
E ai ō hariraw, hei rere mai
You have the wings to fly here: Supporting communication skills and identity

Ko wai māua?



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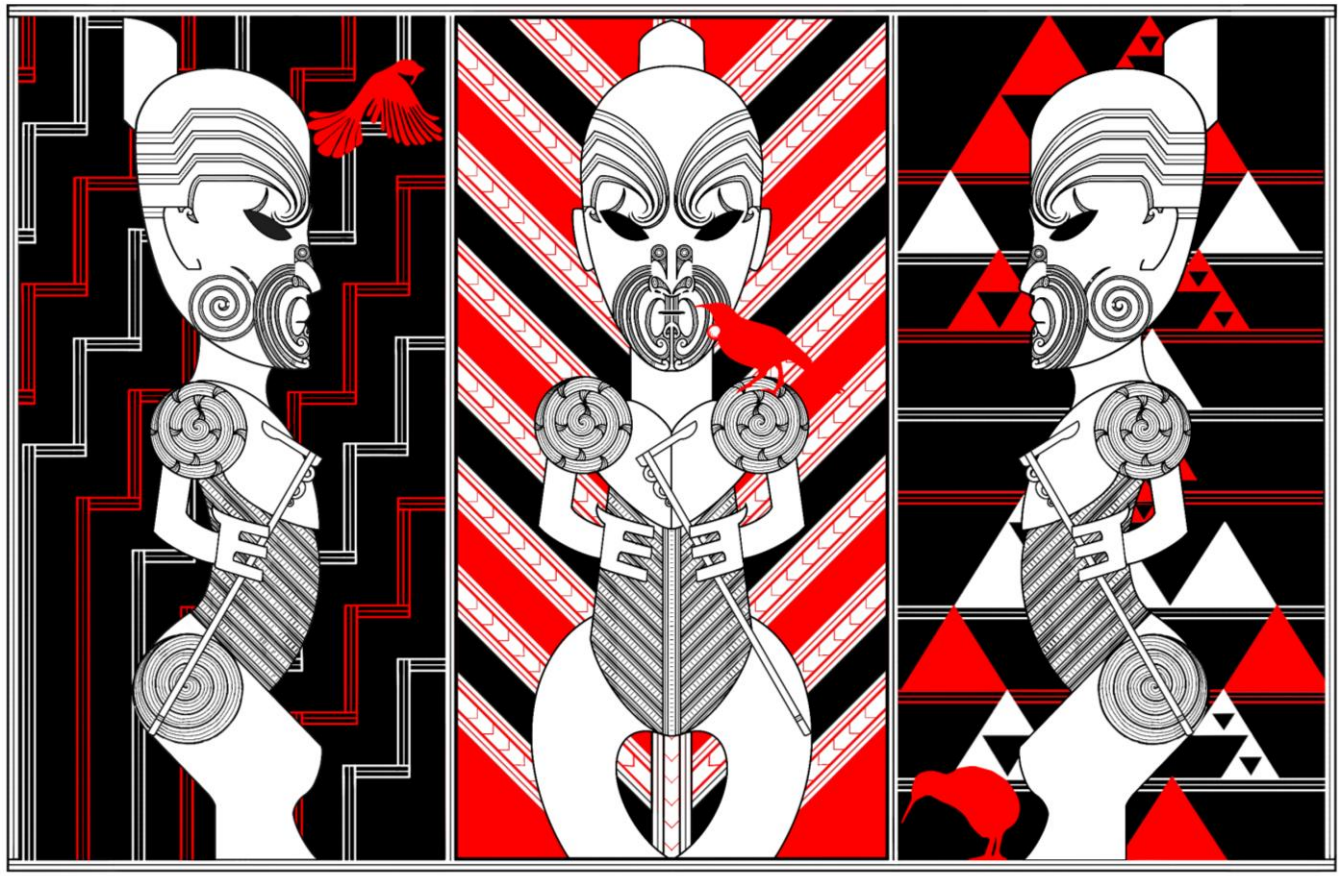


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Our Philosophy...



Māori Philosophy of Communication



Te Ao Wairua

The spiritual world (left)

Te Ao Tūroa

The physical world (middle)

Te Taiao

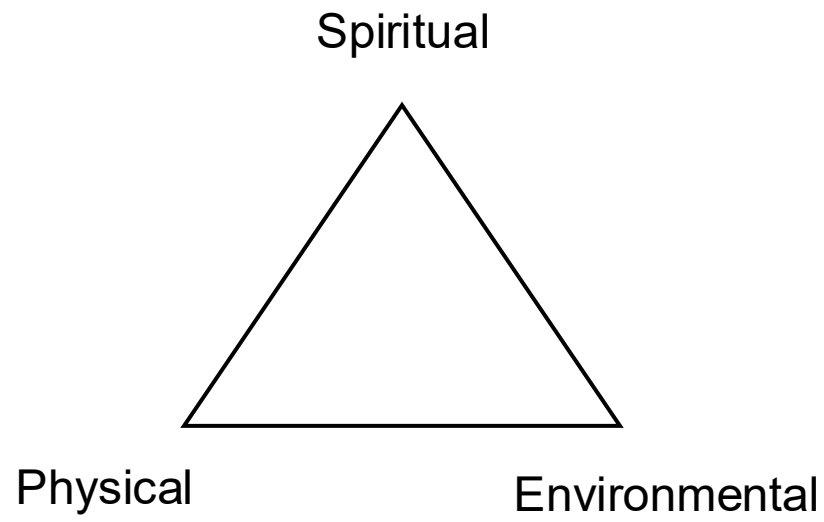
The natural world (right)

