

Q3.

Elaborate the evolutionary scheme of religion by different anthropologists. Also give your own critical analysis about this concept.

① Introduction

Religion is a belief in supernatural powers, spirits, magic or any superstitions. It evolved from the things and natural process that humans could not explain. Initially, the concept of animism appeared. Then as the societies developed, it was believed to have a connection of super-power in plants, animals called totems. As the complexities of societies crossed, people of different cultures believed in polytheism, monotheism and atheism. Hence, religion evolved when people failed to find explanations for some aspects of life for example dreams, death.

② Evolution Of Religion

The question of "where religion evolved" is still unclear but some theories and explanations are present.

(a) European paint wall

Some painted figures on the wall represented God figures. It was believed to be figures of super-power creations. However, the ~~exact~~ origin of religion is still not clearly explained.

(b) Animism

This concept is given by Edward Brunnet. In ancient times people ~~we~~ could explain the death and dreams with respect to daily life experience. There were several questions and people started believing in dual existence. People still believe in the existence of soul or spirit in the contemporary and non-industrial societies. In ancient time, people considered that there are 2 entities that inhabit in the body. During sleep and dream the dual appears and when a person dies, that entity leaves the body permanently. Edward Brunnet thought that people could not explain the

things, then they started to give such explanations.

(c) Polytheism

As the societies became complex, there were complicated entities and several beliefs arose. Some societies thought that there are spirits in the other objects like fire, sun. Others believed in the existence of super-power in the objects, and plants and animals called Totemism. Hence, in the contemporary world there are certain religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism that believe in multiple gods.

(d) Monotheism

Monotheism is a believe in only one god. It is more of a centralized belief that is demonstrating increased social and political centralization. Some examples are Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Edward ~~B~~ Brunnet argued that after better explanations of science for the complex things, people would stop believing in the religion and

super-power. However, the religion has ~~more~~ become more than just explanation of super-powers and after the evolution of science and industrialization, religion is still a strong belief.

③ Other evolutionary concepts in religion

④ Religion and magic

Magics are the imitative techniques that are performed to accomplish certain aims and objectives through super-natural techniques. For example black magic concept. This super-natural technique is believed to be attained by specific procedure. Through the use of black magic, one can harm any specific person. Certain actions such as ^{by} inserting needle into a doll, people believe, will harm that specific person. Another concept is that of contagious magic such as using of persons nails, hair and clothes and performing magic.

③ Shamanism

It emerged from certain individuals believed to have power to connect with super-natural beings. Shamanism is a believe that a person could connect with super-natural spirit and influence it to perform certain functions and activities. After communication, the person with the help of spirit heals the sick, resolve everyday problems, reduce pain of body and influence those entities that are not in control of human beings. These concepts led humans to believe in Shamans.

④ Critical analysis

Religion has developed as a strong belief in super-power, spirit and ~~the~~ non-materialistic influence.

⑤ Ethnocentric bias

The concept of monotheism was considered as the most ~~enter~~ advanced form of religion in the contemporary world. Edward Bynnet

discriminated ^{against} other beliefs such as animism and polytheism. These concepts are also exist as the advanced religions.

(ii) Oversimplified Evolution

Edward Brunner gave the concept of evolution in a linearly ~~ev~~ manner.

This concept oversimplified that complex evolution about religion and superpowers.

The sequential evolution given by Brunner was not necessarily followed in all religions.

(iii) Contemporary Perspective

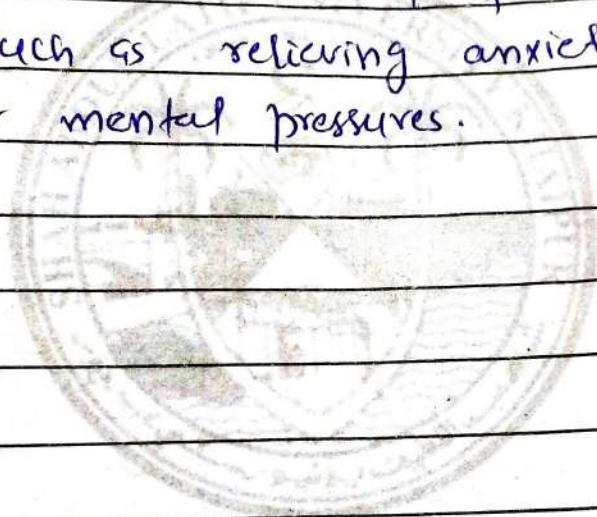
The modern anthropologist believe that different forms of religions coexist and adapt different beliefs.

