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Anthropology 121

Quiz #13

Ch. 11 — The Search for New Meaning

1. How does social change come about?

Discovery, invention, diffusion, innovation (tweaking of an invention), trade, media, stimulus diffusion

2. What is the difference between acculturation and assimilation?

Acculturation – incorporate outside traits and practices

Assimilation – No longer distinct identity – full member of dominant society

3. What is the difference between diffusion and stimulus diffusion?

Diffusion- Spread of a trait/practice from one location to another (maintaining its original form)

Stimulus Diffusion – Idea/practice stimulates receiving society to invent something that's ultimately new

4. How did the introduction of steel axes impact the Yir Yoront of Australia?

They had easier access to food while gender roles were ultimately destroyed and ritual ceremonial gatherings and intertribal trade was no longer necessary

Practices like dream time and myth making diminished which were core to religious ritual ended as well

5. The introduction of steel axes to the Yir Yoront of Australia illustrates:

- a. the importance of syncretism in keeping old ideas alive
- b. a successful example of the introduction of Christianity to an aboriginal society
- c. how outside influence can completely destroy a traditional culture
- d. the effective policy of the Australian government in dealing with aboriginal peoples

C

6. Syncretism refers to:

- a. the process whereby a culture accepts culture traits from a dominant culture
- b. a condition whereby a dominated culture has changed so much because of outside influences that it ceases to have its own distinct identity
- c. a fusing of traits from two cultures to form something new and yet, permitting the retention of the old by subsuming the old into a new form
- d. what occurs when an idea moves from one culture to another and stimulates the invention of a new trait

C

7. What's an example of a syncretism?

Trobriand Cricket, teriyaki tacos, Mexican pizza, West African deities fused with Catholic saints in voodoo, Santeria, Candomble

8. Cricket as it is played today in the Trobriand Islands:

- a. uses magic to control of the outcome of the game
- b. evokes behaviors that were once characteristic of intervillage warfare
- c. is a part of the competition among chiefs for power and prestige
- d. all of the above

D

9. What is a diaspora? What are some examples?

Movement of a population from their homeland, e.g. African, Jewish, Armenian

10. Should practitioners of Santeria be allowed to sacrifice animals?

Part of their ritual practice, but living in a context where it would be viewed as animal cruelty

Revitalization Movements

1. What is a revitalization movement?

A deliberate effort to bring about fundamental social change.

2. Revitalization movements may be brought about by: (select those that apply)

- a. political and economic marginalization
- b. malnutrition and high level of epidemic disease
- c. perception that values of the community are being threatened
- d. breakdown of social relationships.

A, B, C, D

3. What are the five types of deprivation that can lead to the establishment of a new sect/revitalization movement?

Economic (unequal access to wealth and resources), organismic (health, well-being of the body), ethical (morality/injustice), psychic (perception of injustice/discrimination), social (breakdown of trusted relationships)

4. T/F Revitalization movements are deliberate, organized, conscious efforts by members of a society who are dissatisfied with their culture as it presently is.

T

5. T/F Large societies go through revitalization movements every 10 to 15 years.

F – that would be exhausting!

6. T/F A prerequisite for revitalization is that some of the members of the society are dissatisfied with their culture as it presently exists.

T – discontent an important component

7. T/F Cults are small religious organizations that express defiance of the world around them.

T – example of a revitalization movement (for its members)

8. What are the five stages of the revitalization process?

1. Steady State

2. Increased Individual Stress

3. Cultural Distortion

4. Revitalization

5. New Steady State

9. Peoples of New Guinea involved with cargo cults imitated the behavior of Europeans (such as writing on paper and sitting on chairs) because they:

- a. felt these were the rituals which made cargo available to the Europeans
- b. hoped to impress European officials and in turn receive more cargo
- c. wanted to be good Christians
- d. wanted to make proper use of their newly obtained wealth

A

10. T/F The arrival of WWII military troops to Melanesia was heralded as a sign of the apocalypse.

T

11. Why did Melanesians involved in cargo cults imitate the behavior of whites? (e.g. writing on paper and sitting in chairs)

These were regarded as “rituals” which when practiced made *cargo* available to the whites

12. Which of the following are behaviors seen in members of cargo cults?

- a. throw money away b. abandon gardens c. destroy livestock d. adultery
e. speaking in tongues f. waiting for cargo that eventually arrives

A, B, C, D, E (they waited, but the cargo never arrived for them)

13. Who did the Melanesians believe made “cargo?”

Dead Ancestors (ghosts)

14. In one millenarian movement in New Guinea, a group of Papuans renamed their villages with names taken from:

- a. the I Ching b. the Bible c. American warships d. Disney cartoons
e. American presidents

B

15. Why might we view the Melanesian cargo cults as a logical and rational attempt to make sense out of a social order that appeared senseless and chaotic?

