

Ethnocentrism

Class 3

Animal without specification

Specieses in the animal world

Survival of the fittest

Struggle for life

Forgetfulness of Epimetheus

„Man is the animal not yet properly adapted to his environment” (Nietzsche)

Umwelt vs Welt

- Animals have species-specific environments structured by their own genetic capabilities (Umwelt)
- There is no man-Umwelt in the sense there is dog-Umwelt or fish-Umwelt
- Man has no biologically fixed relationship to the environment. Man lives in an open world to be closed by means of communication and (inter) action (Habermas)
- Environment void of pre-structured patterns of responses= Welt

Constructing reality

- Effort after meaning
- Endowment by meaning
- Language as the „house of being”
- Semantic universe
- Natural attitude (common set of taken for granted beliefs)
- Typifications, relevances, relationships
- Transformation of space and time

Group reality

- „Gemeinschaft” – primordial groups
- „Social brain” (Robin Dunbar)
- Group cohesion
- Fixing boundaries between „us” and „them”
- Fuzzyness of the boundaries (language)
- Nomadism and sedentarism
- „ius sanguini” (blood) and „ius soli” (territory)

Categorization

- Categorization (naming) as a general mode of construction reality
- Group name as the tool of categorization of humans into groups
- The failure to build Babel's tower (no single name, instead being scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. Genesis. 11.11)
- Effects of categorization
creation of discontinuities
seeing clear differences
forced homogenization

Dichotomization

- Ingroup-Outgroup
- Paralell realities
- Inability to understand each other
- The tale of the stork and the fox
- Mutually exclusive taken for granted beliefs
- Clashing values
- Unawareness of differences
- Cognitive conflict
- Antagonism

Demonstration

- The tale of the Stork and the Fox

Ethnocentrism

- „The technical name for that view of things in which one’s group is the centre of everything, and all others are scaled and rated with reference to it. Each group nourishes its own pride and vanity, boasts itself superior, exalts its own divinities, and looks with contempt on outsiders. Each group thinks its own folkways the only right ones, and if it observes that other groups have other folkways, these excite its scorn.” W.G. Sumner
- Positive self-identity (unconditional, „right or wrong it’s my group)

Construction of the Otherness

- There is no biological program in humans resulting in the recognition of „friend” and „enemy”
- Antagonism is learned (and transmitted by socialization)
- Strangeness (the fear of everybody who does not belong to „us”)
- Others as friends and enemies

Intergroup relations

Unranked relations (cooperation)

- Ranked relations (hierarchy of groups, social dominance)
- „An sich” relation (accepted)
- „Für sich” relation (unaccepted)
- Competition, rivalry, fight
- Scarce resources (women, materials, land)
- Zero-sum games (intergroup conflict)
- Resolution of intergroup conflict (superordinate goals-Sherif)

Fixing the intergroup boundary

- Mental GPS
- Stereotypes (auto-and heterostereotypes)
- Generalized images and beliefs concerning the members of the given group
- Anatomy of the group member
- Social anatomy
- Morality and Competence (character traits)
- Inferences
- Prototypes

Functions of stereotyping

- Mental GPS
- Reduction of complexity
- Justification of inequalities
- Easiness of communication (joke, gossip, rumor, propaganda)
- Appeal to the „id“ and the „superego“



Prejudice

Not just pre-judgement but emotional attraction or aversion (love and hate)

degrees (G.W.Allport)

locution

behavior (approaching, avoiding)

action (care, aggression)

procedure (self-segregation, isolation)

liquidation (in case of negative prejudice)

Varieties of negative prejudice (Langmuir)

- Representative („kernel of truth”)
- Xenophobia (distrust)
- Chimeric prejudice (fantasy)
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Group Identity Competence

- Experiments in vacuum (H.Tajfel)
- Categorization into „X” and „Y” by random
- Distribution of rewards between group members
- Joint Maximal Profit, Fair Distribution, Maximalization of Ingroup Profit
- Favoritism (maximalization of ingroup profit, even it was less than the share from the Joint Maximal Profit)