

## CHAPTER 3 ANTHOPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE SELF

### **The Self and the Person in Contemporary Anthropology**

#### ***Anthropology and Its Subdisciplines***

The academic discipline of anthropology, or “four-field” anthropology, studies human species and its immediate ancestors includes four main sub disciplines or subfields - sociocultural, archaeological, biological and linguistic anthropology. Each sub discipline studies adaptation, the process which organisms cope with the environmental. Anthropology is a systematic exploration of human biological and cultural diversity

#### **The Subdisciplines of Anthropology**

##### ***1. Cultural Anthropology***

Cultural anthropology is the study of human society and culture which describes, analyzes, interprets and explains social and cultural similarities and differences. It explores the diversity of the present and the past. Ethnography and ethnology are two different activities which can study and interpret cultural diversity.



Ethnography requires fieldwork to collect data, often descriptive and specific to group. On the other hand, ethnology uses data collected by a series of researches, usually synthetic and comparative.

##### ***2. Archaeological Anthropology***

Archaeological anthropology reconstructs, describes and interprets human behavior and cultural patterns through material remains. These materials remain such as plant, animal and ancient garbage provides stories about utilization and actions.

##### ***3. Biological or Physical Anthropology***

Biological, or Physical Anthropology focuses on these special interest, human evolution as revealed by the fossil, human genetics, human growth and development, human biological plasticity and the biology, evolution, behavior and social life of monkeys, apes and other nonhuman primates.

##### ***4. Linguistic Anthropology***

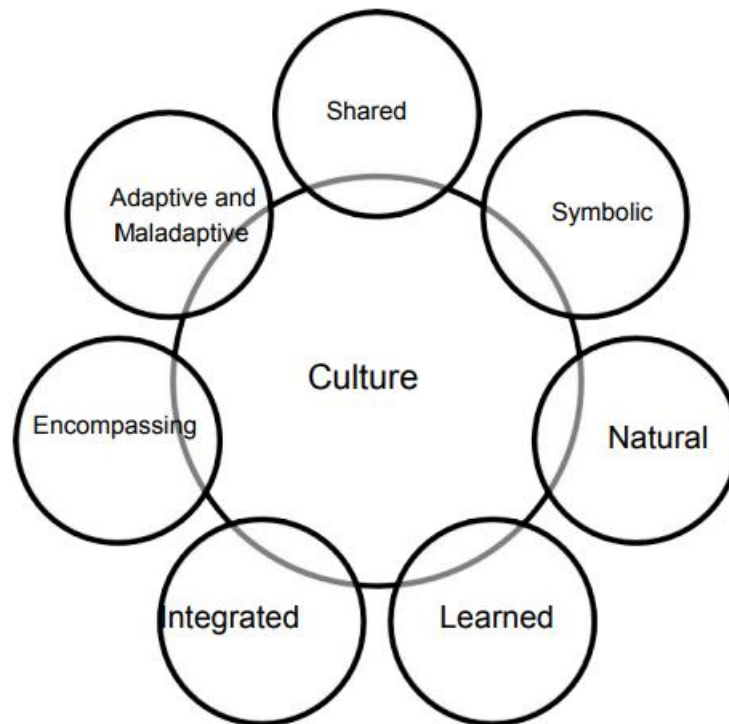
Linguistic anthropology studies language in its social and cultural context across space and over time. Universal features of language are analyzed and association between language and culture are evaluated.. It also studies how speech changes in social situations and over time.

### **The Self Embedded in the Culture**

Culture refers to customary behavior and beliefs that are passed on through enculturation (Kottak, 2008), wherein enculturation is the social process which culture is learned and transmitted.

Culture is a social process that is learned and passes from generation to the next. Culture depends on images, which have a specific significance and incentive for individuals who share a culture. Cultural traditions take regular marvels, including organic desires, and transforming them specifically headings. Everybody is cultured. Social orders are coordinated

and designed through predominant monetary powers, social examples, key images and core values. Cultural mean of adjustment have been urgent in human evolution. Cultures oblige people, yet the activities of people can change cultures.



Culture defined: Culture is shared, symbolic, natural, learned, integrated, encompassing and maladaptive and adaptive.

Csordas (1999) elaborated that the human body is not essential for anthropological study but the paradigm of embodiment can be explored in the understanding culture and the self. The body is not an object to be studied in relation to culture, but is to be considered as the subject of culture, or in other words as the existential ground of culture. On the other hand, Geertz (1973) described culture as "a system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of which men communicate, perpetuate, and develop their knowledge about and attitudes toward life".

The interpretation of the symbols in each culture is essential which gives meaning to one's action. Each culture has its own symbols and has its own meaning; one must need to comprehend those meanings keeping in mind the end goal to understand the culture. One must disconnect the components of culture, discover the relationship among those components, and portray the entire framework in some broad way.