** *The present study has aimed to determine the factors that influence a doctor's language and communication. For a balanced perspective, we have compared linguists' judgements and observations on doctors' language and medical communication with those belonging to a highly appreciated medical doctor, a famous professor from the medical university in Cluj-Napoca. It is commonly observed that a large part of medical vocabulary has Latin and Greek roots, which makes it somehow universal, easily translated into many languages. Medical language covers different levels of complexity, being adapted by the doctor to his/her interlocutors. Both sides agree that communication with the patient is influenced not only by the stage of development of medical science at a certain moment, but also by the doctor's formation and by the social and cultural background. With the development of technology and scientific research, the medical act is seen as “dehumanized” because of the decrease of doctor–patient communication in favour of technology-based information. Linguists seem to agree with doctors and patients that the psychological and moral factors are the most important in the doctor–patient relation. Looking for the main reason of disappointment connected to the medical act experienced on both sides, we have found that the attitude towards death has a very important influence on both the doctor's and the patient's approach to the medical act itself and to its results. The main conclusion of our study is that a doctor's language is stratified on different levels of technical and scientific content, according to his/her interlocutors. It also depends on the doctor's scientific formation, his/her moral values and humanistic culture. Medical language can be used ostentatiously, looking for social recognition.*

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