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Māori Communication

Ka kawea e te manamana-hau ka aroarohaki

Affected by a new exultation, the person began moving the hands in a quivering motion



Mead & Grove, 2001

Māori Communication

Mauri (life force)	• Like all animate things, messages had mauri (life force) • This mauri gave messages character • Certain message characteristics were valued e.g. pono (truth), modesty, consistency
Mana (spiritual power)	• Communication was guided by mana (spiritual power) • The greater a person's mana, the more authority to their words • Te reo Māori has its own mana
Wairua (spirituality)	• Communication occurred through spirits and atua (gods)

Eustace et al., in press

Māori Perspectives

Perspectives of Māori with mate wareware (dementia) and whānau

What is needed to support communication?

- Cultural connectedness
- Understanding how we connect with one another
- Pepeha



Māori Communication

What does this mean?

- Communication was not just about getting the message from the speaker to listener

- Communication plays a role in the quality of our relationships, in our connectedness within our world, and in our spiritual connectedness

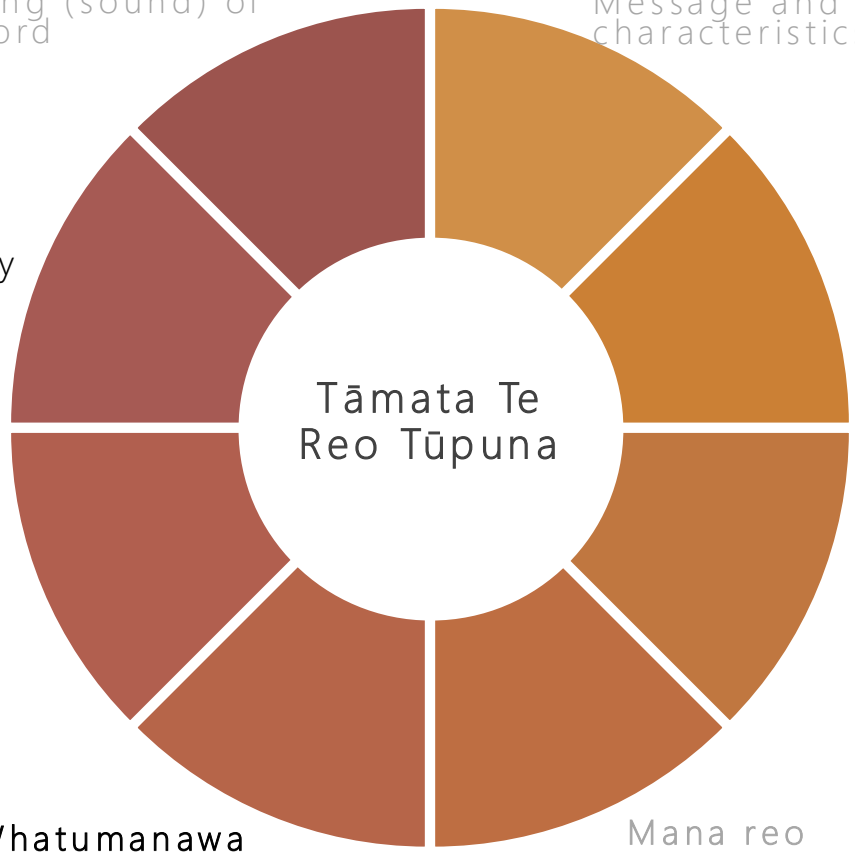


Ko tōku reo tōku ohooho, ko tōku reo tōku māpihi maurea.

My language is my awakening,
my language is the window to
my soul.



Communication is More Than Words



Te whē

Clothing (sound) of the word

Āhuatanga karere

Message and messenger characteristics

Reo ā-tinana

Language of the body

Whanaungatanga

Relationships

Tohu

Signs, instructions, and omens

Whakarongo

Listening and obeying

Whatumanawa

Open expression of emotion

Mana reo

The power of language

Eustace et al., in press

More Than Words

Tohu - Signs

Ka rere a Matariki, ka wera te hinu

When the Pleiades rise the fat is heated

Mead & Grove, 2001

More Than Words

Reo ā-tinana – Language of the body

Me he rau whārangi te kanohi

The face is like the leaf of the whārangi

Mead & Grove, 2001

More Than Words

Whatumanawa – Open expression of emotion

Ko roimata, ko hūpē anake ngā kai utu i ngā patu a aituā

Tears and mucous only are the avengers of the strokes of misfortunes

Mead & Grove, 2001

Māori Perspectives

Perspectives of Māori with mate wareware and whānau

- Emotional communication
- Body language
- Wairua





So, what does this look like in practice?

When engaging with people with dementia, consider:

- How do we perceive meaningful connection, and how do we align this with what meaningful connection looks like for that person?
- What are some ways we can connect with and engage with that person?
- How do we reinforce communication outside of talking?

References

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