They did not have the information base to understand the world market; their reality was based in the understanding of magic and ritual, thus this was a perfectly logical explanation for them.

16. T/F Revivalist movements attempt to revive what is often perceived as a past golden age.

T

17. What’s the difference between a nativistic movement and a millenarian movement?

Nativistic – Bridge gap between dominant and subordinate cultures

Millenarianism – bring about apocalyptic transformation

18. The Ghost Dance of 1890: (select those that apply)

- a. was begun by a Paiute prophet Wovoka
b. promised the return of the ancestors and the disappearance of the dominant society
c. is an example of a nativistic movement
d. is an example of a revivalist movement

A,B,C,D

19. T/F The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints began as a 19th century revitalization movement.

T (Mormons)

20. Two psychological processes, mazeway resynthesis and hysterical conversion, are important in the revitalization process. Which is more typical of the mass follower? Which is likely to result from a hallucinogenic trance?

Mazeway resynthesis – more the transformational journey, re: hallucinogen

Hysterical conversion—mass follower – drawn into the high energy hysteria..

21. T/F The Chinese Communist's technique of **brain-washing** was used to induce hysterical conversion.

T

22. Could you be brain-washed? Why? Why not?

Morality/reality intact and no need for a major shift in the power/reality base?

23. The past decades in the United States have seen a decline in membership in traditional mainstream religions but an increase in membership in both New Age/Pagan religions and fundamentalist religions. In what ways are these two movements very different? In what ways are they similar? Why do you think they have been popular while traditional religions have declined?

**Higher involvement in new/ecstatic religious practice – more physical sensation
Mainstream – empty non-sensation ritual**

24. A high demand religion is characterized by:

- a. strict control of outside information
- b. communal living
- c. members being given new names and identities
- d. all of these

D

25. What is deprogramming? Is it effective?

Mind control – some of the same techniques are used as in brain washing.

It's not always effective—some prefer membership in their communities...

26. Who was David Koresh?

Founder of the Branch Dividians – compound in Waco, Texas

High involvement religion – member females were banned from sex with their husbands – could only have sex with David Koresh who presented himself as the lamb of God.

27. What became of the Branch Dividians?

In attempting to defend themselves from an investigation/invasion by the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives), their building caught on fire and they all died.

The Heavens Gate Cult

1. Who was Marshall Applewhite? What was his cult name?

Founder of Heavens Gate...former choir director. Cult name: Do

2. How did Applewhite meet Bonnie Nettles?

In a Mental Institution (she was a nurse; he a patient) Cult name: Ti

3. What did they do together prior to founding Heavens Gate?

Travel the country talking to groups about their beliefs...courting followers.

4. What attracted followers to the Heavens Gate?

Cult family, rules for enlightenment, purpose, goals, leave vehicle for higher levels of consciousness

5. How did the group support itself?

Web design services

6. In what respect was Applewhite haunted by sexual demons?

Despite that he had married heterosexually and fathered a family, he had homosexual attractions that he felt embarrassed about. He encouraged his followers to embrace androgyny and to live as monks, shunning all sexual attractions and impulses.

7. What activities were Heavens Gate members banned from doing?

- a. having sex b. staying in touch with their families c. eating sugar
d. smoking 420 e. thinking for themselves

A, B, D, E

8. Why was castration appealing to male members of Heavens Gate?

Enabled men to reduce their sex drives; made directive of celibacy more achievable.

9. Who was Rio DiAngelo?

Last member to leave Heavens Gate. He became the messenger when the group committed suicide; received the Good Bye tape, etc.

10. How many people were involved in Heavens Gate at its end?

23?

11. Did members of Heavens Gate die or go to next level?

Emic vs. Etic!

12. Do you think you would be susceptible to a millenarian cult such as Heavens Gate?

Why? Why not?

Enjoy being told what to do vs. thinking for one's self...

Polygamy in America

1. Have you watched "Big Love" and/or "Sister Wives?" What themes stand out in this TV portrayal of Mormon polygamy? Do the characters seem believable?

Wives competing for attention / giving lip service to cooperation. Men engaging in schemes to earn lots of money – swindling wives and business opportunities from other men. For men: what it takes to be a provider for many...and for women: to share resources with others who are mothers and wives...

2. T/F Polygamy is illegal in the U.S.

T – FLDS Mormons have church sanctioned marriages and contracts; these are not recognized by the U.S. government; U.S. only recognizes monogamous marriage.

