Language

Anthropological Linguistics
$ study of unwritten languages
$ relationship between language and culture

Language = a system of communication using sounds that are put together in a meaningful way.
symbols = sounds or gestures that stand for a meaning among a group of people
signals = a sound or gesture with a natural or biological meaning

Information: Gibbon vs. Human

$ All human cultures have language
$ 80% speak Mandarin Chinese
$ thousands of languages in the world
$ all languages are equally suited to communicate a wide variety of ideas and concepts;
  Primitive Languages ???? No.
plant & animal terms: small scale society = 400-800, Urban=40-80

$ phonemes = smallest class of sound that makes a difference in meaning (lake vs rake)
$ allophones = sound different but meaning the same: root vs rot, budder vs butter
$ morphemes = smallest unit of sound that carries a meaning
  in = indefinite
  un = unclear
  a = atypical

$ words = arbitrary sequences of sounds that have meaning
  combinations of phonemes and morphemes

$ syntax = rules that indicate how phrases and sentences are to be constructed
$ grammar = entire formal structure of a language
Language & Culture

diversity of culture reflects linguistic diversity

vocabulary = reflects experiences & surrounding environment

Eskimo = 100+ words for ice, smooth ice, rough ice, broken ice, thin ice, thick ice

Colors = basic colors vary from 2 to 12

eye pigmentation limits color vision

cultural complexity = more colors

$ Sapier-Whorf Hypothesis (Whorfian Hypoth) = language shapes behavior

Example: English doesn’t have a neutral third-person pronoun for human

A if a student is ill and cannot come to the final exam, he should contact the professor immediately.

gender terms are male dominated

custom dictates that one use he, except when certain roles thought to be female are referred to: e.g., housewives, nurses

Does our language make us think that men are more important or is it only because this was the case traditionally in our society?

Social Status & Speech Patterns

Who we are socially may have an affect on what we say and how we say it.

$ English speaking Athabascan Indians avoid conversation with White Canadians
$ English speakers use conversation to get to know others
$ pauses are shorter than for Indian English speakers
$ misunderstanding develops

Indian = white talks to much, can’t express ideas
White = Indian doesn’t want to talk or get to know them

Historical Linguistics = origin and history of languages
Patterns of Subsistence

- Hunting & Gathering
- Pastoralism
- Horticulture
- Intensive Agriculture

Hunter-Gatherers
prior to about 10,000 yr BP everyone a H&G
today H&G live in areas marginal for farming
common perception: work hard, on verge of starvation

Anthropologists = AOriginal Affluent Society@
- more than adequate diet
- plenty of leisure time
- but, not many material items

Characteristics of H&G Today
- mobile; must move to locations where food is present
- home range = fixed territory of movement; size dependent on environment
- small groups of 25 to 50 people
- group membership is flexible
- population size is stable
  - infanticide, abortion, prolonged nursing (3-4 yrs) = wide birth spacing
  - no incentive to have many children

Division of Labor
males = hunting
females = gathering & child care

60-70% of diet from plant foods; meat = protein & amino acids

Food Sharing
cooperative hunting
security or risk sharing

Egalitarian Society
mobile no chance to accumulate wealth
age & gender differences

!Kung Bushman, South Africa
Mbuti, Central Africa
Australian Aborigines, Australia
Eskimo, Arctic
Horticulturalists

- gardening of small plots with hand tools (digging stick)
- plant wide variety of crops in same field
- larger groups than H&G
- no individual landownership (land controlled by family/clan)
- slash & burn agriculture = shifting location of garden plots
- fallow periods

New Guinea
field exhausted after a 3 years
plot left fallow for 15 yrs
village needs 10x as much land as it uses at one time

Division of Labor = men & women involved in gardening
men = plant & tend sugarcane, bananas, yams (raise pigs)
women = sweet potatoes & green vegetables
- Status & prestige important; individuals may enhance prestige thru gift exchange
- population growth = shorter birth spacing, settled villages, need labor

Intensive Agriculturalists
- continuous use of same fields = annual cropping (no fallow period)
- mono-cropping; clear entire field
- use of irrigation, fertilizers, plough,
- labor intensive (planting, weeding, harvesting)
- individuals own land; private property (fencing)
- largest group (Urban/Rural)
- division of labor = men tend crops, women domestic tasks
- social stratification (classes)
Economic Systems

Two approaches:

\$ micro-economics = supply & demand economies, cash economies
\$ exchange & redistribution = no profit motive, non-cash economies

Types of exchange:

\$ Reciprocity
\$ Redistribution
\$ Market exchange

\$ Reciprocity = H&G, Horticulturalists

transaction between two parties whereby goods & services of roughly equivalent value are exchanged

\$ Generalized Reciprocity
exchange in which neither the value of what is given is calculated nor the time of repayment specified

American society = gift giving; birthday gift

Bushman distribute the meat from a kill to all members of a band.

\$ freeloader = sanctions against = witchcraft

\$ no immediate return
\$ no systematic calculation of value
\$ no exact balance must be achieved
**Balanced Reciprocity**

value & time of repayment are calculated
= trace between groups = barter

**Kula Ring,** Trobriand Islanders, Melanesia trading system

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>ceremonial exchange of highly valued necklaces &amp; shell armbands</td>
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<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>necklaces traded clockwise; armbands traded counter clockwise</td>
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<td>not held onto but continuously traded</td>
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<td>$</td>
<td>a few men gain prestige</td>
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<td>$</td>
<td>canoe voyages over open sea of more than 50 miles</td>
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<tr>
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<td>other men trade practical items as well</td>
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<tr>
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<td>fish, yams, baskets, mats, stone for tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>ritual trade regularizes other trade</td>
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**Negative Reciprocity**

give tries to get better of exchange
hard bargaining, deception, raiding

**Redistribution**

products are pooled by a kin group or accumulated by few elite individuals and distributed to community or other groups (often thru feasting)

Big Man prestige economies (New Guinea)
Reciprocity vs. Redistribution

Central Malay
meat received from others
saying thank you is rude
$ suggests a calculated value of gift by receiver
$ suggests you didn’t expect giver to be generous

!Kung Bushman (R. Lee)

$ gave !Kung an ox; should have been of great value
$ but !Kung said it was worthless
$ Why??
$ cooperation is key to survival of group

Redistribution systems involve public proclamations that the host is generous and a great provider

Potlatch (Kwakiutl, Northwest Coast)

Tribal chief accumulates food and goods then gives a feast for village members

Am the great chief who makes people ashamed@

Chief gives away wealth but gains prestige and people are obligated to him because of his generosity.

