

Pokerfaces betrayed by telltale bodily cues

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DONALD Trump oozed “gorilla-like” behaviour while Kim Jong-un was “nervous and lost” at their historic summit.

The images of the pair meeting, from their debut handshake, to their official media address and the more casual moments provided a lot of insight into the dynamics of what’s famously been a playfor-power relationship.

Body language expert Dr Louise Mahler said Mr Trump looked like the “guest of honour”, revealing the President exuded controlling and “gorilla like” behaviour.

“Donald Trump initiated everything,” she said. “He was controlling the whole thing.

“He showed several signs that he was the one guiding it, gesturing where to go, initiating turns by touching him. It was like he was the guest of honour.”

However, she said Mr Trump was quite personable and intimate, which made Mr Kim relax slightly and crack a smile every now and then. “It was as though Trump was the host,” she said. “He was using language and body language that showed he was making every effort to connect.”

The North Korean dictator didn’t live up to his boisterous behaviour over the past year and Dr Mahler said Mr Kim looked like a “scared teenager”.

“He’s a puppet,” she said. “Nothing he does is sincere. He looks as if he is put up to do specific things and look a certain way and isn’t a real person.

“Kim reminded me of a stand-in who is filling in at a rehearsal before the real player arrives. He is disconnected and seems to not be making any decisions on where to go, when to turn, who to look at.”

Dr Mahler said Mr Trump established power as he stared right at Mr Kim when they walked towards each other, with the North Korean leader feeling threatened and looking down. “Kim was looking down which is extremely unprofessional in western culture,” she said. “He could have been doing it because he wasn’t committed to it, or he was nervous, or it could have been a cultural thing.”

Dr Mahler said the meeting table setting was neutral, but it was the only time Mr Kim showed slight dominance, especially when he shook Trump’s hand. “Kim’s hand is on top during the handshake,” she said. He also had his hands planted on the table which signalled that he meant business.

