**Alien to the Acute**

**Alleviation or Botheration**

Every family has a set of rules whether verbal or unspoken that the family tarries by. Some of those rules involve the degree a family should have contact with one another or level of intimacy. Galvin, Braithwaite, and Bylund (2016) mention that "sometimes expectations of reciprocity promote unrealistic expectations of emotional fusion that are alien to the acute experience of self and partner as related entities” (p. 133). I found this quote particularly interesting because it made me reflect on certain mannerisms each culture has that is passed down and become a boundary to individuals when it comes to greetings, departures, or level of comfort. Individuals all have a different set of expectations that they await from their partners, parents, siblings, and friends that they presume to be met.

**Friend or Foe**

A person's level of intimacy progresses as individuals continue to develop. For example, in my culture, it is acceptable to greet with hugging and kissing gestures. Other cultural groups may see these displays of affections as too intimate or inappropriate among family members or friends. I agree with the quote in the sense that our relational interactions do create expectations on how the people around us, especially potential interests (or partners) should act, do, or say around us. Therefore, it is imperative that families create realistic forms of affectionate expressions that would make miscommunication amongst pairs less present by encouraging emotional displays.

**Hospitality**

As a future Child Life Specialist, it is necessary that I look for cues within the family that lets me know the child's degree of comfort. Every child has a stigma of hospitals and people who work there. Therefore, I have to find harmonious ways to interact with the child without crossing boundaries and still maintain professionalism to reach communication rapport. Not every child reacts the same to expressions such as smiles, plays, or physical contact that is not their relatives. As a result, I must adapt to the child's comfort and become a resource they as well as their family can rely on.

**Reference**

Galvin, K. M., Braithwaite, D. O., &Bylund, C. L. (2016). Family communication: Cohesion

and change. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.