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Communicating emotions in a foreign language: the ultimate linguistic challenge

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Abstract: Early on in the foreign language learning process students might think that once they'll master enough of the phonology, the morphology, the lexicon and the syntax of the target language, it will be plain sailing. It might come as a shock when they realise that to communicate how they feel, and to understand how their interlocutors feel, they need advanced pragmalinguistic and sociopragmatic skills.