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Q6(c)

Describe briefly the theoretical perspectives in linguistic anthropology to explain the relationship of culture, language and thought

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · Linguistic Anthropology.

(d) Linguistic Anthropology.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/describe-briefly-the-theoretical-perspectives-in-linguistic-anthropology-to-explain-the-relationship-of-culture-language-and-thought/>

Sapir-Whorf relativity

The claim that grammatical and lexical categories of a language influence habitual thought. The weak version is used; the strong determining version is not.

Dell Hymes

He proposed the ethnography of speaking: language as culturally organised events, not only as inner grammar.

Berlin and Kay

Their colour-term study argued for recurring universal foci as well as language-specific encoding, a major check on extreme Whorfianism.

Franz Boas

He insisted that languages and cultures be understood in their own categories, which opened the relativity debate without a rigid prison model.

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