# Analysis Of Verbal And Nonverbal Communication Methods In The Cast Of The Character Antigone Performance Of Sophocles' Play Antigone

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study is based on the performance of the play Antigone by Sophocles. The aim is to analyze the way the cast uses body language, facial expressions, and voice intonation to convey messages and emotions of their characters. This research uses qualitative methods with text analysis, performance observation, and interviews. The study explains the various aspects of theatrical communication used in the cast of Antigone, providing an in-depth understanding of how communication can enrich the understanding of characters and stories in theatrical performances. The findings of this study are expected to deepen the understanding of theater arts practitioners and theater researchers, helping them develop more memorable interpretations and executions of characters in performing arts works. Furthermore, this research has the potential to enrich the repertoire of classical Greek literature and broaden the understanding of communication in modern performing arts.*

## INTRODUCTION

Communication is one of the crucial aspects in the performing arts that involves interaction between actors and the audience. Theater is not just about the words spoken by the characters but also about physical expression, gestures, and emotional expressions conveyed through the performance. One character with the potential for deep communication is the character Antigone in the classical play "Antigone" by Sophocles

Actors use dialogue, movements, facial expressions, and body language to portray characters and advance the plot. Theater performances communicate stories, ideas, emotions, and human experiences. In theater productions, there is always a play or dramatic narrative, as it is impossible to have a theatrical performance without these two elements (Pramayoza, 2021). In essence, communication in theater is a means to convey human stories and ideas through the performing arts, engaging the audience in a deep emotional and intellectual experience. The role of communication in Sophocles' play "Antigone" is crucial for understanding and appreciating the narrative presented by the theater.

An emotional connection with the audience is crucial in conveying deep emotions and feelings through the use of symbols, movements, dialogue, and expressions. This emotional connection is essential for creating a strong bond with the audience and is a fundamental aspect of communication in various fields such as drama, tourism, and geography (Kim, 2012). The cognitive process of the audience is demonstrated by their understanding of the plot and their appreciation for the emotional perspective of the characters. The process of learning and evaluating the characters' perspectives makes the audience feel "present" in the storyline, leading them to be more focused on the performance (Miranti & Nugraha, 2023). Symbolism is effectively used to portray complex moral and emotional conflicts. Through the use of symbols, movements, dialogue, and strong expressions, the performance of Antigone manages to communicate deep emotions and feelings to the audience. The audience becomes engaged in the moral and emotional conflicts of the characters, creating a strong emotional connection between the audience and the performance.

The character Antigone is the primary communicator in the script. Antigone's mission is to bury her brother, Polynices, despite the prohibition by King Creon. Initially reluctant to assist, Ismene, Antigone's sister, Haemon (Antigone's fiancé) attempts to defend and understand Antigone's actions, while Creon, the king, issues orders conflicting with Antigone's actions. This communication occurs within the context of a conflict between obedience to human laws enforced by Creon and the strength of beliefs held by Antigone. The portrayal of moral conflict and power struggle centered around Antigone's actions, as well as the responses of the message recipients, is evident.

With strong visual composition, the use of symbols, metaphors, and its ability to establish an emotional connection with the audience, acting becomes a necessary skill.

Consequently, Antigone's character effectively communicates profound moral conflicts, struggles, and deeply held beliefs.

The focus of this research is to delve into the theatrical communication aspects used by the character Antigone by exploring the Role of Communication in Sophocles' play "Antigone," Antigone's Communication Techniques in establishing emotional connections with the audience, and the Factors influencing Communication built by the character Antigone.

The objective of this research is to reveal and analyze various elements of theatrical communication employed in the role of Antigone in the script "Antigone." Consequently, we aim to better comprehend the complexity of this character, as well as how the use of theatrical communication can enhance understanding and appreciation of the presented story.

The benefits of this research include enriching our understanding of performing arts and theatrical communication, providing deeper insights into classical texts such as "Antigone." The outcomes of this research can also serve as a guide for directors, actors, and theater researchers in developing more impactful interpretations and executions of the character Antigone.

