

Q: What are techniques, method and methodology of anthropology. Explain the tools of data collection of anthropological research.

Explicating Techniques, Method and Methodology

Techniques, method and methodology are the fundamental pillars of anthropological research.

Techniques refer to essential procedures used within a specific method for collecting, analyzing, manipulating and integrating data. Method refers to systematic strategies and approaches used for conducting research. Methodology refers to actual science behind all research.

Expounding Techniques of Anthropological Research

Techniques refer to essential procedures used for collection, ^{analysis,} manipulation and integration of different types of data within a specific method for gaining deep

insights into human societies and cultures. According to Bronislaw Malinowski: "An ethnographer's magic lies in his ability to use techniques like participant observation for getting an emic perspective about human behavior and culture."

Techniques Used in Anthropological Research

Following techniques are widely used in anthropological research.

1- Interview

Interview is a technique used for collecting and analyzing data through face-to-face interaction between interviewer and respondent. There are three phases of interview i.e. rapport building, probing and recording the response.

Types of Interview

i- Individual Interview

An interview involving face-to-face interaction between the interviewer and only one respondent is called individual interview.

ii. Group Interview

An interview in which a group of individuals is interviewed for ascertaining their opinions and views is called group interview.

iii. Structured Interview

An interview based on pre-determined, standardized and close-ended questions is called structured interview.

iv. Semi-Structured Interview

An interview which combines the predetermined set of open questions (questions that prompt discussion) with an opportunity for interviewer to explore new topics and responses further is called semi-structured interview.

v. Unstructured Interview

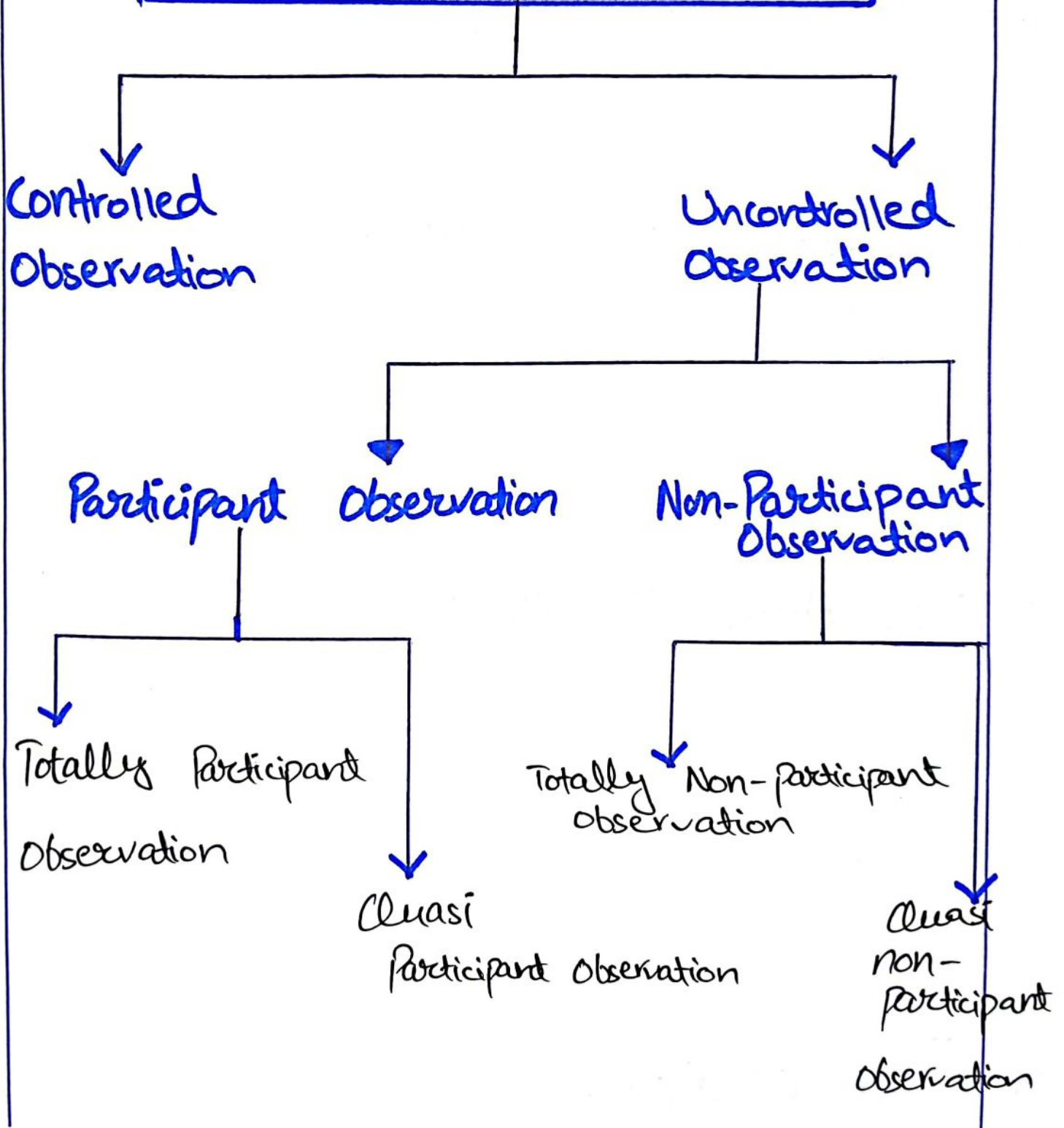
An interview in which interviewer does not have a set of pre-determined questions and asks open-ended questions is called unstructured interview. This interview is based on spontaneous questions of interviewer which he asks on the basis of interviewee's responses.