The anthropologists don't rely on ~~self~~ the concept of rigid evolution given by ~~Bruner~~ Brunner.

(5) Conclusion

The evolution of religion is a complicated, multi-centric procedure.

It originated when people could not explain certain procedures and happenings such as dreams, and death. Then it led them to trust in the concept of ~~some~~ spirits, souls, super-natural beings and entities. As societies developed, the concepts of people changed and evolved through animism to polytheism and monotheism. It is still evolving and ~~may~~ exists in the ^{today's} world for other purposes such as relieving anxiety, depression and other mental pressures.



Q No. 7

The economic system evolved as humans started making their life through reciprocity, redistribution to the market system. Explain in detail.

① Introduction

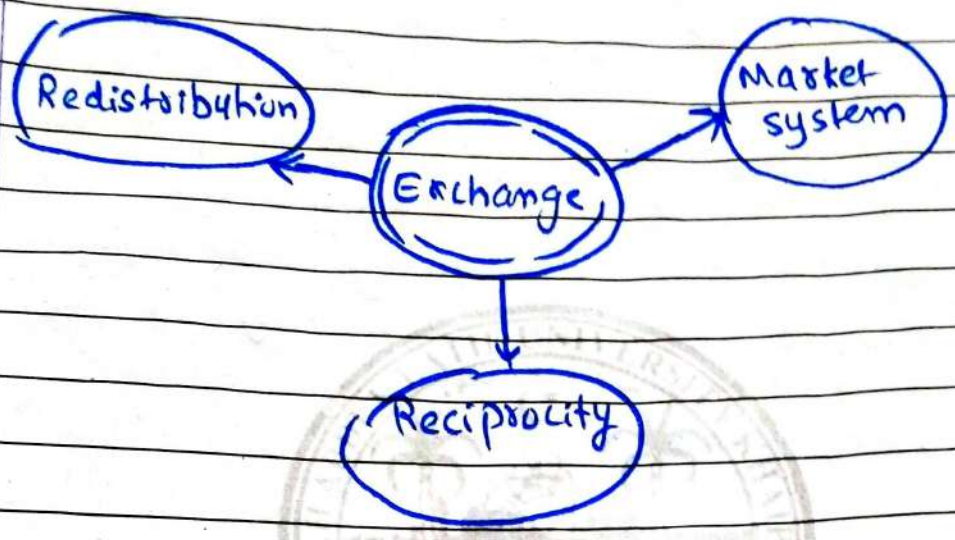
The economic system of human evolved from foragers, nomads, horticulturalists to modern system of agriculture and market system. The reciprocity especially general reciprocity is a universal concept, that is practised widespread. Human depended on the hunting, gathering of animals and plants and evolved with the development and scientific techniques. The reciprocity, market system and redistribution are the distribution or exchange practices that exist in different cultures and societies.

