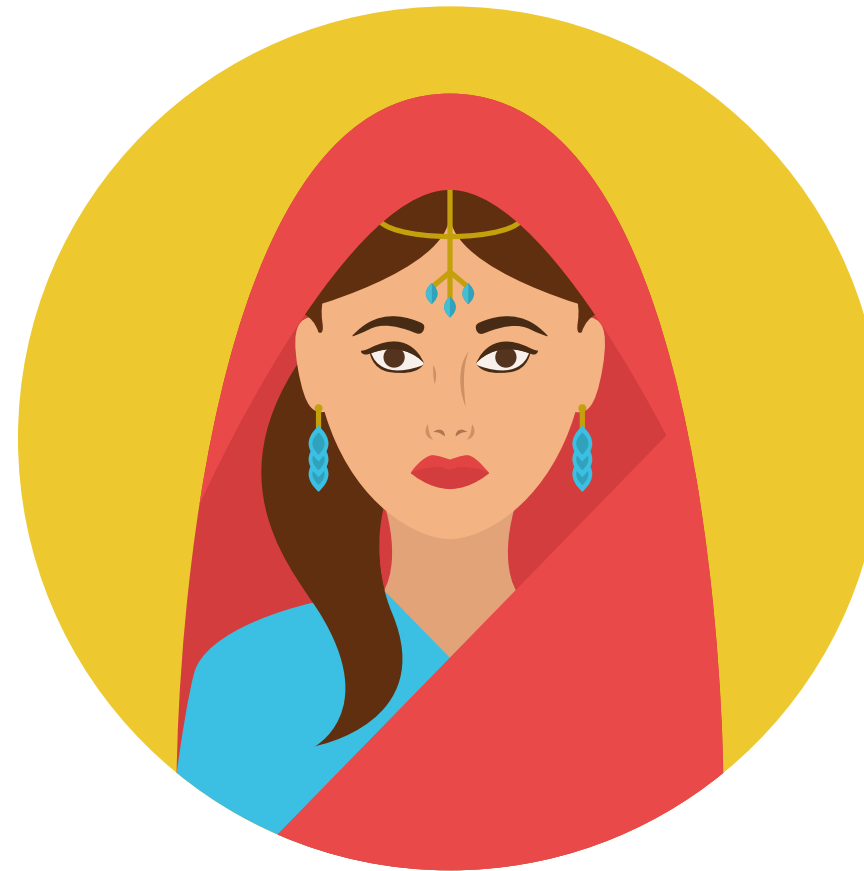


Monochronic and Polychronic Time

“Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do.”

- Jean-Paul Sartre -



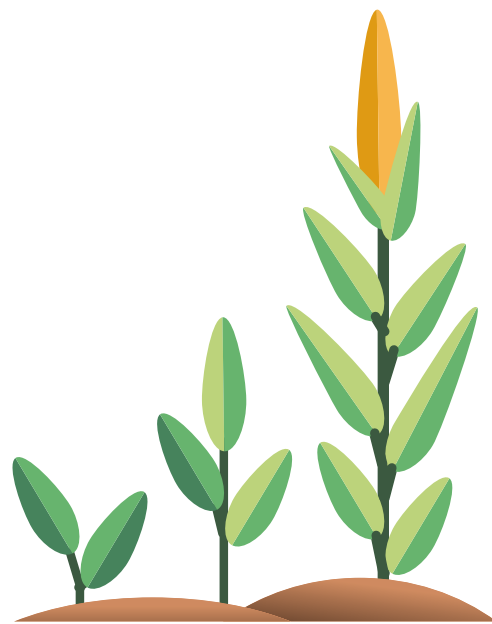
Monochronic and Polychronic Time

"Chronemics is the study of human tempo as it related to human communication. More specifically, chronemics involves the study of both subjective and objective human tempos as they influence and are interdependent with human behavior."

- Thomas J. Bruneau -

Polychronic Time:

Cyclical time, based on a repetition of natural cycles and patterns.



Monochronic Time:

Linear time, based on "man made", clock-based, time measurement criteria.



Monochronic and Polychronic Time

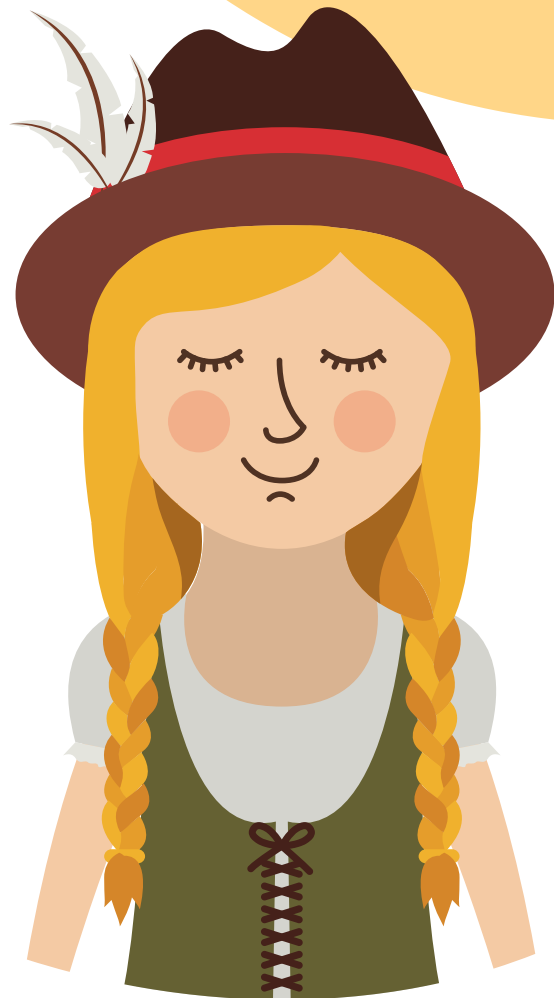


The major monochronic (linear-active) cultures of the world are based in Scandinavian countries, in English- and German speaking countries.



The major polychronic (multi-active) cultures of the world can be found in Latin America, in the Middle East, in Africa, in Southern Europe, in Asia.

"To waste time". "Time is money".
Monochronic cultures see time as something linear (from A to B, one event follows the other), tangible, universal, and inflexible. It's a precious commodity that can be "wasted", "lost", "killed". It is associated with efficiency and preciseness



Members of a monochronic culture believe that there is a place and a time for everything. They value orderliness and appropriateness and don't appreciate being interrupted

Focus is on doing one thing at the time, on keeping to plans and respecting previous commitments. Careful planning is assumed, it is important to establish "when" things must be achieved. Schedules are more important than people or tasks. Punctuality relates to reputation

Polychronic cultures see time as something cyclical, a repetition of natural cycles and patterns. Punctuality is not a primary concern, people tend to live for the moment and to do many things at once



Members of a polychronic culture manage interruptions well, without distress and without worrying about deadlines. Their main concern are personal relationships

Life is unpredictable and distractions are part of it: scheduling is not fundamental, previous commitments will be respected if possible. Things people are doing are valued over the time-frame in which they are happening, plans can be altered to fit a situation as it changes

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