

Question Number 1:

Define anthropology. How is it different from other social sciences?

Answer:

INTRODUCTION

Anthropology is referred to as the most scientific humanity and the most humanistic science. This is because of the depth the subject holds in comparison with other social sciences. Anthropology is the study of humans from all perspectives. The way human live, interact, communicate, maintain relations, all are a part of the subject. There are some overlapping elements in anthropology with other social sciences, primarily because anthropology touches upon all element that are at the core of other social sciences. Different fields among anthropology shed light on other social sciences such economics, linguistics, psychology etc. However there are some remarkable differences between anthropology and the rest mainly due to type of research and, angle of analysis and viewing perspectives.

ANTHROPOLOGY AS A DISCIPLINE

Key Features of Anthropology

Holistic Nature

In depth analysis

Extensive Fieldwork

Drawing connections and
forming a causal
relationship

Focus on intangibles

Holistic Nature of Anthropology

Anthropology covers different dimensions of every element under consideration. If the component under discussion is culture, there will be a complete

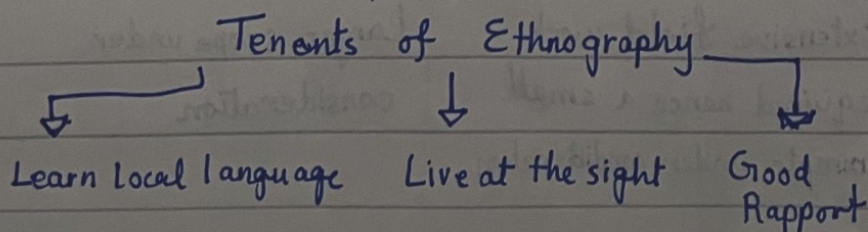
study as to what influences it how it is formed, how it evolves, what are its determinants and much more. Anthropology also does not limit itself to the current time, it ensures cooperation of historical and futuristic perspective.

In depth analysis

Analysis is a key feature of anthropology. 'Thick description' form of analysis is used, this ensures that observations are not just noted down but also analysed by a group of anthropologists. Analysis is done in field as it aids to the authenticity of the process.

Ethnography: Extensive Field Work

Anthropology as a subject has extensive focus on field work. It was initially introduced by Franz Boas in response to arm chair theorists. Anthropologists are required to live in the cultures they are researching upon. They must also learn the local language and establish a good rapport with the public.



Drawing connections and focusing on intangibles

Anthropology does not only focus on the visible and tangible aspects of things. When focusing on religion, the subjects under consideration aren't just the totems, symbols and rituals, but a strong emphasis on the intangible, such as the belief in the supernatural, thought that registers it. A fundamental anthropological practice is drawing connections between things and focusing on elements that are the core reason for anything.

DIFFERENCES FROM OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES

Sociology

Anthropology
Focus of qualitative analysis

Mode: Interviews

Extensive field work required hence a small sample under consideration

Sociology

Focus on quantitative analysis

Mode: Questionnaires

Larger scope under consideration

a) Sociology zooms out sample size as compared to anthropology

Sociology requires less extensive field work and analysis as compared to anthropology, hence sociologists can afford to take large chunks of population under research, whereas anthropologists stick to a particular culture in a particular area.

b) Difference in qualitative and quantitative aspects

Both sociology and anthropology carry out quantitative and qualitative research but sociology focus more on quantitative research and statistical analysis.

Anthropology focused more on qualitative research and interpretive analysis.

c) Questionnaires vis a vis Interviews

Due to the statistical nature of sociology, the tool of data collection is often questionnaires, whereas anthropology requires semi structured interview allowing natural flow of information.

Psychology

Psychology and anthropology have convergences on the interrelation of cultural surroundings and psychology. In psychology however the focus is on impacts of surroundings on the mind, while in anthropology, the opposite dimension is also explored.

Lens to view the same correlation are different in both subjects.

Economics

Differences from anthropology



Not just profit maximization



Not always rational choice

The subject of economics assumes some underlying principles.

The branch of cultural anthropology that deals with economics elaborates on the evolution of economic system but at the same time does not imply a linear progression of all societies. Rational choice theory is not applicable in some areas where cultural norms have the upper hand and gift giving is normalized.

Linguistics

The linguistic branch of social sciences focuses on syntax and phonemes. Anthropology has a branch on that also but it also looks at the originating aspect of languages, the formation of different dialects. Anthropology is interested in the deeper meaning behind linguistics.

Mass Communication

The field of mass communication treats human like a commodity on which the theories must be practiced. It gives a consumer outlook to humanity. Anthropology on the other studies human complexities.

CONCLUSION

Like other fields, anthropology has overlaps with other social sciences, but the core idea behind anthropology differentiates it from the rest. The in depth study of humans makes anthropologies process and beliefs stand out. The anthropological focus on extensive research coupled with a humanistic world view is not present elsewhere.

Question 2

Culture develops in response to basic needs of human beings. Explain.