The potential of this research lies in opening doors for further studies in the field of theatrical communication, while also contributing to the enrichment of classical Greek literature. Moreover, the findings of this research can be applied in the context of modern performing arts, enabling the development of more effective and captivating theatrical communication methods and techniques. Thus, this research holds deep value and broad relevance in the world of performing arts.

## METHOD

In general, research in this context is a form of theatrical study that seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning behind theatrical performances (Pramayoza, 2023). Based on the data, this research employs a qualitative approach to delve into the theatrical communication aspects used by the character Antigone in Sophocles' play "Antigone." Qualitative research provides a deeper understanding of the ways individuals within a specific context, their works, or the outcomes of their actions, allowing for comprehension, estimation, and the identification of necessary steps (Precillia, 2023).

The design of this research is descriptive and exploratory, aiming to gain a profound understanding of communication within theatrical performances.The initial stage of the research involves the Selection of Performances, focusing on one or several productions of "Antigone," which may vary in the form of live theater performances or adaptations in different contexts.

Data Collection is conducted through the exploration and comprehension of the Antigone performances, documenting the communication used by the character Antigone. Interviews with relevant actors, directors, and audience members are conducted. In terms of data sources, the collection includes

both manual data and secondary data sources that support the research (Dedi Darmadi & Precillia, 2023).

The data analysis of the research includes an understanding of the communication techniques employed by the character Antigone, the emotional connections established with the audience, elements of effective communication, and factors influencing communication. The concluding stage involves synthesizing the findings from the data analysis to provide a deeper understanding, Especially in this context, it pertains to synthesizing the findings related to theatrical communication within the context of Sophocles' "Antigone".

The research variables in this case revolve around theatrical communication used by the character Antigone in Sophocles' play "Antigone." The research indicators include:

a) Techniques of communication employed by the character Antigone.

b) Emotional connections established with the audience.

c) Elements of effective communication.

d) Factors influencing communication.

Analysing the data will involve a qualitative approach, encompassing the following steps:

a) Transcribing interview and observation data.

b) Coding the data to identify patterns, themes, and emerging concepts.

c) Thematic analysis to identify relationships between research variables.

d) Compiling a research report based on the findings resulting from data analysis.

The research results will be concluded based on the data analysis. The conclusion will summarize findings related to communication techniques, emotional connections, elements of effective communication, and factors influencing communication. Additionally, the conclusion may identify implications of the research results and provide recommendations for further studies in this field

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION
## Theatrical Communication

Communication originates from the Latin word "communicare," which means to share, and it is the activity of conveying information through the exchange of thoughts, messages, or information using words, images, gestures, writing, or behavior. It is an exchange of information that has two or more meanings. Communication is the process of delivering a message in one direction from the communicator (message sender) to the communicatee (message receiver) using a specific medium, ultimately resulting in a certain effect (Rakhmat & Mulyana, 2014). In general, communication is a way to connect people or places. In business, communication is a crucial management function. An organization cannot operate without the exchange of information between management levels, departments, and employees. Communication is a systematic process in which people interact through symbols to create and interpret meaning (Ginting, 2015). Communication is the process of exchanging information, ideas, or

messages between individuals or entities. It involves the use of language, symbols, or other methods to transmit information from one party to another. Language itself is a crucial expression and signifier in theatrical performances, playing a significant role in intensifying meaning (Pramayoza & Yuliza, 2023).

Communication is a crucial aspect of human interaction and, in a broader context, also in social, business, political, and various other fields. The purposes of communication can vary, including providing information, influencing others' opinions or actions, building relationships, or simply sharing feelings and emotions.

Communication can take various forms, including oral, written, visual, and non-verbal communication. It can also involve different tools and media, such as face-to-face conversations, text messages, emails, letters, social media, television, and many others. As an essential skill in daily life, effective communication involves understanding messages, delivering messages clearly, listening well, and understanding the context of communication.

