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THE USE OF BODY LANGUAGE IN CUSTOMS ACTIVITIES

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Every year detecting various types of crimes is becoming more and more challenging. Despite a huge number of technical means and methods of concealing objects of the violation, the human being is the main subject of the offense. Therefore, much attention should be paid to the person, his behavior, and body language. In this respect Customs Service is in the front line working around the clock at major border crossings, airports, to manage the day-to-day operations to prevent Customs-related crimes.

Body language is one of the main ways of conveying information a without using words. The human body is capable of expressing emotions, intentions, attitudes, and the tone of a conversation.

Researchers have conducted studies and obtained the following results: about 56% of messages are perceived through facial expressions, postures, and gestures, while 38% are perceived through the intonation of the voice. Only 7% of the information is perceived trough the words we speak. So not only our speech, but also our body language passes the important information that we want to convey to our interlocutor.

Body language comprises facial expressions, gestures, the position and posture of a person, and eye contact.

Facial expressions are an important component of emotional communication between people. For customs officers it means the ability to identify suspicious behavior and possible violations of the law based on a passenger's facial expression. For example, uncontrolled eye movements, sweating, or avoiding eye contact may indicate the presence of prohibited items or an intention to conceal something in a person's baggage.

Customs officers should pay attention to such gestures as frequent touching of certain parts of the body, for example, the face, neck, or crossed or clenched hands, as well as intense or nervous movements and other similar gestures that may indicate forgery or an attempt to deceive.

The position and posture of a person can indicate confidence, trust, or, on the contrary, nervousness and uncertainty. Customs officers should pay attention to passengers who, for example, are standing in an unnatural position, dressed in disproportionate clothing, which can serve as a concealment place for prohibited items.

Eyes can help in detecting a person's true intentions. Therefore, customs officials should pay attention to passengers' suspicious looks and their reactions to specific questions in order to determine whether they have hidden intentions or information they do not want to disclose.

Body language is of great importance in the work of customs authorities. People often do not realize how often they use body language to convey information when communicating at work, at home, at school, and at university. Customs officers can pick up hints, signals, and indicators that will help them detect prohibited items, identify attempts of deception, and prevent illegal activities. Proficiency in body language will allow customs officers to more effectively perform their duties effectively and efficiently.

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