

★ Meyer Forster

→ M. Forster ~ British Anthropologist

Fieldwork : African Tribes,
mainly Ashanti & Tallensi

Books : ① Kinship & Social order

② Dynamics of clanship among the Tallensi

③ African Political System
(with Evans Pritchard)

→ Definition of Structure :

① "structure refers to a distinguishable whole (an institution, a social group, a process, a situation etc), which is susceptible of analysis in the light of appropriate concepts & by suitable techniques, into parts that have an ordered arrangement in space & time" ②

→ In this manner Forster analysed social structure according to time & space.

→ A whole in one content may be a part in another content
(eg. education system)

→ education system can be a whole & classroom may be its part, while in social structure, education system is a part.

→ Determination of part is not important but taking out principle is important which governs the social structure.

~~***~~ He criticized RB who did not consider time & space in social structure.

Meyer Fortes gave importance to time & space.

There are 3 types of time -

- ① duration time
- ② continuity time
- ③ genesis & growth process time.

① Duration time

It is an ~~extrinsic~~ (outside) intrinsic factor like any social event. It takes place in its own duration.

So does not influence the principles of social structure.

② Continuity time :

It is an intrinsic factor. It is virtually continuity & change. For eg. when the lineage chief dies, his son becomes the chief. It may seem like a big change but it is not because the principles do not change.

③ Genetic or Growth Process Time :

It is also change within continuity. Growth is more found in unstable societies.

→ Growth is a product of continuity (conservative forces) & non-reversible modification.

eg. (elephant statues built by Mayawati ₹ 20,000 cr. is an irreversible change)

→ Growth may appear as simple (increase or decrease in population) & complex (qualitative differentiation in social institution)

→ Growth may be positive (expansion, accumulation & development of parts) or negative (contraction, involution ~~evolution~~ or loss of parts).

* Synchronic study

* Diachronic study

* Double ~~Diach~~ Synchronic study

* Synchronic means studying a society at a particular point of time & providing an equilibrium model of the society. It is only continuity & change - eg. ^{RB} Fortes, ^{no} ...

→ Double synchronic means studying a society at two different points of time & providing equilibrium models.

eg. R. Firth, Study of Tikopia. He does not speak about structural change. It is only continuity & change.

→ Diachronic - studying a society for a long period of time & providing a dynamic model of society. It analyses structural change. eg. Levi-Strauss & S.K. Leach

* Equilibrium model

(does not ~~take~~ take change & conflict into account, don't give

importance) eq. RB, Malinowski, Firth, Fortes, Bitchard

Dynamic model :

Give importance to change & conflict.
eq. Leach, Levi-Strauss