3. T/F Amongst polygamous Mormons fathers are the most valued social category.

T – fewer of them...much need for their services

4. T/F There are about 50,000 Americans allied with the Mormon church who currently practice polygamy.

T – primarily states of Utah, Arizona, Idaho

5. T/F Fundamentalist Mormons follow the law of the land except when it contradicts God's law of plural marriage.

T – otherwise law-abiding

6. What was the Mormon's 1890 manifesto?

In order to join the U.S. as a state, the Utah territory would abandon the practice of polygamy (re: polygyny)

7. How does the State of Utah regard the Fundamentalist Mormon practice of polygamy today?

Typically ignored unless there are complaints associated with practice – e.g. arranging the marriages of under-aged girls (re: child abuse), collecting welfare for so-called single mothers.

8. T/F Fundamentalist Mormon men can improve their celestial ranks by marrying multiple wives.

T – much the incentive in terms of having more family in their afterlives

9. How do Mormon women improve their celestial ranks?

By accepting/encouraging their husbands marrying additional wives

10. T/F It is rare for Mormon mothers to be adored with the kind of passion in which fathers are adored.

T – fathers are regarded as special...especially in that they are not as available to their children as their mothers are

11. Who is the ultimate adjudicator of family affairs?

a. the sister co-wives b. the husband-father c. the community council of elders
d. the church minister e. the town mayor

B – his judgment is respected—when it isn't, wives feel tempted to leave and find a husband they can respect

12. T/F Many FLDS children yearn for a closer relationship with their fathers.

T

Discussion: Women may hold back in feeling affection for their husbands – marriage more about improving celestial rank in the next life; too painful to feel deep love for someone that must be shared.

Also – women seek to be the favorite wife-may leave a marriage to marry someone new who treats them as the favorite (new wife syndrome)

Polyamory

1. Have you watched, "Polyamory: Married and Dating?" What is polyamory?
Consensual multiple partner relationships –value transparency/disclosure. Can be hetero, homo, bi
2. How many people practice polyamory in the U.S.?
60,000? People who name it and people who allow some version; perhaps, don't ask and don't tell.
3. What might be the benefits of practicing polyamory?
Less stress than cheating; live in integrity. Have the benefits of long term relationship stability plus the excitement of getting to know someone new.
4. What is NRE? How do polyamorists regard NRE?
New Relationship Energy
Something that is exciting, but short-lived. Not something to invest one's heart and soul in. OK for partner to be there...ultimately they understand that their partner is not going to leave (and vice-versa)
5. T/F Polyamorous people are rarely troubled by jealousy.
F – they do experience it, but consider it something that they can get through; maybe even rise above. Some seem to have high serotonin levels and do not seem to weather the highs and lows of passion and jealousy
6. In what ways might people be fighting Mother Nature in their practice of polyamory?
By nature humans appear to be serial monogamous. We typically become drawn to one person at a time and dream that relationship perfect is about to happen. Polyamory expects that people discount this intense pull to one person and instead to honor commitments to all of one's intimates despite that someone new is on the scene.
7. What is *compersion*?
Having loving empathy for one's partner's new love(s). Akin to feeling happy your partner won a scholarship to a great school, etc.
8. How do cultural beliefs impact the experience of compersion?
If one is allied with the culture of polyamory, one considers compersion to be possible (and desirable) to achieve. Those who are culturally monogamous regard compersion as unrealistic and ultimately foolhardy.
9. The majority of people who practice polyamory do so as:
 - a. triads
 - b. members of intimate networks
 - c. open couples
 - d. independent single people
 - e. there is no typical way of being polyamorous
- C**
10. T/F Polyamorous people in America tend to be well-educated professionals who seek to better realize all who they are emotionally, sexually and artistically.

T

11. In what ways do polyamorous people practice *polyarmory*?

Assuring that who their partner's get involve with are honorable people who won't be possessive, pass STDs and will ultimately respect the already-in-place relationships in a new partner's life. They do this to insure their status and station in their marriages/partnerships.

12. T/F A significant hallmark of polyamory is a desire to be truthful to one's partner and one's lovers.

T – very important aspect of polyamory...something cheaters would consider extremely dangerous—they insure the integrity of their primary relationships by NOT disclosing.

13. Should polyamorous unions be legalized?

Polygamy is legal in 85% of world cultures...about 1/3 of the population of the world. Consider why monogamy has such a foothold in the U.S. (Economically feasible for each man to have his own farm/wife/family.) Never before such a possibility.

14. Who might consider polyamory to be immoral and why?

People who think monogamy is normal—that polyamory might be facilitating the spread of STDs, heartache, that it's not natural (re: the bible)