

Intro.

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Characteristics of Anthro.

- holistic: looking at every aspect of a subject (social, political, economic); looking @ changes over time;
- comparative: studying diff. groups and recognizing the similarities & differences between them.
- cultural relativism: acknowledging other values of diff. groups/cultures; withholding judgement; trying to understand values/beliefs of others.
- methodology: conducting fieldwork (long term)
- human variation: biocultural - looks at how paleoanth. primatology and human variation connect
- anthropological linguistics → study of human communication, focuses on relationship between language and culture
 - descriptive → describing & documenting language
 - historical → tracing the history & evolution of language
 - sociolinguistics/ethnological ling. → looking @ the effects of society and culture on language & vice-versa
- cultural anth: the study of society using ethnographic methods.
 - ethnography → description of a society or culture
 - ethnology → looking for patterns; comparing different ethnographies.
- applied anth: application of an anthropological approach in solving real world problems.
 - medical anth.
 - environmental anth.

Culture

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weekend:

sleep

going out

relaxing

staying up

fun

- culture → a learned system of beliefs, norms, values, ideas, attitudes, knowledge, customs & behaviors shared among members of a group.

- a worldview (cultural goggles)
- how to behave & interpret the behaviors of others.

- culture is:

→ shared

→ learned (enculturation)

→ knowledge & patterns of behaviors (norms & values)

→ symbolic

→ adaptive

→ dynamic (keeps changing)

- enculturation

→ the process by which we learn culture (behaviors AND beliefs)

→ socialization vs. enculturation

↳ learning ~~the~~ correct behavior ↳ learning reasons behind behavior

→ we learn our culture explicitly (being told what is expected of you).

→ we learn our culture implicitly (learning by observing)

→ enculturation is a continuing process

Norms & values

- norms: social behavior that is considered normal & expected; help us know how to behave in specific social occasions.

- values: shared ~~beliefs~~ ideas of what is right, good, beautiful, and true
- ideal vs. real culture: people don't always follow all ~~cultural~~ aspects of their culture.
 - ex) lying, cheating

Cultural constructions:

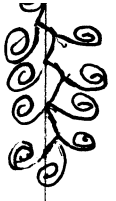
- a "natural fact" with actual cultural origins (created)
- anthropologists deconstruct these assumptions.
 - ex) what makes a "good" marriage?
- importance of cultural relativism

Cultural universals:

- incest taboo
- use of metaphors
- dream interpretation
- patriarchy
- system of time organization
- sexual double entendres
- proverbs and sayings
- creation stories
- toys for children

Subcultures & Countercultures:

- subcultures: groups within a single society that have their own unique cultures
- dominant culture: usually the majority; control cultural institutions (education, law, politics)
- counterculture: groups that develop cultures in opposition to dominant culture
 - ex) hippies



Studying culture:

- emic: the insider's perspective (the native's point of view); the meaning of a cultural belief, custom, etc.
- etic: the outsider's point of view (an analyst's perspective); the sense/function of a cultural belief, custom, etc.

Methods

Doing fieldwork:

- ethnographic research → research that aims to describe a group's culture; involves fieldwork
- fieldwork → in the field, extended period of time, embedded in the local daily life
- ethnographer → someone conducting ethnographic research
- why?
 - establishes rapport and trust
 - more holistic understanding
 - time to refine research plan
 - better able to verify info.

The fieldwork process:

- research proposal
- apply for funding
- go to the field
- period of adjustment (culture shock)
- collect data (who, what, where, how)
- analyze data (why)
- research product

Ethics:

- consideration of the impacts of research activity and research results
- ethical responsibilities to:

- research subjects
- the discipline
- public
- students

Quantitative & Qualitative methods:

methodology vs. methods

→ approach to collecting data; → a tool for collecting data

- Quantitative: quantifiable data (#'s) (objective properties)
 - collecting data → survey data
 - analysis → statistics
- Qualitative → deals w/ the qualities of things (subjective properties)
 - collecting data → in depth interviews
 - analysis → text analysis

Sampling:

- sample → selection of research participants that is meant to be representative of the population
- Ideal: random sample
- snowball sampling - talking to one group + gaining access to others
- key informants - initial people that researchers talk to 1st; introduce researchers to the rest of the population

Collecting data:

- participant observation
- interviews (formal & informal)
- life histories: getting historical context of the cultural group
- genealogical charts
- mapping
- photography + video
- archival research
- surveys
- culture domain analysis (used in cognitive anth.)