②

Distribution and Exchange

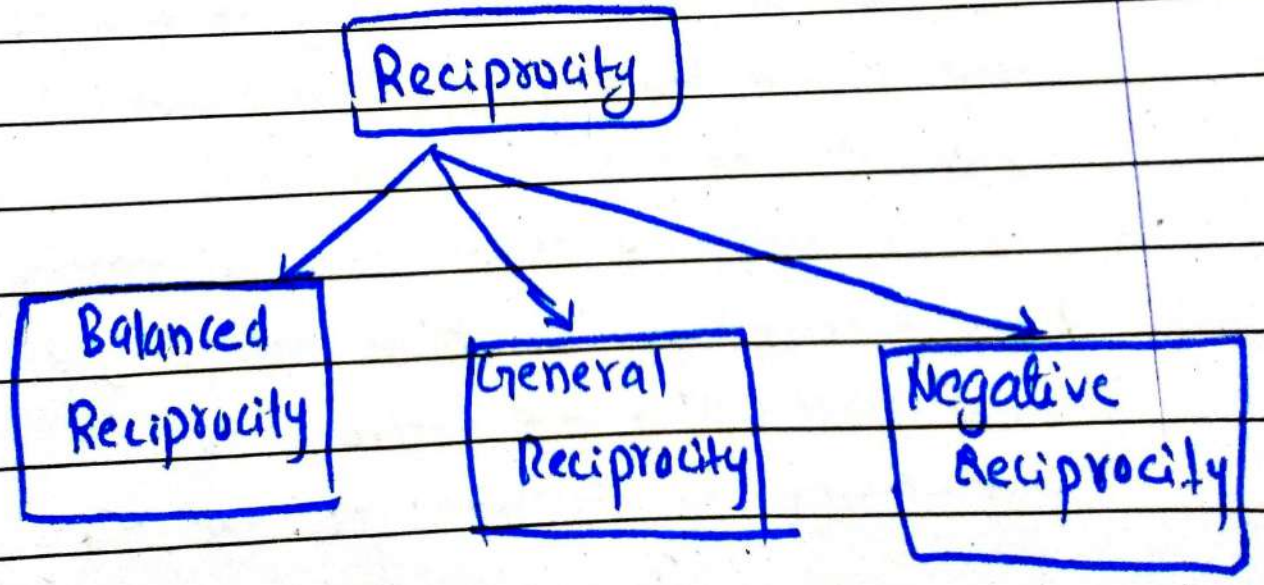
The famous economist Karl Polanyi described the exchange principles

practised cross-culturally. He proposed three exchanges' principles.



@ Reciprocity

It refers to the exchange between equals or paying back of debts, gifts or exchange or giving away between close relatives or closely related societies. There are three types of reciprocity.



(i) General Reciprocity

General reciprocity is giving away or paying money or gifts or other entities and expecting nothing in return. It is a universal practise between children and parents, who give away love, gifts, pay for education or living of their children and they expect nothing in return.

example:

parental gift in contemporary North America.

(ii) Balanced Reciprocity

It is a practise between two closely related societies, neighbours, friends, families that pay something and expect ~~to~~ in return but not immediate return.

There is expectation of return after some time. If it is not payed back then there are chance of disturbance in relation or conflicts.

example: When a friend gives gifts on birthday, he/she expects the gifts back on ~~their~~ own birthday.

When a family invites someone on their events, then they expect themselves to be invited other conflicts arise.

iii) Negative Reciprocity

It is exchange of money, objects ~~or~~ with the people outside of the society but people want something back immediately. It is mostly practised to improve relations with the outsider, to establish business relations or it may also involve deceit, cheating and forcibly getting something. It doesn't involve trust or social tie.

example: In 19th century, north-Americans used to thieve horses from camps of Indian, that is negative reciprocity.

③ Market Principle

This principle of sell and purchase is an organizational exchange, especially in capitalist economy. In the market principle, people sell objects, lands, labour, technology, knowledge, resources. The sell and purchase are aimed to maximise the benefits of each other. It involves the concept of bargaining in which both seller and buyer try to maximize their benefits.

④ Redistribution

Redistribution is also an exchange and distribution principle. It involves collection of annual harvest or crop and it is stored at the centre. Then from the centre, the products are distributed back into public. It is mostly practised in chiefdom, where chiefs collect the annual productivity and then redistribute into the society.

example (i) Cherokee North Americans used to collect annual harvest such as Maize into a chief's central place. An annual feast was organized, on that particular day chief used to distribute into poor, needy, traveller and other society people.

(ii) Another example in the contemporary times is tax collection by the government. It redistributes the tax in the form of government services, education, health and other facilities.

(5) Conclusion

The economy evolved as humans practiced different principles such as market system, reciprocity and redistribution. It was practised in different societies and that is still apparent in modern world. These principles coexist in the modern economic systems.