The Fine Line between Rudeness and Honesty

BUSHRA ZAMAN

If someone were to give you honest feedback, would you consider them to be helpful or rude?

Sometimes status updates or memes have quotes in them referring to people, "saying things as they are" or "being blunt for the betterment of others" when in reality, they can be borderline rude.

The reason why rudeness and honesty cannot be correlated is because not only does it allow individuals to speak rudely using honesty as an excuse, but it can also make polite individuals seem deceptive. This especially proves to be a problem when you do not know the person well.

Allow me to elaborate.

Suppose you asked someone to participate in a survey regarding the effectiveness of a business idea you came up with. If the person pointed out valid flaws to you in a derogatory manner, you would likely correlate their brutal choice of words with the honest truth.

Demotivated, you would disregard your business idea completely. You may even think the person did you a favour by being "blunt." However, a much better option

would have been for the person to provide constructive criticism. That way, you would have received honest opinions without having to compromise your self-esteem, which is how it should be.

While conveying the truth politely is important, it does not, however, indicate that the truth should be sugarcoated under the guise of politeness.

If you were to falsely appreciate a doomed business idea, the to-be-entrepreneur would suffer greater losses in the

future undertaking the business venture than they would from being hurt by honest feedback. We must be honest, but not rude; polite, but not fake. In all this confusion, how can we differentiate between rudeness, sugarcoating, and honesty?

Maybe the best option would be to simply look at opinions or statements from a larger scale. In the example of the business idea, if you were to ask more than one person for their opinions, statistics could help bring out anomalies in opinions. So,

if a person was offering you false feedback, chances are their opinion would be ruled out as an anomaly. The same applies to the case of individuals sugarcoating the truth so as to not come off as rude.

It may be faster to find a way around the problem, rather than tackling the actual problem itself. However, the root cause should be identified, to eliminate the issue.

In this case, giving kids constructive criticism when teaching them, say, art, while keeping in mind that their spirits should never be crushed, could be a start to not only teach ourselves how to be honest without being rude, but to also teach future generations to do so.

Maybe give medals for encouragement, but also lightly ask if they believe they could have made improvements? Perhaps this is an example of how parenting books can be helpful for both kids and adults.

If you are dealing with thick-headed people, however, then maybe using a dictionary to point out differences may work just as well.

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The Sung and Unsung Heroes behind Music Production

SABIH SAFWAT

Dances have the dancers, choreographers, sound and lighting technicians among others. Films have actors, scriptwriters, directors, and about a million other technicians involved.

Music is no exception to this, we have artists in the limelight and artists behind the curtains, neither group being less important than the other.

COMPOSERS
These people build a musical piece from scratch. They come up with main melodies, supporting tunes called harmonies, the foundation of the song and chord progressions.

Composers may or may not write music for specific instruments. Names we are all too familiar with include Beethoven, Mozart, and Bach, who were, first and foremost, composers.

In recent times though, musicians who receive recognition working purely as a composer are usually movie and video game score composers like Hans Zimmer, John Williams and Nobuo Uematsu.

LYRICISTS
The ones behind the stories told by the songs are the lyricists.

While bands across most genres tend to use lyrics written by their own members, some use lyricists outside their groups, like how Rumman Ahmed writes for Artcell.

Professional lyricists are prevalent in the Asian pop music scene, while the western pop industry sees songwriters ranging from Joni Mitchell to Taylor Swift, who, in addition to writing the lyrics, also

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compose the tunes for the songs.

ARRANGERS
If composition is the meat in the stew, arrangement is the spices.

Arrangers decide which instruments are suitable for which melodies and harmonies the composers have written. They also add or change elements to the composition so that the song flows well and delivers the intended effects to the listeners.

Orchestras and the pop music industry both rely heavily on professional arrangers.

PERFORMERS
Of course, writing isn't the end of it, the music needs to be performed to reach the audience.

Vocalists and instrumentalists are the faces of the music scene, artists that people are familiar with. Majority of the performers dabble in other creative roles, but many build themselves solely on performing.

Members of orchestras, session musicians in the recording industry, and most pop idols rely on their companies for the music to sing and dance to.

SOUND ENGINEERS
The common practice in modern producing music is to record each instrument's parts in a song separately in the studio and later mix them into one track.

Recording engineers, with their in-depth knowledge of acoustics, make sure the sounds are captured as best as possible with the available equipment. Mastering engineers ensure the finished track sounds good on all platforms the music may be distributed in including streaming sites, CDs, and vinyl.

Mixing engineers are indisputably the most important of the lot. They take the separately recorded tracks, process them digitally to sound the way the artist wishes, and produce complete songs. Mixing is a vast field owing to the sheer number of possible techniques to manipulate sounds, and no matter how good the composers and performers are, a song can't reach its full potential without a good mixing engineer.

Sabih Safwat spends most of his time with headphones on, wandering through familiar and unfamiliar soundscapes. Send songs to listen at sabihsafwat@gmail.com