- Cultural anth. use more qualitative research methods

Participant observation:

- taking part in community life as you study it (both observing and participating)
 - living at research site
 - speaking the language
 - participating in daily routines (eating meals w/ participants) & special events (attending a ritual)
 - using everyday conversation as an informal interview technique
 - informally observing during leisure activities (hanging out)
- Field notes → the record of the data (the ethnographer's observations, conversations, interpretations, and suggestions for future info. to be gathered).

Analyzing Data:

- Drawing conclusions about what the data tells us about the group studied.
- Searching for patterns & themes
- Explaining why the patterns are there
- Examples →
 - text analysis
 - statistical analysis
 - spatial analysis

MS1

History & Theory (1)

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Theory:

- a supposition or set of ideas that is used to explain something
- anthropological theory = explain human behavior & cultural diversity
- theory guides research
- multiple theories for same phenomenon
- Theories can be synthesized, built upon, changed, and rejected or disproven.

Beginnings of Anthropology:

- colonialism, explorers, traders, missionaries
- discovering wide diversity; interest in explaining it.
- early focus was discovery, description, & classification
- armchair anthropologists: created theories on human diversity; did not engage in fieldwork

Social Evolution:

- all societies & their cultures progress from simple to more complex states in a unilinear fashion (primitive to complex)
- Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)
 - organic analogy - compared human societies to biological organism
 - social darwinism - "survivor of the fittest"; western powers dominant
- Lewis Henry Morgan (1818-1881)
 - "savagery" → "barbarism" → "civilization"

Historical Particularism:

- Franz Boas (1858-1942) = "father of American Anthropology"
- historical particularism = culture is the product of the specific history of that society; emphasizes direct observation & objective description.

→ participant observation

→ cultural relativism

Functionalism:

→ Bronislaw Malinowski (1884-1942)

• Trobriand Islands fieldwork

→ Functionalism = cultural traits have social & biological forms that contribute to the smooth operation of the whole society

→ Cultures adapt to meet society's basic needs (biological & social)

→ cultures are logical & rational

History and Theory (2)

- ethnography = localized, specific research

- ethnology = looking for patterns from diff. cultures

Structuralism -

→ Claude Lévi-Straus

→ structuralism = search for unifying patterns of thought (structures); culture is understood as variances on these universal patterns.

→ The forms may be different but the overall structures are the same cross-culturally

→ "The Savage Mind" - The savage structures of thought & meaning are just as complex as the thought & meaning in civilized societies.

Cultural Materialism:

→ Marvin Harris (1927-2001)

→ Relationships between culture, environment, & economic production

→ cultural materialism = human social life is a

response to the practical problems of earthly existence";

Culture is a response to economic necessity

→ Material forms of culture → abstract non-material forms of culture

→ Example of cows in Hindu culture

→ "what people do influences what they believe"

Conflict Theory

→ Karl Marx (1818-1883)

→ conflict theory = focuses on conflict, social problems, and distribution of power in explaining culture (anti-functionalist)

→ Struggle for power drives cultural change

→ Hegemony - a group/institution/ideology imposed on another group

→ Institutionalized culture

→ use of coercion for social control = promoting a specific ideology

Postmodernism:

→ Michel Foucault (1926-1984)

→ Questions ways of knowing

→ Postmodernism = all knowledge is culturally constructed

→ Multiple knowledges = there is no right answer

→ "power/knowledge" = looks @ relationship between power & knowledge; how do they influence one another?

→ Role of anthropologists?

→ is ethnography useless?

Language and Communication (1)

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Language:

→ animal calls vs. human language

- conventionality = symbols are arbitrary and specific to speech communities
- productivity = able to create new words or meanings w/ only a few sounds
- displacement = able to talk about past + future or another place
- people are biologically predisposed to learn language; learning language, however, is a social process.