Theater is a performing art that involves actors in a performance in front of an audience. This statement aligns with the view that theater is a presentation made in front of many people. It is an art form that has existed for thousands of years and has a long history in human culture. In theater, actors use dialogue, movement, facial expressions, and the body to portray characters and advance the plot (Lubis Dhaifina Ghassani, 2018). Theatrical communication involves actors portraying characters and narrating a story to the audience. In theater, an actor must embody a specific character and behavior, bringing the role to life through dialogue, body movements, and facial expressions. Through these elements, actors communicate with the audience to convey messages, emotions, and the narrative contained within the performance. Theatrical communication requires a deep understanding of the character, the storyline, and effective ways to convey messages to the audience (Haikal et al., 2021; Salsabilla et al., 2023).

**The Role of Communication in Sophocles' Play Antigone**

The role of communication in Sophocles' Antigone Performance is crucial for understanding and appreciating the story conveyed by the theater. Theatrical communication plays a primary role in unfolding the plot, encompassing various aspects, as you have mentioned;

a) Delivery of Dialogue:

Dialogue is a crucial element in theatrical productions as the audience readily receives communicative information through it (Saaduddin & Novalinda, 2017). Delivery of dialogue is a key element in theatrical performances that allows actors to use words to communicate characters and stories to the audience. In Sophocles' Antigone, the dialogue between characters plays a crucial role in developing the plot and expressing emotional conflicts. Here is an example of dialogue from the Antigone performance, illustrating how the delivery of dialogue contributes to revealing characters and the storyline:

*Antigone: "I must bury my*

*brother, Polynices. It is my moral duty."*

*Creon: "My orders are clear, Antigone. There shall be no burial for the rebel.*

In the above example of dialogue, we observe how the characters Antigone and Creon communicate their feelings, beliefs, and conflicts through words. Antigone expresses her determination to bury her brother, while Creon asserts his strict orders. This dialogue helps the audience understand the conflict between personal morals and authority, which is one of the main themes in the performance. The delivery of dialogue like this aids in shaping characters, revealing motivations, and advancing the storyline. It also provides insight into the characters' emotions and struggles, enriching the theatrical experience and allowing the audience to feel more engaged in the narrative.

b) Physical Expression

Theater as one of the ways to express the art and culture of Indonesian society is not something new (Iswantara, 2020). Physical expression is a crucial element in theatrical performances that allows actors to use body movements and facial expressions to depict the emotions of the characters. In Sophocles' Antigone, physical expression helps the audience understand and feel the emotions experienced by the characters in complex situations. Here is an example of dialogue and corresponding physical expression from the Antigone performance when Creon is angry at Antigone:

*Creon (angry, shouting): "You have defied my orders! Your actions*

*are a betrayal to the state!*

Creon's physical expression may involve sharp hand gestures, standing upright, and possibly an angry facial expression, with furrowed brows and intense eye contact. All of these elements help the audience feel the intensity of anger and tension in the situation. When Antigone feels desperate and sad:

*Antigone (crying, with a trembling voice): "My brother, I cannot leave you without a final tribute.*

Antigone's physical expression includes flowing tears, trembling body, and a face conveying profound sadness. Physical expressions like these help the audience sense the desperation felt by the character. Physical expression in theatrical performances is a crucial way to communicate emotions and the personality of characters to the audience. It allows the audience to feel more connected to the characters and deepen their understanding of the situations and conflicts faced. In "Antigone," physical expression helps bring the characters to life and portray their emotions in a powerful and captivating manner.

c) Use Of Voice

The use of Antigone's voice in Sophocles' play "Antigone" is a crucial element in character development and plot advancement, such as:

a) Courage:

Antigone's voice reflects her courage. In her dialogue when speaking to Creon, Antigone speaks firmly and without fear. For instance, Antigone expresses her courage through words to demonstrate her determination to uphold family values

and her morals, even if it means disobeying the king's orders. Example dialogue:

