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1. What is Anthropology? Discuss about the cultural method of anthropology.

Answer: Anthropology is a discipline that explores and seeks to understand the diversity and complexity of human cultures and societies. It encompasses the study of various aspects of human life, including social structures, beliefs, practices, languages, and the ways in which people interact with their environment. Anthropologists employ a range of methods and approaches to investigate these phenomena, one of which is the cultural method.

The cultural method of anthropology focuses on the analysis and interpretation of culture as a central concept. Culture refers to the shared beliefs, values, behaviors, and material artifacts that characterize a particular group or society. It encompasses the ideas, customs, traditions, and social norms that shape human behavior and provide a framework for social interaction.

In the cultural method, anthropologists engage in an in-depth examination of a particular culture or society. They seek to understand the unique meanings and symbolic systems that shape people's lives within that cultural context. This method recognizes that culture is not fixed or static, but rather a dynamic and evolving system that is constantly negotiated and reinterpreted by its members.

Anthropologists employing the cultural method employ several key strategies to understand a culture:

1. **Participant Observation:** Anthropologists immerse themselves in the culture they are studying through participant observation. They spend extended periods of time living with and observing the daily lives of individuals within the community. This method allows them to gain firsthand insights into cultural practices, values, and social dynamics.
2. **Interviews and Surveys:** Anthropologists conduct interviews and surveys with members of the community to gather information about their beliefs, experiences, and perspectives. Through these interactions, they seek to understand how individuals construct their identities and make sense of the world around them.
3. **Ethnographic Writing:** Anthropologists produce ethnographic accounts, which are detailed descriptions and analyses of the culture they are studying. These writings provide a holistic view of the cultural context, incorporating observations, interviews, and analysis to capture the complexity and nuances of the society.
4. **Symbolic Analysis:** The cultural method involves examining the symbols, rituals, and cultural practices within a society to uncover their underlying meanings. Symbols may include language, art, religious rituals, or social customs. Anthropologists analyze how these symbols are used to communicate and express cultural values and beliefs.
5. **Comparative Approach:** Anthropologists often adopt a comparative approach to understand cultural similarities and differences across different societies. By examining multiple cultures, they can identify universal patterns and variations in human behavior and social organization.

The cultural method of anthropology emphasizes cultural relativism, which means understanding and interpreting a culture on its own terms without imposing external

judgments or values. This approach recognizes that different societies have their own unique cultural systems and that no culture is inherently superior or inferior to another.

Through the cultural method, anthropology contributes to our understanding of the diversity of human experiences and challenges our assumptions and preconceptions about other cultures. It provides valuable insights into the complexities of social life, the ways in which culture shapes human behavior, and the impacts of social, economic, and political factors on individuals and communities.

In conclusion, the cultural method is a fundamental approach within anthropology that focuses on the study of culture and its influence on human societies. By employing participant observation, interviews, symbolic analysis, and a comparative approach, anthropologists gain a deeper understanding of the beliefs, practices, and social dynamics that shape people's lives. The cultural method helps foster cultural relativism and promotes a more nuanced understanding of human diversity and the complexities of social life.

2. What is Culture? What do you mean by Cultural Change? Offer Comments.

Answer: Culture refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviors, and material artifacts that characterize a particular group or society. It encompasses the knowledge, practices, and symbolic systems that are learned and transmitted from one generation to another. Culture provides a framework for individuals within a society to understand and interpret the world around them, shaping their identities, behaviors, and social interactions.

Cultural change refers to the process through which cultures evolve, transform, and adapt over time. It occurs as a result of various factors, including social, political, economic, technological, and environmental changes. Cultural change can be gradual or rapid, intentional or unintentional, and it can occur within a specific group, a society, or on a global scale.

Cultural change can manifest in several ways, including:

1. **Innovation:** Innovations introduce new ideas, technologies, or practices that can lead to cultural change. These innovations can be introduced from within a society or borrowed from other cultures through processes such as cultural diffusion. Innovations can reshape cultural practices, social norms, and even beliefs and values.
2. **Acculturation:** Acculturation occurs when two or more cultures come into contact and interact, resulting in changes in one or both cultures. This process often involves the adoption of elements from one culture by another, leading to cultural blending and hybridization. Acculturation can be voluntary or forced, and it can result in cultural shifts and the creation of new cultural forms.

3. **Globalization:** Globalization, characterized by increased interconnectedness and the flow of ideas, information, goods, and people across borders, has a significant impact on cultural change. It facilitates the spread of cultural practices, values, and popular culture across different societies, leading to cultural homogenization or the emergence of global cultural phenomena.
4. **Social Movements and Revolutions:** Social movements and revolutions can bring about significant cultural change by challenging existing social, political, and cultural norms. They can advocate for new values, promote social equality, and reshape power dynamics within a society. These movements often aim to address social injustices and bring about cultural transformations.
5. **Environmental and Technological Changes:** Changes in the natural environment and technological advancements can also drive cultural change. Environmental changes, such as natural disasters or shifts in climate, can impact cultural practices, resource utilization, and livelihoods. Technological advancements, such as the internet and social media, have revolutionized communication, access to information, and social interactions, shaping new cultural forms and behaviors.

It is important to note that cultural change is not always linear or uniform. Different individuals and groups within a society may respond to cultural changes in various ways, leading to cultural diversity and even conflict. Additionally, cultural change can be accompanied by resistance, as individuals and communities seek to preserve their traditional practices and values in the face of external influences.