Phonology:

→ phonology = the study of sound systems of language

→ phonemes = smallest units of sound (basic building blocks, alphabet)

• no meaning in itself

• /r/ and /b/ in "rat" and "bat"

Morphology:

→ morphology = study of word structure

→ morphemes = smallest units of meaning; composed of phonemes

→ free morphemes = individual words

→ bound morphemes = parts of words that carry meaning but cannot stand alone

→ isolating languages = free morphemes per word

→ agglutinating languages = great number of morphemes per word.

Appendix

Syntax:

- syntax = rules that structure combinations of words into meaningful speech
- ~~the~~ sentence structure
- derives meanings from the sequences of words.

Semantics:

- semantics = study of the meaning of words
- Fxn of language is to express meaning
- lexicon = total words in a language (vocabulary)
- Focal vocab = lexicon specific to a subgroup w/ unique interests or experiences.

Langculture:

- langculture = Agar's concept of understanding the interconnectivity of language (structure + lexicon) and culture (context) in studying communication
- speaking (using language) and communicating (conveying meaning).

Nonverbal Communication:

- artifacts = material objects that communicate meanings (clothing, tattoos, etc).
- haptics = use of touch to communicate meaning
- chronemics = meaning of time in communicating (being late)
- proxemics = use of social space to convey meaning
- kinesics = body position, movement, facial expressions, gaze.

Language and communication (2)

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Linguistic Anthropology:

→ examines connections between language + culture

- how language reflects culture
- how culture is reflected in language

→ Examples:

- how does gender affect speaking styles?
- how does position of power affect who speaks when?
- how does dialect affect how we are perceived?

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis:

→ Edward Sapir and his student Benjamin Whorf:

→ Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis = the language we use shapes the way we think

→ Linguistic Relativity = concept that people perceive objects, events, and relationships in time and space based on the grammatical forms provided by their language

→ culture-language is ~~bidirectional~~ bidirectional relationship is bidirectional.

- both culture and language are constantly conditioning each other.

High & Low Context Culture:

→ Edward T. Hall

→ high/low context: amount of info implied vs. stated directly

→ high context culture = info is implicit; meaning is found in the context (situation, relationship of speakers)

→ low context culture = info is explicit; meaning is spelled out in speech

Language Variation:

- dialects = a variety of a language spoken by a particular group
- Dialect vs. Language → Dialect vs. Accent
 - mutual intelligibility
 - no written form
 - speakers don't have state
 - lacks ~~per~~ prestige
- code switch = move between varieties of speech (languages or dialects).

Language Change:

grammatical
rule
change;
new
words

- internal & external forces of change → immigration; trade
- languages reflect history of speakers
- loanwords = words borrowed from one language into another
- Pidgin = simple contact/trade language composed of features from other languages
 - no native speakers; limited to specific use (ex) trade)
- Creole = originally a pidgin language but developed into complex language w/ native speakers
- Lingua Franca = language used in a particular area by speakers of many different languages in order to communicate w/ each other
 - pidgins, creoles, independent languages

Language & Power:

- all speech is a dialect
- standardized speech = "proper" speech decided on by dominant culture
- African American English Vernacular (Ebonics)
- Linguistic Profiling = judging a speaker based on speech characteristics or dialect (used to identify a speaker's race or religion or social class) • Fair Housing PSA



On 5 Subsistence Strategies

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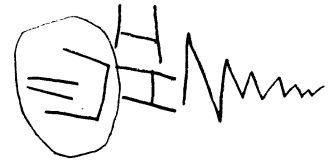
- methods of obtaining food
- shaped by:
 - natural resources
 - labour (# of people available to work)
 - technology
- carrying capacity - largest pop. that can be sustained by resources
- culture shaped by subsistence strategy & vice versa

Foraging (Hunter-Gatherers):

- foraging = relying on naturally available food
- environment = inhospitable (can't plant, can't maintain herds)
- population = nomadic, small kinship-based groups, low population density
- social/cultural = no property or land ownership, extensive environmental knowledge, leisure time
- misconception = foragers are starving, living on the edge

Pastoralism:

- pastoralism = depends on products of domesticated animals (herds)
- environment = arid grasslands (grazing, grass for animals)
- population = small, kinship-based groups, low population density
 - nomadic = everyone moves w/ herds as herds migrate
 - transhumance = maintaining permanent sett. but herds migrate
- social/cultural = resource management, herds are wealth, rules of ownership, identity and animals