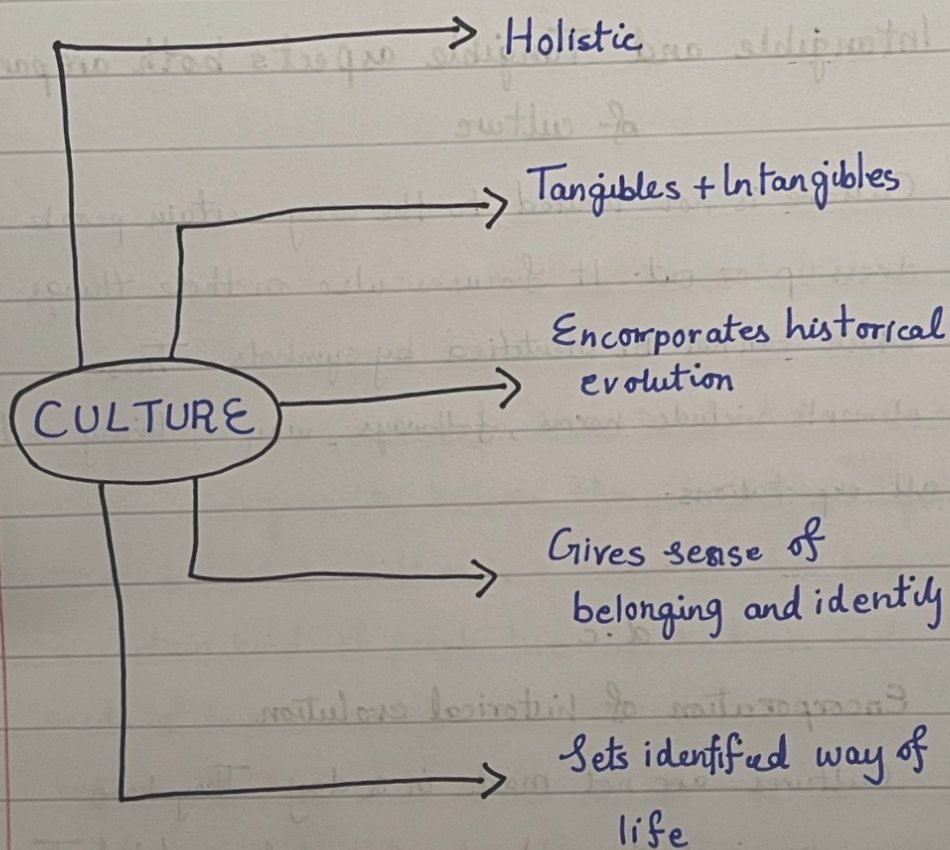
Answer:

1 INTRODUCTION

Culture is an all inclusive phenomenon. It is what people in a specific area living, live like. Way of talking, believing, carrying themselves, social relations, interactions, modes of earning and many other things fall under the umbrella of culture.

Culture is made through out history due to human actions, growth and evolution. There are some natural determinants of culture as well but mostly humans have shaped their specific culture over the course of years. Hence, culture is a direct manifestation of human needs.

2 DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF CULTURE



2.a

Culture is holistic; encorporates all elements of life

Culture is a complete whole of the way of life. People connected to a certain culture know what to wear, what foods to eat and practices to carry out. Culture also become source of natural guidance

in non domesticated activities, such as employment and politics.

2.b

Intangible and Tangible aspects both are part of culture

Culture is not limited to the way certain people dress up or eat. It focuses also on those things which cannot be identified by symbols. These elements include norms, folkways, way of living and all expectations.

2.c

Encorporation of historical evolution

Cultures are not made in a day. They have evolutionized from the beginning of mankind. They arent codified like laws in the constitution of country and hence have adapted with time

2.c

Give a sense of identity and belonging

Culture has the power to give a sense of belonging and identity to the people that belong from it.

It becomes a form of a undemarcated circle where

by people are like in most practices and thoughts

3

CULTURE: A RESPONSE TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

3.a

Culture's biggest determinant is evolution and adaptability

As said by Malinowski, culture is not static. Culture continues to grow like human thought. Unlike religion which is fixated, culture is a means to show how a certain kind of people live. As the times and needs of human beings have changed, so have cultures. Indian state of Kerala has been famous for its net-cafe culture is every small market, this itself is a result of need based evolution.

3.b

Marker of identity and sense of belonging is an intrinsic human need.

Human are not meant to be alone. A sense of belonging and identity is brought by culture. Relatability is an intrinsic need and culture fulfills that. People

belong to a group with shared values, beliefs and practices.

3.c

Culture is moulded according to beliefs of that community

Adhering to religion is an other human need. Most cultures, even today are driven by values and religion of that specific community. Islamic culture gives immense value to pardah and segregation, hence the Pakhtun culture solidifies those ideals by making them a norm. Through culture, the preferred way of life is made common.

3.d

Culture sets up the economic and residential patterns suited to certain locality

Cultural economic activity revolves around the need of the people there. In an upchore study of Pakistan we see agriculture being the cultural practice of most people. It is because of the natural response of people living there and aiming for livelihood.

3.e

Specific cultures have specific residential patterns as a product of human needs

Residential patterns are not uniform across the world, each culture has its own ways of consolidating families. Matrilineal and patrilineal prevalence is set according to human needs in that area. US culture has evolved to bilateral descent and inheritance because both members are earning and have assets.

4

CONCLUSION

It can overall be seen that culture is a product of human needs. What ever human desires and practices, becomes a part of the culture. It is important to understand the fluid nature of culture, which lets it take evolving shape. Culture is a collective term for mentioning human practices and way of living, since inception.