

## A Third Space

In “Cultural Diversity and Cultural Differences”, Bhabha (2006) writes about linguistic difference in different cultural settings. The pact of interpretation is never simply an act of communication or exchange between the I and the You. The production of meaning requires that these two subjects or positions appear in a third space,

[third space] that include both the general conditions of language and the specific implication of the utterance in a performative and institutional strategy of which it cannot ‘in itself’ be conscious. What this unconscious relation introduces is an ambivalence in the act of interpretation.

(Bhabha 2006, 2)

The intervention of the third space, which makes the structure of meaning and reference an ambivalent process, [...] challenges our sense of the historical identity of culture as a homogenizing, unifying force, authenticated by the originary Past, kept alive in the national tradition of the People.

(Bhabha 2006, 3)

Bhabha sees the possibility of envisaging national, anti-nationalist, histories of the “people”. It is in this space that we will find the words that will enable us to speak of both Ourselves and Others. By exploring this hybridity, this third space, we may elude the politics of polarity and emerge as the others of our selves (ibid).

Bhabha, Homi. K. 2006. “Cultural Diversity and Cultural Differences.” In *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader*, edited by Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin, 155-157. New York: Routledge.