*Antigone: "No, I will not betray him. I am more loyal to my brother than to the king*

b) Family Loyalty:

Antigone's voice is an expression of strong loyalty to family and unwavering conviction. Antigone believes that burying her brother is her moral duty, and she speaks earnestly about the importance of fulfilling this duty. This dialogue reflects a deep commitment to family values and beliefs.Dialogue showcasing Antigone's family loyalty:

*Antigone: "We are the same family. We share the same blood. And I will not let my brother go unburied.*

c) Conflict with Kreon: Conflict is the disagreement that occurs between what someone expects from oneself, from others, or from an organization, and what is actually expected (Muspawi, 2014). The vocal emphasis of Antigone is utilized to express the main conflict in this performance. The clash between Antigone and Creon is a central element of the story. Antigone's vocal emphasis reflects opposing moral and ethical views, contrasting with Creon's emphasis on authority and obedience to state laws. The dialogue between the two characters creates a powerful dramatic tension. An example of dialogue that illustrates the conflict with Creon:

Kreon: "I am the king, and my orders must be obeyed!" Antigone: "But divine law is higher than human law. I will follow what is right, not your commands."

d) Grief and Suffering: Antigone's voice also reflects the sorrow and suffering she experiences. Antigone feels lonely and isolated in her struggle to adhere to family values. Her dialogue becomes weaker and more emotional as she expresses feelings of sorrow and despair. Antigone's voice evokes empathy from the audience towards her suffering. Dialogues that reflect Antigone's sadness:

Antigone: "I feel humiliated and lonely, yet I know this is what is right."

Therefore, Antigone's voice is a crucial tool in bringing her character to life, expressing the values and main conflicts in the story, and creating emotional depth that impacts the audience. Through dialogue, the audience can understand Antigone's struggle to maintain her courage and loyalty, while also feeling the sadness and suffering she experiences in difficult situations.

e) Stage Design

Analysis of the stage design for the performance of Sophocles' play Antigone requires a profound understanding of the story, themes, and characters within the show. The following are some crucial elements in the stage design for the performance of Antigone:

- Stage Location: The stage, serving as the backdrop for space, time, and atmosphere, is one of the visual phenomena in the art of theater (Antono, 2009). Staged on an open arena to depict the open atmosphere outside the palace of Thebes.

and considerations to facilitate the incorporation of natural elements, such as trees and stones, in creating a more natural atmosphere.

- Set and Background: The background or setting, also referred to as the stage, refers to the understanding of the place, historical time relationships, and social environment where the events take place (Samad, 2018). The stage set reflects the Ancient Greek era, with elements such as statues and classical architecture. The background depicting the walls of the palace of Thebes can help indicate the location and situation within the story.

- Costumes: Costumes are textile products that contain various social meanings (Damayanti, 2014). Costumes must be in accordance with the Ancient Greek period, featuring garments such as the chiton and himation. The colors and designs of the costumes also reflect the characteristics of each character, with Antigone portrayed in simpler attire and Creon in more authoritative clothing.

- Lighting: The lighting used creates an atmosphere that aligns with the emotions in the story. During dramatic moments, such as the confrontation between Antigone and Creon, the lighting can focus on the characters who are speaking. The general principle of lighting is that excessive light does not necessarily make things better (Irianto.C. G, 2006).

- Props: Items such as a burial stake, crown, or spear can be used to reinforce crucial elements in the story. The selection of props that align with the Ancient Greek era adds credibility to the performance.

- Sound Design: The use of music and sound effects can enhance the atmosphere and emotions in the story. Classical Greek music or instruments such as the aulos (Greek flute) can be used to accompany the performance.

- Actor Placement: Considerations on how to position and move the actors to maximize interactions between characters and present scenes in the most effective way. Utilize the stage and performance space optimally to create depth and dimension in the show.

