Levels of Sociological Analysis

Macrosociology - Analysis on broad features of society

Social structure - Framework of social interaction that sets, affects
and limits our behaviour
- Location, gender, social class, culture

Social status
Status set - All statuses that an individual occupies
Brother, son, father, student, teacher
Ascribed sad status - Involuntary status Inheritted
Gender, Race, Age
Achieved status - Positions that are earned or accomplished

Status symbols - Indicator of a status
Doctor, Wedding ring, Medal, Crown
Master status - A status that cuts across all other statuses
Gender, Race, Age, Wealth, Disability
Status Inconsistency - Mismatch of statuses
14 year old college student

Role - The behaviours, obligations and priviledges attached to a
status
How it is expected of you to act as a boy/girl/student/noble
Group - People who interact with one another and share something
in common

Social Institution - The standard way society meets its basic needs

Comparing Functionalist and Conflict Perspective

Functionalist - Replacing members
- Socializing new members
- Producing and distributing goods and services
- Preserving order
- Providing a sense of purpose

Conflict - Powerful groups control over social institutions in order to maintain their wealth and power

Summary

Functionalists view social institutions working together to meet universal human needs.
Conflict theorists regard social institutions as a means to preserve social order.

What holds Society Together?

Social Integration - Degree of shared values and other social bonds

Amish | Gemeinschaft - A close, unified community

Capitalism | Gesellschaft - Impersonal relationships, Individual success and Self - interest

Emile Durkheim:

Mechanical solidarity - sharing a ~~similar~~ similar outlook on life by doing similar tasks
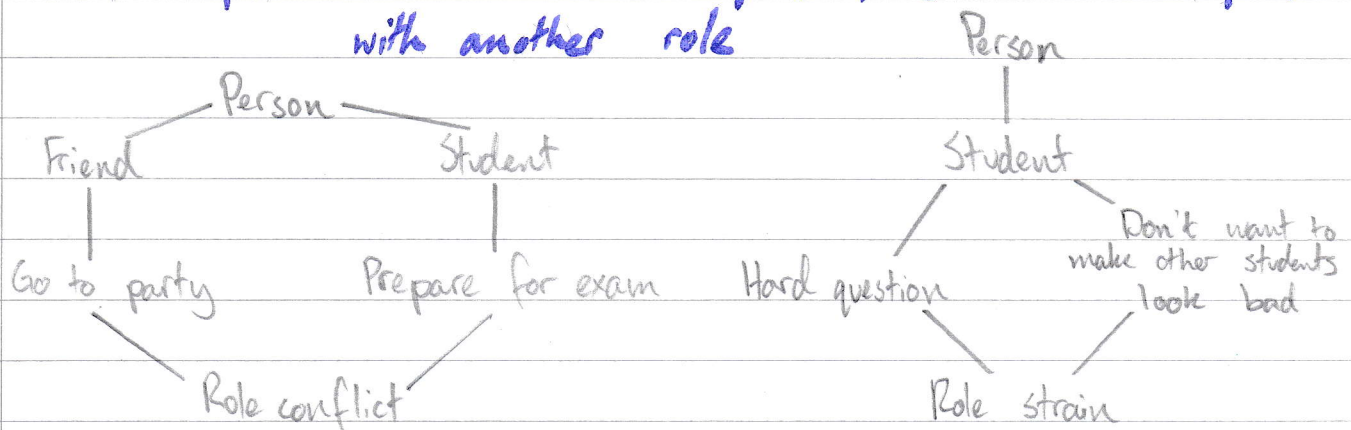
Organic solidarity - depending on each other to do specialized tasks

Microsociology - Analysis of social interaction

- Sterotypes

- Personal space

- Eye contact

- Smiling

- Body language

Dramaturgy - Presentation of one's self in everyday life

- Impression management : Efforts to control the impression others recieve of them

- Front stage : Our "public image" depending on which group we are interacting with

- Back stage : Our private, true self

- Role conflict : What one role expects of us is in conflict with another role

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              Person                              Person
        Friend        Student                      |
          |             |                        Student
      Go to party   Prepare for exam      Hard question      Don't want to
          |             |                    |            make other students
              Role conflict                       Role strain    look bad
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- Role strain : Conflict in a role

- Sign vehicles : How people use social setting, appearance and manner to communicate information abt about themselves

  Your body

    Social setting - What you act in different areas

        bar
        classroom
        church

    Appearance - How you dress

    Manner - Attitudes you show, feelings and moods displayed

- Teamwork
  Can sometimes use face-saving behaviour
  Ignoring/playing-off something that is embarrassing, etc...

Endomethodology - The study of how people do things, explore background assumptions (taken-for-granted ideas about the world)

e.g. Dentist check-up turns into cutting your hair

The breaking of background assumption

Social Construction of Reality
  - Use of background assumption, life experiences and upbringing to define what is real

Thomas theorem - "If people define situations as real, they are real in their consequences"