2. Observation

Observation is another techniques of anthropological research which refers to careful watching and noting of a social unit or social

phenomenon through use of senses or instruments.
There are different types of observation.

Types of Observation



Methods of Anthropological Research

Method refers to systematic strategies and approaches used for conducting research and implementing techniques in a structured manner.

Types of Methods

There are two types of methods i.e. qualitative method and quantitative method.

1- Qualitative Method

These methods are also known as field methods used for collecting non-statistical data through immersive field work.

Examples: Case study, historical method, genealogical method, ethnography.

Margaret Mead's Case Study in Samoa

Margaret Mead conducted case study in Samoa for studying the relationship between adolescence and culture during his research.

2. Quantitative Method

Quantitative methods are also known as systematic strategies used for statistical methods which refer to statistical analysis of numerical data for understanding the complexities of culture and society.

Examples: census, survey are essential quantitative methods.

Census Used by Oscar Lewis

Oscar Lewis used census for studying the poverty and social issues in Mexico city (The Children of Sanchez, 1961).

Methodology of Anthropological Research

Methodology refers to over-arching theoretical frameworks which guide the selection of methods and techniques while conducting research.

Examples:

Structuralism of Claude Lévi-Strauss;

Functionalism of Bronislaw Malinowski;

Cultural Relativism of Franz Boas

are essential methodologies of anthropological research.

