

**Overcoming Barriers to Intercultural Communication: The Role of Intercultural Awareness**  
**Depășirea barierelor în comunicarea interculturală: Rolul conștientizării interculturale**

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the role of intercultural competence in language learning within a globalized and multicultural society. Historically, foreign language acquisition was seen as a privilege of the upper class, aiming to emulate native- speaker proficiency. However, modern social dynamics, including globalization, migration, and technological advancements, have elevated intercultural competences to a necessity, urging a shift in traditional language teaching paradigms. This study highlights the insufficiency of linguistic mastery without intercultural awareness and identifies key barriers to intercultural communication, such as attitudes, ethnocentrism, and stereotypes. Drawing on established research, including Lindemann's insights on the impact of attitudes and Neuliep's examination of ethnocentrism, the paper emphasizes how biases and preconceived notions can hinder effective interactions among diverse cultural groups. Additionally, an interview conducted with students in the Romanian Preparatory Year seeks to analyze the presence and influence of various barriers on effective intercultural communication.*

**Keywords:** *intercultural communication; intercultural competence; stereotype; ethnocentrism; intercultural awareness;*