

Module: SHS

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Lecture: 05

Level: 1st year

Chapter II

1. Introduction of Anthropology.
 - 1.1. Definitions of Anthropology.
 - 1.2. Questions in Anthropology.
 - 1.3. The Relation between culture and anthropology.
2. The Question of the Origin of Man.
3. Theories of Human Evolution.
 - 3.1. Darwin's theory
 - 3.2. Science Perspective
 - 3.3. Religion Perspective.
 - 3.4 Criticism of Darwin's Theory.

1. Anthropology

1.1 Definitions:

According to Wikipedia: Anthropology is defined as the **scientific study** of **humans**, human behavior and **societies** in the past and the present. Others define it as the science that deals with **origins, physical** and **cultural development, biological characteristics** and **social customs** and **beliefs of humankind**. Also the study of the similarities and divergences between human beings and other animals. It is as well considered as the study also of the activities of the human being.

Eric Wolf defines anthropology as “the one that is less a subject matter than a bond between subject matters. (A mixer between different subjects “history, litterature, natural sciences, social sciences...).

“It strives to study men both from without and with. It represents both a manner of looking at man and a vision of man. The most scientific of the humanities, the most humanist of sciences”. (**Fales William Lett**)

University of Florida: anthropology is the study of humankind. Of all the disciplines that examine aspects of human existence and accomplishments. Only anthropology explored the entire panorama of the human experience from human origins to contemporary forms of culture and social life.

1.2. What questions anthropologists attempt to answer ?

Anthropologists attempt to answer the following questions and others:

1. How can one explain the diversity of human cultures that are currently found on earth and how they have evolved ? “
2. Who are we as “human beings” ?
3. How did we come to be this way ?
4. What will be in the future ?
5. How does a culture differ from a society to another ?
6. What is the nature of human beings ?
7. What is the relation between the human being and his culture ?
8. What is the relationship between the different cultures in the world ?
9. What makes people different in body shapes ? sizes ? customs ? clothing ? speech ? religion ? and the worldview?
10. What does it mean to be human ?
11. Why are humans the way they are ?

1.3. What is culture ?

Culture is introduced as an integrated part of the human being behavior that includes: thoughts, communication, age, practices, beliefs, religion, values ...

Culture: (with a big **C**) It is a big umbrella that comprises: literature, geography, arts, food..., and sometimes it is replaced by **civilization**.

Culture: a more invisible type of culture. It is associated with a (egion of a group of people, language ...). It may include: communications, styles, verbal language and non-verbal language symbols, Norms. Also includes the pragmatic issue of what is proper ? improper in social interactions? and how to behave ? ...

1.4. Relation between Anthropology and Culture

It is said that culture is the jam of the sandwich, culture is the jam of anthropology. It is the one that makes humans different from apes, animals, plants, ...”

“Everything that the man does that the monkeys do not.” **Lord Roglan**.

2. The Question of the Origin of Man .

Scientific Perspective

- What is the origin of man ?

All human beings belong to the same species. Which has spread from its birth place in Africa to almost all parts of the world. Its origins in Africa is proved by the fossils which have been found there.

- Where did the first person come from ?

According to science we all belong to the same species. Our species has the name **Homo sapiens** which means the “**wise person**” Anthropologists have found bones from people belonging to our species. Which are at least 200.000 years old.

Neanderthals : are the people that scientists think they lived before the homo sapiens.



(A picture represents how did neanderthals look like)

3. Human Evolution Theories:

Religion Perspective:

According to many religious resources: **Adam** is the first person.

In a religious perspective: it is said that **GOD** created us the way we are now.

Others reject this theory, and prove with verses from QURAN

الآيات القرآنية

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ
نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ (30)

صدق

الله العظيم . البقرة 30

And (remember) when your Lord said to the angels: "Verily, I am going to place (mankind) generations after generations on earth." They said: "Will You place therein those who will make mischief therein and shed blood, - while we glorify You with praises and thanks (Exalted be You above all that they associate with You as partners) and sanctify You." He (Allah) said: "I know that which you do not know."

وَرَبُّكَ الْغَنِيُّ ذُو الرَّحْمَةِ إِنْ يَشَأْ يُدْهِبْكُمْ وَيَسْتَخْلِفْ مِنْ بَعْدِكُمْ مَا يَشَاءُ كَمَا أَنْشَأَكُم مِّنْ ذُرِّيَّةٍ قَوْمٍ آخَرِينَ)

(133

صدق الله العظيم .سورة الأنعام 133

“Thy Lord is self-sufficient, full of Mercy: if it were His will, He could destroy you, and in your place appoint whom He will as your successors, even as He raised you up from the posterity of other people.”

3.1.The evolution theory.

The theory of evolution by **natural selection**; first formulated in **Darwin's** Book “**On the origin of the species**” 1859, speaking about the process by which organisms change over time. As a result of changes in heritable physical or behavioral traits “Changes that allow an organism to adapt to its environment will help to survive and have more offspring”.

“All life on Earth is connected and related to each other, and this diversity of life is a product of “modifications of populations by **natural selection**, where some traits were favored in an environment over others” **Brian Richmond**.

3.2. Darwin's theory of Evolution:

The theory is sometimes called or described as “**survival of the fittest**”. Fittest refers not to an organism’s strength or athletic ability, but rather the ability to survive and reproduce.

Evoluton: change, development is genetic traits of living things.

According to **Darwin** theory: we had to be animals to be a human now. We live as all the different animals in our evolutionary line. We lived through millions of years, and millions of lives, and deaths to get where we are now. “**Darwin Book**”.

Fossil Evidence: the genetic code proves that all animals, including us, evolved from Bacteria over the last 700 million years on earth: “We were a microbe, an insect, a fish, a dinosaur, an ape ...

Fossil: any preserved evidence of an organism, plants, animals. Even Bacteria can form fossils.



(A fossil)

Why are there so few fossils ?

There were so few fossils relative to the number of species that have existed It is most likely because organisms decompose before they have a chance to become fossilized. Only those organisms that are quickly buried in sediment (water in) after their death become preserved.

Types: of fossils:

Trace fossil: footprints, burrows (terriers), feces.

Molds & casts: Molds are impressions of entire organism,

Cats are molds that have been filled with sediment over time.

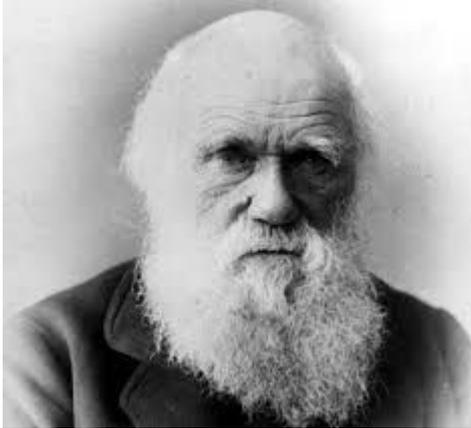


(A sediment)

.Who is Charles Darwin ?

Charles Robert Darwin. At the age of 51, he published his book: “On the origin of species”. He was born on February 12th, 1809 in England. He is British. He studied at the University of Edinburgh and Cambridge.... He wrote his famous book stated above in 1859. He influenced Chales Lyell. And be influenced by Thomas Henry

Huxley; George John Romanes. Notable rewards: Copley, