CHAPTER 6

Social Identity, Personality, and Gender

What Is Enculturation?

- Enculturation is the process by which culture is passed from one generation to the next and through which individuals become members of their society.
- Enculturation begins soon after birth with the development of self-awareness.

How Does Enculturation Influence Personality?

- Each individual begins with certain broad potentials and limitations that are genetically inherited.
- In some cultures, particular childrearing practices seem to promote the development of compliant personalities.
- In others different practices seem to promote more independent, self-reliant personalities.
Are Different Personalities Characteristic of Different Cultures?

- Every culture emphasizes certain personality traits as good and others as bad.
- The concept of modal personality recognizes that any human society has a range of individual personalities, but some will be more typical than others.
- Since modal personalities may differ from one culture to another and since cultures may differ in the range of variation they will accept, it is clear that abnormal personality is a relative concept.

The Self and the Behavioral Environment

- Culture is created and learned rather than biologically inherited.
- All societies must ensure that culture is transmitted from one generation to the next.
- Enculturation begins soon after birth.

Self Awareness

- The ability to:
  - Identify oneself as an object.
  - React to oneself.
  - Appraise or evaluate oneself.
- Attaching positive value to the self ensures individuals act to their own advantage.
Requirements for Self-awareness

- Object orientation
  - Aware of the world of objects other than self.

- Spatial orientation
  - The ability to get from one object, or place, to another.

Requirements for Self-awareness

- Temporal orientation
  - Able to connect past actions with those in the present and future.

- Normative orientation
  - Understanding of cultural values, ideals, and standards.

Visual Counterpoint

- Self-awareness is not restricted to humans. This chimpanzee knows that the individual in the mirror is himself and not some other chimp, just as the girl recognizes herself.
Naming Ceremony

- A special event or ritual to mark the naming of a child.

First Laugh Ceremony

- Navajo babies begin to learn the importance of community at a special First Laugh Ceremony (Chi Dlo Dll).
- The person who prompted an infant’s first laugh teaches the little child about the joy of generosity by helping the baby give symbolic gifts of sweets and rock salt to each guest.

Personality

- Refers to the distinctive ways a person thinks, feels, and behaves.
- Most anthropologists believe adult personality is shaped by early childhood experiences.
- The economy helps structure the way children are raised and this influences their adult personalities.
Two Patterns of Child Rearing

- **Dependence training** - promotes compliance in and favors keeping individuals within the group.
- **Independence training** - emphasizes individual independence, self-reliance, and personal achievement.

Ju/'hoansi Society

- In traditional Ju/'hoansi society, fathers as well as mothers show great indulgence to children, who do not fear or respect men more than women.

Modal Personality

- The modal personality of a group is defined as the body of character traits that occur with the highest frequency in a culturally bounded population.
- Modal personality is a statistical concept.
- It opens up for investigation the questions of how societies organize diversity and how diversity relates to culture change.
National Character Studies

- Focused on the modal characteristics of modern countries.
- Many anthropologists believe national character theories are based on unscientific and overgeneralized data.

Core Values

- The collectively shared core values of Chinese culture promote integration of the individual into a larger group, as we see in this gathering of Hong Kong residents doing Tai Chi together.

Cohabitation

- [Graph showing cohabitation statistics]
Gender

- Recurrent gender patterns
  - Men and women are equal in subsistence
  - Women are primary caregivers for children

Gender among Foragers

- Economic roles and gender stratification
- Public-domestic dichotomy
- Sex-linked activities

Gender Among Horticulturalists

- Martin and Voorhies (1975) study
- Reduced gender stratification - matrilineal
- Increased gender stratification – patrilineal
Gender among Agriculturalists

- Women lose role as primary cultivators
- Social changes
- Female status

Other issues

- Patriarchy and violence
- Gender and industrialism
- Feminism of poverty

Sexual Orientation

- Sexual orientation defined
- Sexual norms
- Homosexual behavior among the Etoro (Kelly 1976)
Genders

- **Gender vs. Sex**
  - **Culturally specific**
    - Male/Female
    - Intersexuals - People born with reproductive organs, genitalia, and/or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female.
    - Transgenders - People who cross-over or occupy a culturally accepted intermediate position in the binary male—female gender construction.
    - Berdache – Person with two spirits – male and female.

Ethnic Psychoses

- Mental disorders specific to particular ethnic groups.

Ethnic Psychoses And Other Culture-bound Syndromes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disorder</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amok</td>
<td>Malaya (also in Java, Africa, and Tierra del Fuego)</td>
<td>Sudden outbursts of aggression in which the afflicted person may kill or injure others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anorexia nervosa</td>
<td>Western countries</td>
<td>Disorder in which a preoccupation with thinness produces a refusal to eat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latah</td>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>Fear reaction in middle-aged women of low intelligence who are subservient.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koro</td>
<td>Southeast Asia</td>
<td>Fear reaction in which the person fears his penis will withdraw into his abdomen and he will die.</td>
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<td>Windigo</td>
<td>Algonquian Indians of Canada and northern U.S.</td>
<td>A hunter becomes convinced that he is bewitched.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kitsunetsuki</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Victims believe they are possessed by foxes and change facial expressions to resemble foxes.</td>
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<td>Pibloktoq and other Arctic hysterias</td>
<td>Circumpolar peoples from Lapland eastward across Siberia, northern Alaska, and Canada to Greenland</td>
<td>Victim may tear clothes off, jump in water or fire, roll in snow, try to walk on the ceiling, throw things, thrash about, and “speak in tongues.”</td>
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