

Definition:

مصارعة
المسوى الثامن
اربايل



"Culture is the sum total of the ways of living built up by a group and passed on from one generation to another. It includes behavior such as marriage or child rearing practices, material things such as tools, clothing, and shelter and ideas as institutions and beliefs" (Craig et al, P. 9).

A study of culture is part of Sociology.

A society is a group of people who share cultural strategies for dealing with something responding to what is going on in their surroundings.

Or

A society is a group of people who know and understand how to deal with certain things in certain manners.

What are the factors which define a culture within a society?

Or

What are the seven aspects of culture?

- 1) it is learned: we are not born with culture. Eating for babies is not part of culture. But eating cereal and milk is part of culture. This is learned. Or eggs and oranges. In some parts of Saudi Arabia, some people take meat for breakfast.
- 2) Shared: When someone takes meat for breakfast in USA, this is not part of a shared culture.

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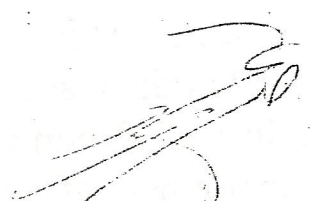
شركة مدى لتنمية الموارد البشرية

مراكز النسخ

كلية الآداب

- 3) Patterned: However, patterns change. In the past, adults used to take their dinner at 6 pm, and children used to sleep at 7:30 after watching Mickey Mouse. In Ramadan, for instance, Saudis take a light meal, then pray their last prayer of the day, then take their dinner. In Egypt, it is different; Egyptians take their dinner soon after sunset. Then they take sweets later on. Children were asked to go home at nine.
- 4) mutually constructed: through the process of social interaction.
- 5) Symbolic: It means something. A towel, for instance is symbolic of drying oneself. However, for a Korean or a Chinese, it is used for scrubbing oneself. Some signs are symbolic of certain meanings. They are different from one culture to another. Some threatening signs in our culture will be offensive say in South America.
- 6) Arbitrary: it does not have a necessary particular rational idea that has to be connected to it. The word 'door' for example does not have a certain association to the actual door. In Arab societies, for instance the word /door/ means 'turn'.
- 7) Internal: their stands towards beauty and ugliness are different. People think than things are beautiful differently in different places, whether it is light skin or dark skin, long hair or short hair, skinny or overweight the Dark skin or fair skin

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A Summary of the first Chapter in Eliot's book Notes Towards the Definition of Culture

In the first chapter of his book Notes Towards the Definition of Culture, Eliot speaks first about the three levels of culture.

Then, he speaks about the relationship between culture and religion.

A) the three levels of culture:

In the chapter entitled "The Three Senses of Culture" T. S. Eliot says that we need to study culture on three levels:

- 1) Individual
- 2) Class or Group
- 3) Society.

Eliot says that the culture of an individual depends on that of the class and the culture of a class depends on that of a society. So, the most important level is that of society. This is why we will start with the culture of society.

Eliot says that to understand culture we need to understand the two words 'culture' from a bacteriologist's point of view and from the agriculturalist's point of view. It means "the development or the improvement of bacteria or seeds. In the same way, culture, for him means:

"the improvement of the human mind and spirit".

Culture in this sense is

"the self cultivation of the individual".

Eliot disagrees with other writers like Arnold who says that we should start with the perfection of an individual.

Eliot says that a cultured person needs not only good manners but also education, intellect and sensibility to the arts.

Eliot says that his notion does not mean that the culture of an individual is not important, but he means that the culture of the individual and the culture of class and that of society complete each other.

حضارة الجزء الثالث
المستوى الثامن
البري

Eliot says that we, as human beings, eat a special cuisine, not just eat any food. He says that the decline of British culture manifests itself in the decline of the art of preparing food. He defines culture as:

"culture is that which makes life worth living"

B) Relationship between culture and Religion:

Eliot starts this section with a criticism of Arnold's view that culture is more comprehensive than religion.

Eliot believes that culture and religion are equally important and are interrelated. Eliot says that culture and religion are different aspects of the same thing. Aesthetic sensibility is inter-related to spiritual perception.

In relation to this relationship between culture and religion, Eliot says that culture:

includes all the characteristic activities and interests of a people.

Eliot admits that compared with other religious peoples of the world, the British people are inferior.

