The Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (DMIS) is a theoretical framework used for describing how individuals experience difference and develop intercultural competence. DMIS suggests that as one’s experience of cultural differences and commonalities becomes more sophisticated, one’s potential competence in intercultural interactions increases.

The model consists of five orientations: Denial, Defense, Minimisation, Acceptance, and Adaptation. Each orientation indicates a particular worldview structure with certain attitudes and behaviours vis-à-vis cultural differences associated with each configuration.

Changes in worldview structures generates new issues to be resolved in intercultural encounters and the resolution of these issues activates the emergence of the next orientation. Are you willing to develop your intercultural competence and, by doing so, examine the ways you are responding to and engaging with cultural differences?

**Ethnocentrism**

The experience of one’s own culture as ‘central to reality’. Beliefs and behaviours that people receive in their primary socialisation are unquestioned.

**Ethnorelativism**

The experience of one’s own beliefs and behaviours as just one organisation of reality among many viable possibilities.

**DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE THROUGH DMIS**

*Source: Milton J. Bennett, ‘Towards Ethnorelativism’*

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**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**Boketto**

(Japanese noun) Boketto stands for ‘gazing vacantly into the distance without really thinking about anything specific’.

It’s nice that the Japanese think so highly of thinking about nothing much at all that they actually gave it a name.

With the overcrowded and hurried lives we often lead, it can refresh the mind to go wandering, with no destination in particular.