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Anthropology short notes

Culture, Language and Communication

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination · Anthropology GS 1 · Anthropology GS 1 (Paper I)

7. Culture, Language and Communication: Nature, origin and characteristics of language; verbal and non-verbal communication; social context of language use.

Short notes by official syllabus heading.

Revision notes for the Anthropology optional. Confirm thinkers and examples against standard texts and recent papers.

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7. Culture, Language And Communication

Definition

Studies the relationship between language, culture and society.

Example / case study

K. S. Singh | Tribal and historical studies Cultural Anthropology | Culture and social life Linguistic Anthropology | Language and communication Physical Anthropology | Human biology and evolution

Nature

Definition

1. Formative Phase (1774-1919)

Example / case study

Herbert Risley: Racial theory of caste; The People of India. Thurston: Castes & Tribes of Southern India. Beginning: Institutionalisation of anthropology (Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University - 1920). Nature: Empirical fieldwork, study of social institutions.

Origin

Definition

Anthropology has evolved from the colonial study of "primitive societies" into a dynamic, interdisciplinary and applied social science. Its holistic perspective, integrating biology, culture, language and history, makes it uniquely suited to address contemporary challenges such as public health, sustainable development, climate change, identity conflicts and inclusive governance. Consequently, anthropology remains highly relevant for both academic inquiry and evidence-based policymaking.

Thinkers

4. Evaluative Phase (1990-Present) (not Vidyarthi's original) Franz Boas | Cultural determinism, Historical Particularism Margaret Mead | **Nature vs Nurture** (Samoa study) Eric Wolf | Anthropology as an interdisciplinary discipline

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