In conclusion, culture is a dynamic and ever-changing aspect of human societies. Cultural change occurs as a result of various factors and processes, including innovation, acculturation, globalization, social movements, and environmental and technological changes. Understanding cultural change is crucial for comprehending the complexities of human societies and their ongoing transformations.

5. Discuss about Importance of Language Communication?

Answer: Language communication is of paramount importance in human society. It serves as a vital tool for conveying information, expressing thoughts and emotions, and fostering social interaction. Here are several key reasons why language communication holds such significance:

1. **Conveying Information and Knowledge:** Language enables us to communicate and transmit information effectively. Through language, we can share ideas, facts, experiences, and knowledge with others. It facilitates the transfer of information from one individual to another and from one generation to the next, allowing for the accumulation and preservation of knowledge over time.
2. **Expression of Thoughts and Emotions:** Language provides a means for individuals to express their thoughts, emotions, and inner experiences. It allows us to articulate our feelings, desires, opinions, and perspectives. Through language, we can communicate our joys, sorrows, hopes, and fears, fostering empathy and understanding among individuals.
3. **Facilitating Social Interaction:** Language is a fundamental tool for social interaction. It enables us to engage in conversations, discussions, and debates, building connections and forming relationships with others. Language allows us to negotiate, collaborate, and coordinate our actions, facilitating cooperation and collective endeavors.
4. **Cultural Transmission:** Language plays a crucial role in the transmission of culture from one generation to another. It carries the shared beliefs, values, traditions, and practices of a particular community or society. Through language, cultural knowledge, customs, and rituals are passed down, ensuring the continuity and preservation of cultural heritage.
5. **Shaping Identity and Self-Expression:** Language is intimately tied to personal and group identity. It serves as a vehicle for self-expression and the construction of individual and collective identities. Language not only reflects our cultural and social affiliations but also shapes our perceptions of the world and our sense of self.
6. **Cognitive Development:** Language communication plays a vital role in cognitive development. It is through language that children learn to think, reason, and conceptualize the world around them. Language provides the foundation for complex cognitive processes, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.
7. **Power and Influence:** Language is a powerful tool that can influence and persuade others. The ability to articulate ideas effectively and present compelling arguments can shape opinions, influence decisions, and drive change. Language is central to politics, media, advertising, and various forms of public discourse, where effective communication can sway opinions and mobilize people.

8. Preserving Cultural Diversity: The diversity of languages reflects the rich cultural diversity of human societies. Language communication allows for the preservation and celebration of this diversity. It enables individuals to express their unique cultural identities, fostering mutual respect and understanding among different linguistic and cultural communities.

In summary, language communication holds immense importance in human society. It serves as a vehicle for conveying information, expressing thoughts and emotions, facilitating social interaction, transmitting culture, shaping identity, fostering cognitive development, exerting power and influence, and preserving cultural diversity. Language communication is a fundamental aspect of being human and plays a vital role in our individual and collective lives.

6. What is Value? Discuss about Economic Anthropology and its relation to anthropology.

Answer: Value refers to the worth or importance that individuals or societies assign to something, whether it is an object, a behavior, a belief, or an idea. Values guide human behavior, shape societal norms, and influence decision-making processes. They are deeply rooted in cultural, social, and individual contexts and play a significant role in anthropology, particularly in the subfield of economic anthropology.

Economic anthropology examines the relationship between economic systems, social structures, and cultural practices. It explores how economic activities are organized, how resources are allocated, and how people assign value to goods, services, and labor. Economic anthropology recognizes that economic behavior is not solely driven by rational calculations of self-interest but is deeply embedded in cultural, social, and symbolic frameworks.

In economic anthropology, the concept of value is central to understanding how economic systems function and how individuals and societies make choices. Economic value is not solely determined by market forces or prices but also influenced by cultural and social factors. Different societies and cultures may assign value to goods and services based on factors such as cultural traditions, symbolic meanings, social status, and religious beliefs.

Economic anthropology also explores the social and cultural dimensions of economic activities. It examines how economic practices are embedded in social relationships, how they contribute to the formation of identities, and how they shape power dynamics within societies. Economic transactions are not simply exchanges of goods and services but are also social interactions that can reinforce or challenge social hierarchies and relationships.

Anthropology as a discipline provides a broader context for economic anthropology. It recognizes that economic systems are not separate from other aspects of human life but are interconnected with social, cultural, political, and environmental factors. Anthropologists study economic behavior within the larger framework of social and cultural systems, acknowledging the complex interplay between economic activities and broader social structures.

Moreover, economic anthropology challenges conventional economic theories by highlighting the diversity of economic practices and the cultural variability in economic behavior. It demonstrates that economic activities and values are not universal but are shaped by cultural, historical, and environmental contexts. Economic anthropology emphasizes the need to consider local knowledge, cultural norms, and social relationships when studying economic systems.

In summary, economic anthropology examines the relationship between economic systems, social structures, and cultural practices. It recognizes the cultural and social dimensions of economic activities and highlights the role of value in shaping economic behavior. Economic anthropology provides a holistic perspective on economic systems, emphasizing the interconnections between economic activities, social structures, cultural values, and individual and collective identities. It expands our understanding of economic behavior beyond rational calculations of self-interest and emphasizes the importance of cultural and social factors in shaping economic systems and practices.