Cargo System = civil-religious hierarchy in Latin America

everyone in village serves at least once in different positions
accumulate wealth, then use it in civil-religious position
don’t maintain wealth but gain prestige

= Leveling Mechanism
Market Exchange

$ flow of goods thru a market place
$ better means of distributing large supplies of food on regular basis
$ important in 3rd world countries
$ US = swap meets or flea markets

Group Formation

Marriage & Family

Basic Group = Nuclear Family
Extended Family

Functions
$ sex
$ reproduction
$ education
$ subsistence

alternative = U.S. education = non-kin teacher in separate building

Marriage = sexual & economic union

marriage is a universal institution but various events mark beginning

Functions:
$ right of sexual access
$ women eligible to bear legitimate children
$ contract between kin groups
financial & alliance

romantic marriage vs arranged marriage

incest taboo = prohibition of sexual relations between immediate kin
universal custom (few exceptions)

Who can one marry?
exogamy = marry out-side of a group
endogamy = marry within a group
How many spouses?
monogamy = man/women
polygyny = man with many wives (polygamy)
polyandry = women with many husbands (Tibet, Eskimos)

polygyny tends to occur where production is intensified
agriculture = yes
H&G = no

bride price
bride service

Where do you live after marriage?

residence patterns
$ neolocal = nuclear family important
$ patrilocal = males dominant, accumulation of property, warfare
$ matrilocal = women predominant, horticulture
$ bilocal = flexibility

Kinship & Descent

formation of groups larger than the family

American society not kin based

Non-industrialized or Non-Western Societies kin based

$ consanguineal kin = blood relative
$ affinal kin = relative by marriage

$ descent group = membership criterion is by lineal descent from a real or mythical ancestor

usually trace descent through either males or females

$ Unilineal Descent

Patrilineal
$ more wide spread
$ education of children rests with father or his elder brother
$ women belong to decent group of their father
Doesn’t mean relatives are only males

Matrilineal
- Descent passes through female line
- Solidarity of the female work group
- Husband-wife ties weak
- Wife’s brother has authority (distribute goods, organize work, settle disputes)
- Father’s property inherited by sister’s son, not his son

Lineage = corporate descent group composed of consanguineal kin who claim descent from a common ancestor

- Trace genealogy thru known links
- Oriented toward real ancestors
- Property owning group
- Productive activities organized around lineage
- Lineage assigns status
- Exogamous
- Marriage arrangements between lineages (alliances)

Clan = descent group that traces kinship to a common often fictive ancestor

- Not able to trace genealogical links (time depth)
- Lacks residential unity
- Doesn’t hold property
- Ceremonial functions
- Regulates marriage thru exogamy
- Depends on symbols to provide solidarity (totems)

Phratry & Moiety = larger more diffuse groups

General Functions of Descent Groups

- Regulating marriage (exogamy)
- Economic functions = redistribution, land owning unit
- Political = not strong = headman & elders
- Religious = sponsor festivals, ancestral spirits (totems)

Kindred = relatives by blood and marriage = ego centered

- Not related by a common ancestor but by ego
- Gender not relevant in determining relationship
- Ambiguous groups
Kinship Terminology

terms reflect positions of individuals within society based on kin relationship, and responsibilities to others.

differentiate kin on:
- gender
- generation
- genealogy

Eskimo System
- simple to complex societies
- emphasizes nuclear family
- rare

Hawaiian System
- Malayo-Polynesian speaking peoples
- least complex system
- extended families

Iroquois System
- corporate unilineal descent groups
- exogamy
- cross-cousin marriage alliances

Religion & Magic

beliefs and patterns of behavior by which people try to deal with problems which cannot be solved by technology and techniques of organization

unknown or uncontrollable

consists of rituals: prayers, songs, dances, offerings & sacrifices designed to appease or manipulate supernatural beings (gods, ancestors, or animal spirits)

all societies have members who specialize in religious activities (shaman)

body of myth to explain the system of beliefs about the supernatural which is consistent with a people’s experience in the world

Eskimo = hunting risks, replenish animals
Hopi = growing crops (corn), water, rain

Function:
- reduce anxiety
- supernatural aid in times of crises
- sanction conduct Bright & wrong
- enhance learning of oral tradition

Divination = supernatural guidance

Naskapi B hunters of Labrador
caribou scapula = fire = crakes = hunting

random hunting prevents over exploitation of game in one area

Magic = compel a supernatural act vs prayer

Sorcery & witchcraft
- used to explain events without a known cause
- social control
- sympathetic magic = voodoo doll
- contagious magic = hair, finger nails

Salem Witch Trials (1692) = fungus disease called ergot in rye flour = hallucinations (LSD), convulsions, crawling sensations

Shaman = part time male religious specialist involved in healing
curing ceremonies
extract object or spirit from sick individual
trancing
cured ?
- psychological factors/ psychosomatic
- disease runs its course/immune system
- treat symptoms

Modern Medicine = only last 50 yrs