Cultivation:

Horticulture

- small-scale
- hand held tools
- less human labor
- swidden (slash and burn) agr.
- variety of crops
- supplies household / family
- family farmed

Agriculture

- large-scale
- draft animals, plows, irrigation
- more human labor
- intensive agriculture
- focus on one or few crops
- supplies family but most is traded or sold
- sometimes use hired labor

→ characteristics

- environment = arable land
- population = sedentary, larger societies, higher population density, no longer kinship-based groups
- social/cultural = ownership of property and land, division of labor, surplus, market economy, material culture

Industrialism:

→ industrialization = focus of production on goods + services other than food; mechanized production

- small % of food producers supply entire population

→ environment = any environment

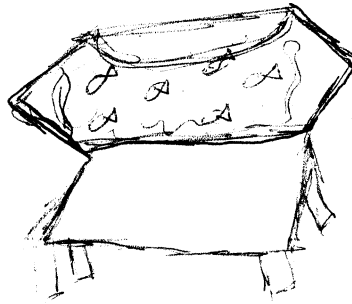
- problem of exceeding carrying capacity

→ population = very large populations, very high population density, sedentary (not nomadic), large urban centers.

→ social/cultural = occupational specialization, organic solidarity, wage labor, market economy, increased consumption, inequality

Economics

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→ economic systems are cultural in terms of production, consumption and distribution

- maximize benefits, minimizing cost
- not always about money

① • allocating land & resources

- who owns land/resources & who can use them

② • producing goods

- types of goods, technology used, surplus usage

③ • labor organization

- division of labor (who does what), specialization of labor

④ • distribution & exchange

- reciprocity: giving & taking items of equal value (generalized, balanced, negative)

- redistribution: goods are collected & redistributed in a new pattern

- market economy: values of goods & services are determined by impersonal forces (supply & demand); capitalism → (ownership by few, most people offer labor, owners profit more than laborers)

aspects
of
the
economic
system



Politics

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→ ~~Political~~ Inequality:

- 3 types of culturally valued resources

• wealth = economic resources

• power = ability to exercise one's will over others and make decisions that affect others

• prestige = social respect, how others see you; high social status

Social Differentiation

- social differentiation = relative access people have to culturally valued resources (wealth, power, prestige)
- Three Ideal Types of Social Differentiation
 - egalitarian societies = equal access to valued resources; no surplus (bc surplus = power)
 - ranked societies = every lineage or kin group is ranked in a social hierarchy
 - ~~str~~ stratified societies = differentiated access to valued resources

Social Control

- political ideology = cultural values & beliefs that justifies & legitimizes the distribution & use of power
- authority = SOCIALLY accepted power
- mechanisms for social control = informal & formal (laws) (informal = shunning a person from a society)
- Dealing w/ deviance = retributive vs. restorative justice
 - retributive = violating laws; deal w/ people who break laws
 - restorative = violating relationships; deal w/ people who want to ^{keep social} balance
- Rebellion = relocate power & resources w/in existing political structure
- Revolution = overthrow & replace existing political structure

Types of Political Organization

- Bands = foragers; generalized & balanced ~~recip~~ reciprocity; egalitarian; high context culture
- Tribes = horticulturalists & pastoralists; balanced reciprocity; generally egalitarian; high context culture
- Chiefdoms = horticulturalists & pastoralists; redistribution, ranked; high context culture

→ States = agriculturalists & industrialists; ^{market} economy; stratified; low context culture

→ Bands

- small, loosely organized, made up of extended families
- prestige; not power or wealth
- no formal, centralized ~~power~~ political leadership or institutions
- social order maintained informally

→ Tribes

- no formal leader; usually councils or informal leaders.
- Organized into fairly independent tribal segments (large kin group)
- Tribal solidarity gained through:
 - common ancestor
 - common enemies
 - age set: cohort through life
 - age grade: series of age-related roles & statuses
 - pan-tribal associations (military ^{ex} societies)
 - common culture
- informal & formal sanctions

→ Chiefdoms

- collection of communities organized under a paramount chief
- Chief = centralized authority
 - authority usually depends on voluntary loyalty of group
 - political, economic, and sometimes religious roles
- ranked society (kinship & ~~unlike~~ lineage)