



Figure 2.3 An integrated model of interpersonal communication

Features of the integrated or shared-meaning model of communication approach

- The communicators are negotiating meaning and their relationship.
- Whenever we communicate with another person, we also communicate something about how we think and feel about that other person. We can choose what these messages are and whether they are positive or negative.
- Both or all parties are affected by communication. By simply being in a communication situation with someone else, we are changed and they are changed.
- The focus is on what is happening between people, i.e. the relationship.
- The process is dynamic and ever-changing as we, the relationship and situation change and develop. So the model above is only a 'snapshot' in time.
- We are only person 'A' in relation to person 'B'. How we appear to one person can be quite different to how we appear to another.
- We cannot explain a relationship by referring to only one of the people involved. Two people are in the interpersonal communication together and so both share the communication.
- This approach avoids blaming. For example, 'He just wasn't listening' may be true, but if shared meaning hasn't developed then communication hasn't happened. We need to consider why it hasn't (see Chapter 3) and try another way of communicating that develops shared meaning, which is the desired result of all communication.