

WHAT ELEMENTS CREATE A SOCIAL STRUCTURE? 66

macrosociology and microsociology

HOW DO THE THREE PARADIGMS VIEW SOCIAL STRUCTURE? 76

functionalism: social institutions and structures serve essential functions in a society

conflict theory: the structure and culture of the underprivileged are deliberately weakened for the benefit of the dominant group

symbolic interactionism: social construction of reality: “If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences”

HOW CAN SOCIAL POLICIES IMPROVE SOCIETY? 79

high-quality preschool programs: improve the lives of the participants; decrease the amount of funding needed for other social programs (special education, welfare)

get the topic: WHAT ELEMENTS CREATE A SOCIAL STRUCTURE?

Macrosociology and Microsociology 66

Micro Orientations: Social Interactions 74

An Example of Symbolic Interactionism:

The Thomas Theorem and the Social Creation of Reality 76

An Example of Functionalism: Studying Essential Features of Functional Social Structures 76

An Example of Conflict Theory: Deliberate Efforts to Weaken the Structure and Culture of Native Americans 77
Social Policy—The Perry Preschool Project 79

Theory

FUNCTIONALISM 76

- social institutions and structures are essential functions for society
- five primary tasks of society that create social structures: (1) adaptation and replacement, (2) orientation and socialization, (3) production and economy, (4) social order, (5) unity and purpose
- just because society is having its needs met, this does not mean individual members of society are also having their needs fulfilled

CONFLICT THEORY 77

- study issues such as race, social class, and inequality

- conflict theorists perceive a pattern of inequality for the U.S. poor that does not occur on an international level, such as Hurricane Katrina relief

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM 76

- a person's social creation of reality may take into account social issues such as job opportunities, welfare policies, unemployment, and access to a living wage
- experiences with these issues can have an effect on people, causing them to alter their creation of reality

Key Terms

macrosociology is the study of large-scale society, focusing on the social structures that exist within a society and examining how those structures create the social world. 67

microsociology is the study of the small interactions of daily life. 67

social structures are patterns of relationships that endure from one generation to the next. 67

groups are any number of people with similar norms, values, and behaviors who frequently interact with one another. 67

primary groups are groups that are small, intimate, and enduring. 67

secondary groups are groups that are formal, superficial, and temporary. 67

social class is a group with similar access to power, wealth, and prestige. 67

status is the position that you occupy within the social structure, which is often closely linked to social class. 68

achieved status is a type of position that you earn or do something to attain. 68

ascribed status is a position in society that is given or assigned. 68

master status is the status toward which we gravitate. 68

role is the behavior of a specific status. 68

role expectations are the anticipated behaviors for a particular role. 68

role performance is the degree to which a person plays the role in a manner we expect. 68

role conflict is a phenomenon occurring when one is forced to choose between the competing demands of multiple roles. 69

role strain occurs when the demands and expectations of one role are impossible for us to satisfy. 69

stigma is a mark of disgrace associated with a particular status, quality, or person. 69

discredited stigma is a stigma that cannot be hidden from others or is no longer hidden from others. 69

(continued)

discreditable stigma is a stigma that can be concealed from others. 69

social institutions are structures that provide for patterned relationships. 71

Gemeinschaft refers to community connections that involve personal relationships based on friendship and kinship ties, such as family. 73

Gesellschaft refers to societal connections that are more formal and impersonal. 73

personal space is the invisible bubble that each of us has around ourselves to insulate us from others. 74

intimate distance is distance reserved for those with whom we are very close. 74

personal distance is distance that ranges from 18 inches to 4 feet; this distance is for normal conversations. 74

social distance is distance that ranges from about 4 feet to 12 feet and is usually reserved for formal settings. 75

public distance is the zone of interaction that is used in highly formal settings; this distance includes everything greater than 12 feet. 75

impression management is management of the impression that the performer makes on others. 75

front stage is what the audience see, or the part of ourselves that we present to others. 75

backstage is the demeanor that incorporates our true feelings and beliefs. 75

embarrassment is a state that occurs when we realize our act has failed. 75

face-saving work is a reaction to embarrassment in the form of either humor, anger, or retreat. 75

demographic similarity refers to shared characteristics such as race, gender, or age. 76

supervisor-focused impression management refers to techniques that involve flattering your boss and agreeing with your boss' opinions (or at least avoiding disagreements whenever possible). 76

self-focused impression management refers to techniques that include acting modest about your accomplishments (even if that modesty is false), boasting occasionally about your successes, and showing your friendliness and self-assuredness through smiles and eye contact. 76

Sample Test Questions

These multiple-choice questions are similar to those found in the test bank that accompanies this textbook.

1. In what kind of society is the economy based on service and technology?
 - a. Industrial
 - b. Agricultural
 - c. Postindustrial
 - d. Hunting and gathering
2. Craigslist is an example of a modern-day
 - a. social institution.
 - b. political system.
 - c. barter system.
 - d. religious group.
3. Which of the following systems distributes power in a society?
 - a. Legal
 - b. Political
 - c. Economic
 - d. Educational
4. Which of the following groups is the best example of a *Gemeinschaft* relationship?
 - a. A large city
 - b. A soccer team
 - c. A government
 - d. A large corporation
5. Which of the five tasks of society allows new members to join and assigns roles to the new members?
 - a. Socialization and orientation
 - b. Adaptation and replacement
 - c. Production and economy
 - d. Unity and purpose

ESSAY

1. What are the differences between an industrial society and a post-industrial society?
2. How do societies demonstrate adaptation and replacement for survival? Give examples.
3. Why is it important to observe the conventions of personal space?
4. Explain how a group might change from a *Gemeinschaft* to a *Gesellschaft*.
5. Which systems would a conflict theorist target when addressing the issue of poverty? Why?

WHERE TO START YOUR RESEARCH PAPER

For more information on sociological theories, especially the works of Durkheim and Marx, go to http://www2.uwsuper.edu/HPS/MBALL/DEAD_SOC.HTM

To learn more about the agricultural revolution and its transition from hunting and gathering, go to http://www.wsu.edu/gened/learn-modules/top_agrev/agrev-index.html

For a detailed view of hunting and gathering in New Guinea, go to <http://www.climatechange.umaine.edu/Research/projects/NewGuinea.html>

To learn more about how elevated social status may help people live longer lives, go to <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn10972-social-status-helps-you-live-longer.html>

For more information on impression management as an important factor in business success, go to <http://changingminds.org/index.htm>
<http://www.impressionmanagement.com/>
http://www.salesvantage.com/article/view.php?w5857&Using_Impression_Management_to_Excel_in_Your_Career/

To learn more about Head Start, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/hsweb/index.jsp>

Remember to check www.thethinkspot.com for additional information, downloadable flashcards, and other helpful resources.

ANSWERS: 1. c; 2. c; 3. b; 4. b; 5. a