Let’s review, why is pottery such an important object in archeological analysis.

Well, pottery contains more information than we might think.

Could you explain what you mean?

Well, like sudden changes in the style and shape of pottery might help out figure out when certain cultures make contact with each other and borrowed each other’s ideas, designs, and even technologies.

Good. Today I want to expand our discussion about the topic of classifying pottery. Classification is simply an attempt to categorize or group the pottery based on specific characteristics. We’ll look at ancient Mayan pottery, which as you know by now, is my specialty. Archeologists have traditionally attempted to classify these vessels by using a single classification system. But the complexity and the variation of ancient Mayan potteries were too great in my opinion, to use only one system. I advocate the use of several systems as some of my colleagues have been researching some of the archeological sites of Mexico and Central America. By utilizing more than one system of classification, we are more likely to neglect more important details or lose important information.

So I think what you are saying is when we use a single classification system we can’t label a vessel with a lot of details, but if I classify it in a lot of different ways, we could get a more complete picture.

And if we are able to label a large number of potteries in several ways, we could more clearly see the relationship between them, because of having a more complete picture of each one. I mean everybody in this class comes from a different state or country, nobody comes from the same place. So if I only classify people by where they are from, I might say that you have nothing in common. But what if I add more layers? Andrew, you’re a skier. Sarah is also a skier. So if we have a classification of your extracurriculars, we find you to have something in common. Snow skiing.

AH, I get it!

So we begin by determining what classifications will be possible, and what classifications will be useful. These would be, in my opinion, the vessel, shape the surface finish(没听清楚) that looks like texture,

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