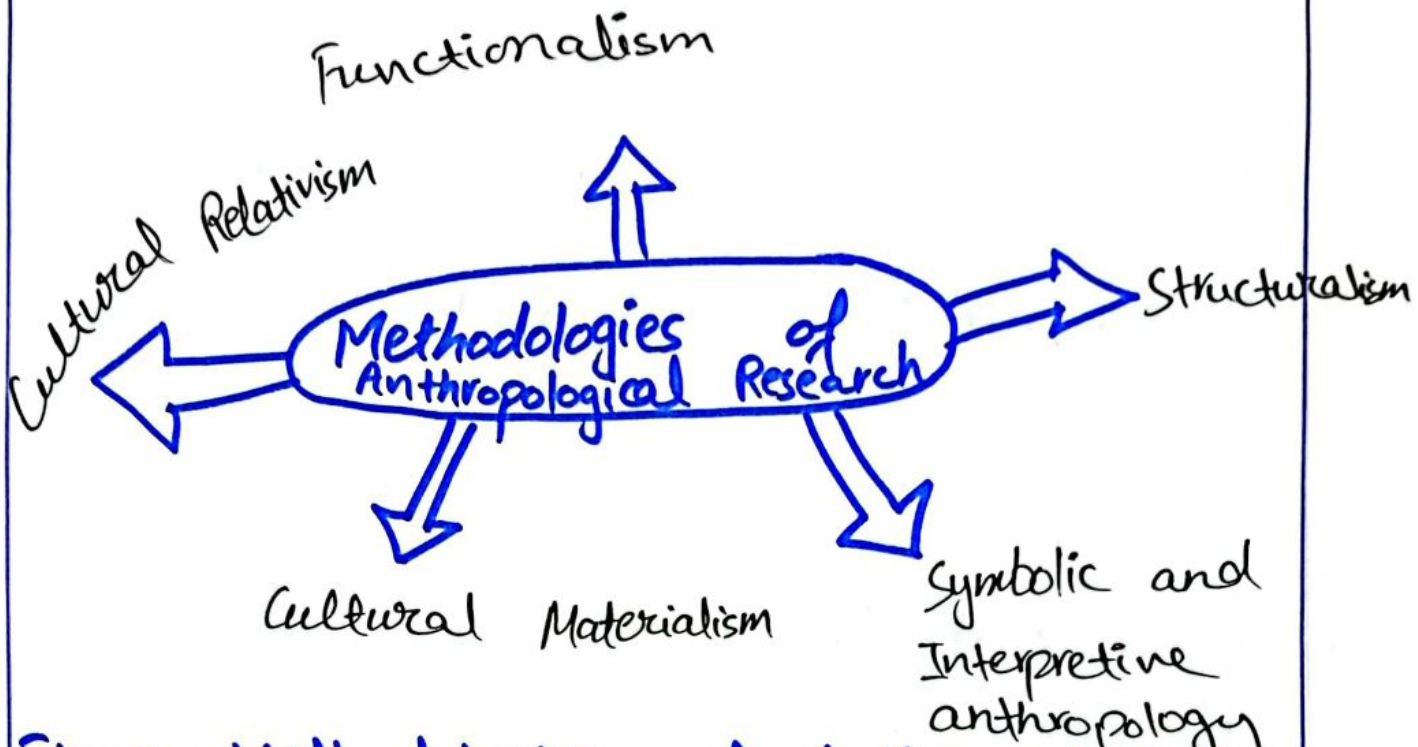


Figure: Methodologies of Anthropological Research

Tools Of Data Collection

Tools of Data collection in anthropological research are defined as instruments of research which are used to collect, record and store data during the research. These are actually the devices which are required for using a specific technique within a specific method. For instance, an anthropological researcher uses interview for collecting and analysing data as a technique. For interview, he uses

schedule, questionnaire, audio video recorders etc as tools of data collection.

Tools of Data Collection Used in Anthropological Research

Following tools of data collection are used.

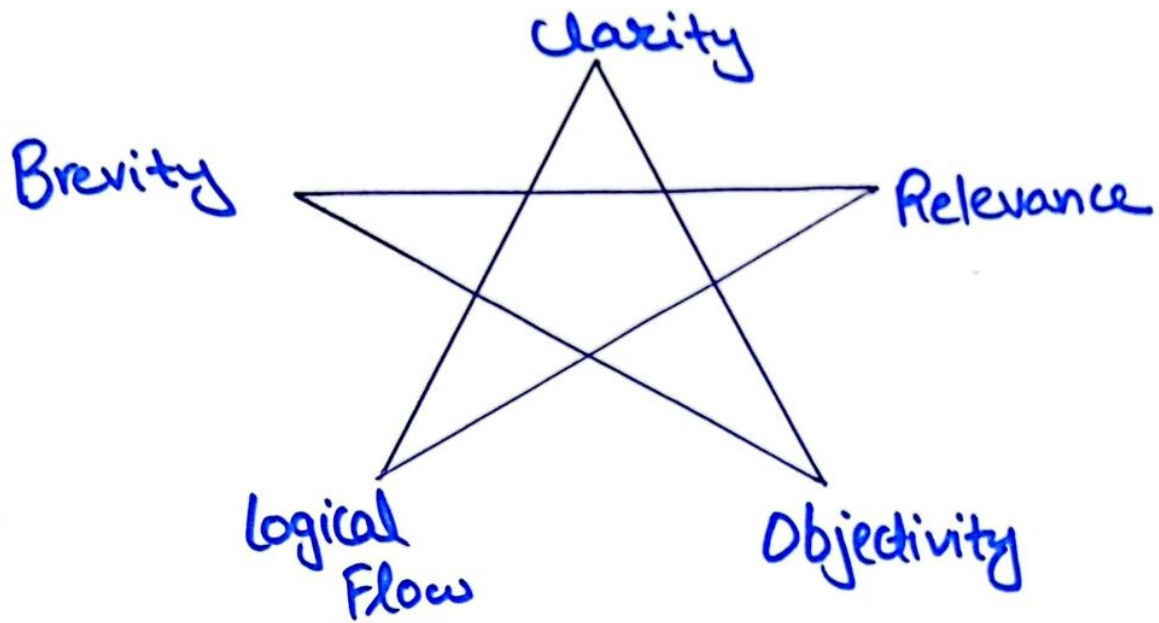
1. Questionnaire

Questionnaire is an efficient tool of data collection. It is an instrument of survey. It is defined as:

“An organized set of questions distributed among a number of respondents for collecting data on a specific topic.”

Three types of questions are included in a questionnaire i.e. open-ended, close-ended and contingency questions. There are different types of questionnaires like structured questionnaire, unstructured, mixed and pictorial questionnaire.