- Special Effects: In scenes containing special effects, such as earthquakes or the unveiling of a tomb, the use of captivating visual or mechanical effects captures the audience's attention.

**Communication Techniques in Sophocles' Antigone Performance**

a) Blocking (Placement and Physical Movement): Actors convey emotions through facial expressions, gestures, and blocking executed by their characters (Misnawati & Et.al, 2022). In the play "Antigone," Antigone is the main character who opposes the king's policy of burying her brother, considered a traitor. Blocking in the performance can be used to reflect her internal conflict. Antigone moves with courage and determination when confronting Creon, but also shows signs of doubt

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when contemplating her controversial actions.

b) Tone of Voice: Antigone's tone of voice reflects her strong and resolute nature. She can have an enthusiastic tone when expressing her convictions about burying her brother, but can also convey sadness and despair when realizing the consequences. Her voice also changes in interactions with other characters, such as Haemon or Ismene.

c) Facial Expression: Antigone's facial expressions are crucial in expressing the emotions and conflicts within her character. She may exhibit a determined expression when facing Creon but also show expressions of sadness and guilt when she feels responsible for her brother's death. Her facial expressions can shift from anger to sorrow in various scenes.

d) Costumes: Costumes serve not only to cover the body from the sun's rays but also, in a performance or certain situations, can be useful in accentuating that identity (Monita; Precillia & Julisa, 2022). Costume completeness is something that has become a tradition and habit for society. Antigone's costume reflects her social status and personality. As a princess from the royal family of Thebes, she wears attire that mirrors her high position, such as elegant dresses and a crown or jewelry. However, during the course of her conflict, Antigone wears simple clothing to depict her sacrifice.

e) Makeup: Antigone's makeup reflects the appropriate atmosphere for her character in various scenes. At the beginning of the script, brighter makeup is used to reflect palace life. However, as Antigone faces conflict and tragedy, simpler makeup is applied.

## Emotional connection with the audience is established in Sophocles' performance of Antigone.

In Sophocles' performance of Antigone, an emotional connection with the audience is created through the following elements:

a)

Symbolism: In "Antigone," symbolism is effectively used to depict complex moral and emotional conflicts. Symbolic meaning is a system of thought or understanding that emphasizes or follows patterns underlying symbols. (Wardani & Soebijantoro, 2017). Symbolism can represent the past and the present, making a deep understanding essential in incorporating symbols into a performance (Precilia, 2019). One of the main symbols is the olive tree, which refers to the Theban family tradition. This tree represents deep-rooted aspects of life and death, and thus, the audience feels the emotional depth contained in the struggles of the characters. Example of Reinforcing Dialogue: When Antigone confronts King Creon and explains her reasons for disobeying his orders by burying her brother; *"I will not let my brother lie unburied under the sun. I love him more than anything."*

The symbolism of the olive tree is present in these words, and the

audience feels the emotions of love, respect, and sacrifice from Antigone.

b) Movement and Physical Expression: In theater, body movements and facial expressions of the actors are crucial. In the performance of "Antigone," profound emotions are conveyed through strong movements and expressions. For example, when Antigone faces Creon for the first time, her determined facial expression and powerful body movements depict a resolute spirit, contributing to the audience's perception of the character's emotions. This can be seen when Antigone defends her actions to Creon; her firm facial expression and determined eyes help communicate her desire to uphold her moral values, even if it means defying the king's orders.

c) Profound Dialogue: The dialogue in Antigone is filled with emotionally stirring text. Characters express moral dilemmas, love, and feelings with powerful and poignant words. This dialogue allows the audience to feel the internal conflicts of these characters. Example of Reinforcing Dialogue: When Antigone speaks to Haemon, her lover, about loyalty to her brother, she says, "*I must fulfill my familial duty. My duty to my brother is far stronger than anything else.*" This dialogue is an example of communicating Antigone's feelings deeply to the audience.

