

Chapter Interaction Papers

Rynkiewicz: Chapter 2 □ Robbins Chapter 1

Because our perception or sensing towards reality, our cognition or thinking about reality, and our emotions or feeling about reality, are different, so it is very important to view other culture and know our own culture.

Our world was created according to our concepts, but most of the time we forget that it is imagined, and treat it as the reality. How we perceive, evaluate, and respond to the world are different which manifest in ways of our living, and the study of them, is called anthropology. Culture was defined by anthropologists as the beliefs, behavior, and artifacts of a particular society. In culture anthropology, the purpose is to discover the pattern and meaning behind the world through different cultures. This study will impact how we view other cultures other than ours, and by understanding their perspective, we could know ourselves better.

In the book of cultural anthropology, the 3rd question is “Is it possible to see the world through the eyes of others?”. The story of that embarrassed anthropologist reminds me that some time we are too customed to our own belief or behavior, that when we are facing different cultures, we tend to use our perspective to judge or influence others. Only we are really live long enough with them, we could have their eyes to look at our culture which somehow also seems strange and exotic. That’s why in the Bible, for us to have a humble and understanding heart is so important.

After read chapter 1 of Culture and Anthropology, there are couple of questions need to be discussed futher:

1. How could we gain balance between ethnocentric fallacy and relativist fallacy?
2. Is there right or wrong, moral or evil in culture practices?

