

Q:- Pattern of Culture (10)

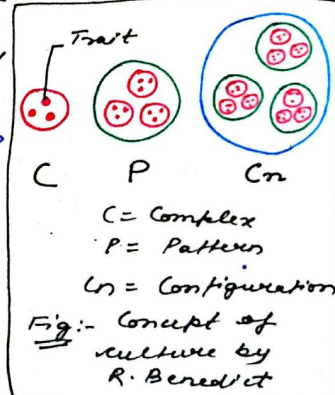
Ans- Ruth Benedict was a student of Franz Boas. She did not believe in similarity of culture rather she said we should try to understand the way culture is patterned. For doing so, she developed the idea of culture pattern in her book the "Patterns of Culture".

Though the concept of culture pattern was already known among the anthropologists prior to Benedict; the term given by Kroeber, Malinowski tried to formulate universal culture pattern etc. But the difference was that they had attempted to study culture pattern on a universal level; it was Benedict, who for the first time, tried to show the culture pattern of a particular group. As per her, "Cultures are individual psychology, thrown large upon the screen, given gigantic proportions and a long time span".

A culture pattern is formed, when traits and complexes become related to each other in functional scales.

Culture traits are the smallest element of a culture. There, when organised about some nuclear point of reference, form culture complex. When many traits and complexes of culture become integrated into a functional whole, they form a culture pattern.

Culture trait → Culture complex → Culture Pattern → Culture Configuration.



For eg:- Our Indian Cultural Pattern consists of Gandhism, Joint family system, Tajmar system, caste system. Each of these is a culture complex consisting of numerous cultural traits, which give rise to culture patterns.

Different patterns of culture combine together to present grand design of culture which is the configuration of culture. This is due to the common tendency seen in all aspects of culture, called as 'special genius' of culture by R. Benedict.

She divides this special genius into two :-

### Apollonian

- Peace loving, cooperative, disciplined, respectful

### Dionysian

- decisive, violent, scarcely care for promises.

On the basis of her study with different tribes she ~~can~~ divided gave examples of these two special genius:-

- Turi

- Dobe & Kuvakul

Thus, Benedict has accepted patterns or genius as an ideal or induced theory which determines the behaviour of human beings. In each culture we come across some basic impulse, ideal of theory, which is different from other cultures. These ideals or theories are accepted by all members, by which integration in behaviour pattern of people come into existence.

R. Benedict was criticized by Margie Opler for her this concept as she considered every culture has a single design or pattern which affects all parts of society which as per him was not correct. He considered many themes to be present in culture. But R. Benedict got support from M. Mead for her concept.