Through the use of symbols, movements, dialogue, and strong expressions, the art of theater in the performance of Antigone can communicate deep emotions and feelings to the audience. The audience feels engaged in the moral and emotional conflicts of the characters, thus creating a strong emotional connection between the audience and the performance.

## Factors Influencing Communication in Sophocles' Antigone Performance

a) Visual Composition: On the other hand, few people understand that visual elements such as lines, shapes, texture, and color can also be part of a work of art, designed in a composition consisting of visual elements that carry specific philosophical meanings and values (Mubarat, 2021). Antigone as the main character is typically positioned at the center of the stage. This creates a visual focus on her character. For instance, in the scene where Antigone decides to secretly bury her brother, Polynices, her central position on the stage generates a strong visual tension. Focus on her body movements and facial expressions also expresses her internal conflict. Reinforcing dialogue: In that scene, Antigone might say, "*I know this is dangerous, but I have to do it. Polynices is my brother, and I cannot let him remain unburied.*"

b) Use of Symbols: Antigone symbolically represents the concept of rebellion against unjust authority. The symbol of the grave created for Polynices is a resistance symbol against Creon's decree prohibiting burial. This symbol communicates

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strong moral values and principles. Reinforcing Dialogue: When speaking about her intent, Antigone might say, *"This is an action that may bring danger, but I must adhere to higher family and moral values."*

c) Metaphor is a strategy of conveying a message by using implicit words or other expressions, comparing an abstract thing with a concrete one. (Ray, 2019). Antigone often employs metaphorical language to convey her thoughts and feelings. For instance, when talking about the burial of Polynices, she might use metaphors such as, "*Burial is a path to peace for his restless soul, like a tranquil graveyard in the midst of a storm*." Reinforcing Dialogue: In a conversation with Ismene, she might say, "*Like a flower growing amidst the stones, the burial of Polynices will be a symbol of immortality in the face of injustice*."

Emotional Connection with the Audience: Antigone is able to establish an emotional connection with the audience through her struggles filled with internal conflicts, love for her brother, and determination to adhere to moral values.

d) Personal. The audience feels sympathy and empathy towards her. Her emotionally charged and conflicted dialogues help the audience sense her internal conflicts. Reinforcing dialogue: In emotional moments during the trial, Antigone could say, "*I cannot avoid this fate. I am just trying to do what is right, as I believe my brother deserves*."

With a strong visual composition, the use of symbols, metaphors, and its ability to establish an emotional connection with the audience, the character of Antigone in Sophocles' play "Antigone" successfully communicates deep moral conflicts, struggles, and values.

In the overall analysis, the artistic movements in the performance of Antigone have a significant impact on communication between characters in the play, between the performance and the audience, and in society as a whole. Through body movements, music, and powerful dialogue, Antigone depicts the complexity of human relationships, communicates emotions, and stimulates reflection on moral and ethical values.

**CONCLUSION**

Understanding communication becomes crucial in theatrical performances, as theater is a form of performing art that involves interaction between actors and the audience. For instance:

Actors are required to deliver messages clearly to the audience. A good understanding of communication is necessary to help actors convey emotions, messages, and the storyline effectively. As message receivers, the audience must also be able to comprehend what the actors convey in the performance. To fully appreciate and understand a good performance, the audience also needs to have an understanding of communication.

Various forms of nonverbal and verbal communication are used by actors to express the emotions of their characters. Body language, facial expressions, and voice intonation are

key in conveying the necessary emotional nuances that actors must understand. Actors must be capable of building an emotional connection with the audience; success in eliciting empathy and maintaining the audience's interest depends on the actors' communication skills.

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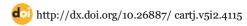Dedi Darmadi, & Precillia, M. (2023). PERTUNJUKAN SENI BENJANG ANAK SEBAGAI EDUKASI MEMBANGUN KARAKTER ANAK-ANAK DESA CIPOREAT. *JADECS Jurnal of Art, Design, Art Education & Culture Studies*, *8*(2), 116–126. https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.17977/um037v8i22023p222-232

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