Characteristics of Good Questionnaire



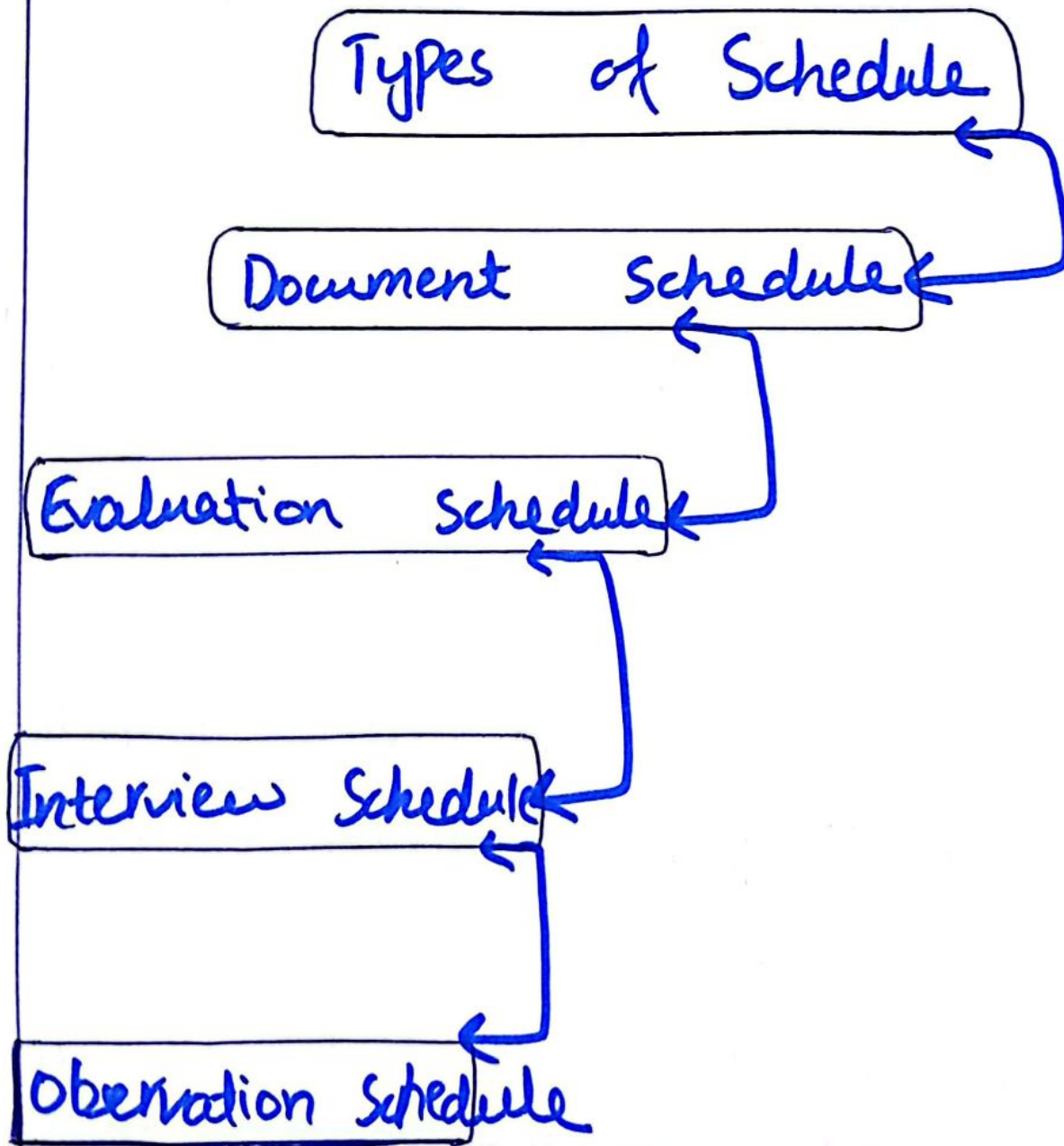
2. Schedule

Schedule is another tool of data collection. Schedule refers to "structured set of questions or topics that guide a researcher during interviews, observation and techniques.

It is a flexible, structured guide which helps researcher in collecting comprehensive data." There are different types of schedule :-

- i- Document schedule : A type of schedule used for collecting data from auto-biographies and official records.

- ii- Evaluation schedule: It is used for collecting data from organizations.
- iii- Interview schedule: It is used for (collecting do^x) guiding the interviewer during his interview.
- iv- Observation schedule: It contains aspects on which the researcher has to concentrate during observation.



3. Field Notebooks

These notebooks are essential for recording all the observations made in field by the researcher. It is primary record of everything which researcher has observed or experienced during his field-work.

4. Kinship Diagramming Software

Kinship diagramming software like GenoPro is used for collecting data on kinship structures and family relationships within social organization. It also helps researcher in explicating nuances of family structures in different cultures.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the effectiveness of the research of anthropological researcher is determined by techniques, methods, methodology and tools of data collection. The theoretical framework guides the selection of techniques, tools of data collection and

methods. These tools of data collection ensure the objectivity and efficiency of techniques within specific methods.