

ALLIANCE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PEOPLE AS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BEINGS

CS501 OA

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SUBMITTED B Y: PRINCESS a. COOMBS

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This is an interaction paper from the fourth chapter of the book: *Soul, Self, And Society A Postmodern Anthropology for Mission in a Postcolonial World*.

The book was published by Cascade Books; and the publishing date is 2011 in Eugene, Oregon. The author of the book is Michael Rynkiewich.

My focus in this paper entails four specific areas such as a one sentence thesis statement, a one paragraph summary, personal interaction with specific themes in the readings, and two questions for further engaging this topic.

THESIS STATEMENT

There is no one position that provides us with a right point of view to “understand a people.”ⁱ

SUMMARY – PAGES 64-77

The author points out that although the primary contributions of anthropology to the social sciences is the concept of culture, they do not submit to the belief that culture (although that tendency is present in the sub-discipline of “cultural anthropology”), should be the only determining factor to determine the cause and effect of an individual’s behavior. He further states that this is the standpoint of most anthropologists.ⁱⁱ

To further his argument, the author shares with the reader the different schools of anthropology; such as British School of Anthropology (originated in Britain), which is called social anthropology, cultural ecology and refers to it as “another subdiscipline”, with advocates in “various national versions of the discipline.”ⁱⁱⁱ

PERSONAL INTERACTION

CULTURE, SOCIETY, and ECOLOGY PAGES - 64-65

This is one of the sub-topics that has made a marked impression on my thoughts about cultural anthropology; for example, the author explains that the inclusion of culture, society, and ecology are the tools to measure a person's way of life, "and even a multicultural community where several kinds of people are living." I do find this to be quite interesting because the writer explains that in observing and explaining people's lives, there are several ways in doing so. For example, he provides the reader with the functions of the cultural anthropology perspectives, the functions of the ecology anthropology perspectives, the social anthropology perspectives, society, and the ecological perspective.

What also really has me thinking is the author makes reference that: "the truth is, time does not stand still. Neither does culture."^{iv}

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TWO QUESTIONS

1. Would the simplex roles be better for society? Considering that not only that a simplex roles society is negotiable, but that the people have choices. After all, were we all created as free-will agents.^v of change.^{vi}
2. Should missionaries preach the Gospel message and whosoever will may come, and when the heart of individuals are truly converted, that they will be disciplined, and understand how to live by faith, that they will embrace the word of God and believe that He is, and a rewarder of whom who dilligently seeks Him?^{vii}

- i pg. 77
- ii pg. 64
- iii pg.64
- iv pg. 64-65
- v pg. 70
- vi pg. 70 See Genesis 2:16-17
- vii pg. 72 See Hebrews 11:6