

Q: Discuss how the fields of anthropology i.e. socio-cultural, physical, linguistic and archaeology are related to one another.

Explicating the fields of Anthropology

Anthropology is defined as the scientific study of humans, human behavior and societies of the past and present. It is a holistic discipline and its four fields provide full-spectrum of human societies and behavior. All the four fields of anthropology are related to one another which helps researchers to understand the deep insights of human existence, human kind and human societies.

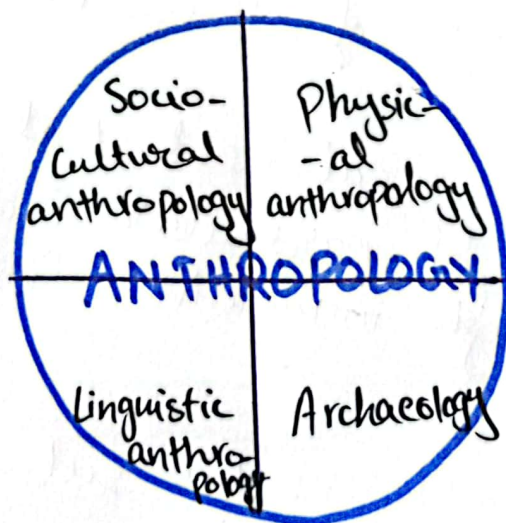


Figure : Fields of Anthropology

1- Understanding Socio-Cultural Anthropology and its Relation With Other Fields

Socio-cultural anthropology is defined as:

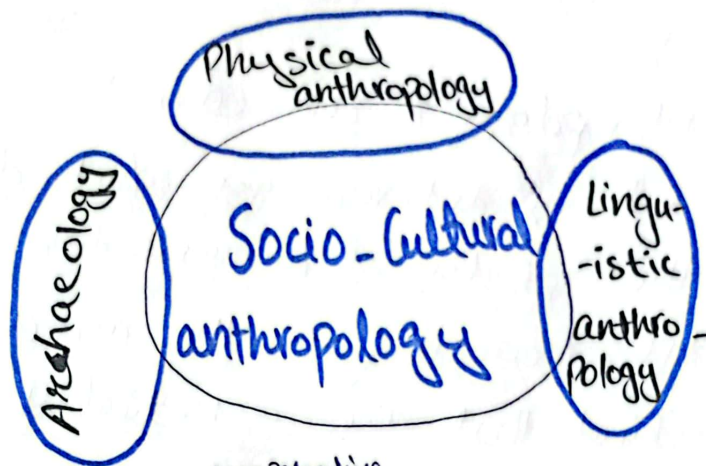
“The branch of anthropology which deals with the study of cultural variations, social constructions, cultural practices, norms, values and beliefs that shape perception of individuals about their society” is called socio-cultural anthropology.

This branch is related to all three fields of anthropology. Following are the subfields of socio-cultural anthropology.

- i- **Ethnology**: This sub-field deals with the comparative study of different cultures.
- ii- **Ethnography**: This sub-field deals with the detailed study of particular culture or community through immersive field-work.
- iii- **Economic Anthropology**: This sub-field deals with the study of different economic practices structured within different cultures.

iv. Political Anthropology: This sub-field deals with the study of political organizations in different cultures.

Relation of Socio-Cultural Anthropology with Other Fields



Ruth Benedict's ^{comparative} work on different cultures of Zuni, Dobu and Kwakiutl is a pivotal work in ethnology which shows overlap of this field with other three fields. This work helps to understand how cultural practices affect physical health, thereby highlighting relation between socio-cultural and physical anthropology. Moreover, ~~researchers~~ ^{archaeologists} use ethnographic data to interpret artifacts and material culture in the context of contemporary cultural practices which shows overlap between socio-cultural and ~~phy~~ archaeology. Similarly, anthropologists understand by this work of Benedict that how languages

reflect cultural practices, showing relation between socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology.

2. Physical Anthropology and its relation with Archaeology and Cultural Anthropology

Physical anthropology is defined as:

“The branch of anthropology which deals with the study of humans from biological perspective, focussing on the aspects of human kind that are genetically inherited.”

Following are the subfields of physical anthropology.

- i- Primatology: This sub-field deals with the study of non-human primates.
- ii- Osteology: This sub-field deals with the study of bones.
- iii- Human Variation: This sub-field deals with the study of genetic and phenotypic differences among contemporary human population.

iv. **Forensic Anthropology**: This sub-field deals with the study of human remains for criminal investigation.

v. **Paleo-anthropology**: This sub-field deals with the study of human evolution using fossil record.

→ Relation of Biological Anthropology with other fields

a. Relation with socio-cultural anthropology

Franz Boas' seminal work "Changes in the Bodily Form of Descendants of Immigrants" challenges the notion of fixed racial stereotypes by emphasizing on how environmental and cultural practices affect physical traits.

This highlights relation of biological anthropology with socio-cultural anthropology.

b. Relation with archaeology

Stanley J. Olsen's classical work in physical anthropology named as "Osteology for the Archaeologist" which give details about human and animal bones shows relation of this field with archaeology.

3. Linguistic Anthropology and its Relation with Socio-cultural Anthropology

linguistic anthropology is defined as:

“The branch of anthropology which deals with the study of role of language in human social life.”

Following are the sub-fields of linguistic anthropology.

- i- Ethnolinguistics: This subfield deals with the study of relation between language and culture. Edward Sapir's work “Language and culture” is example of this field.
- ii- Socio-linguistics: This subfield deals with the study of social dimension of language use.
- iii- Historical linguistics: This subfield deals with the study of historical developments of different languages over time.

Relation of Linguistic Anthropology with Socio-cultural anthropology

- a- William Labov's book “Stratification of English in New York City: This work elaborates the

correlation between language variables (pronunciation) and social factors (socio-economic conditions). This shows relation of linguistic anthropology with socio-cultural anthropology.

b- Antoine Meillet's work on Indo-European languages: This work on languages explore cultural evolution, highlighting relation of linguistic anthropology with socio-cultural anthropology.

4. Archaeology and its relation with other fields

This branch of anthropology is defined as:

“study of past human societies using material remains.”

Following are the subfields of archaeology.

- i- Pre-historic archaeology: This subfield deals with study of past human societies, focussing on the period before invention of writing.
- ii- Historic archaeology: This sub-field deals

with the study of past human societies, focussing on the period from the advent of writing to recent past.

- iii- Classical archaeology: This sub-field deals with the study of ancient Mediterranean, focussing on ancient Rome and Greece.

Relation of Archaeology with other fields of Anthropology

- a- Relation with Socio-cultural anthropology: Kristian Kristiansen's work explores ^{socio-}cultural evolution from paleolithic period to iron age in European continent using fossil record.
- b- Relation with physical anthropology: Martin Hall's work "Archaeology and Modern World: Colonial Transcripts of South Africa and Chesapeake" explores the colonial encounters in these colonies using fossil record and also found traces of their physical traits.
- c- Relation with linguistic anthropology: Sybille Haynes studied Etruscan civilization which flourished in Italy before rise of Rome using fossil record. He studied language and culture using fossil records.

Conclusion

Anthropology is a unique discipline because all the fields of anthropology are related to one another and study humans, human behavior and culture from holistic angle.

These fields also play a key role in solving contemporary problems of societies and world because all fields merge with other three fields as well for understanding problems in a detailed manner.