Meyer Fortes

Mr. Fortes = 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 Fortes analysed social structure according to time & space.
A whole in one context may be a part in another context (e.g., 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 K.B. who did not consider time & space in social structure. Meyen forgot 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 (outside) intrinsic like any social event. It takes place in its own duration.
It does not influence the principles of social structure.

2. **Continuity Time**

It is an intrinsic factor. It is virtually continuity & change for e.g. 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. **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.

E.g. (elephant statues built by Maghwasari x 1,000 were an irreversible change).

Growth may appear as simple (increase or decrease in population) & complex (qualitative differentiation in social institution).
- Synchronic study
- Diachronic study
- Double-synchronous study

Synchronic means studying a society at a particular point of time & providing an equilibrium model of the society at that point continuity & change — eq. forces

Double-synchronous means studying a society at two different points of time & both the models providing equilibrium

Eq. 2. First study of time 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

eq. semi-structural & 2. K. Leach
* Equilibrium model
  (does not take change & conflict into account, does give importance)
  e.g. H., Malinowski, Firth, Fortes, Bottcher

  Dynamic model:

  Give importance to change & conflict
  e.g. Leach, de Mi-Strass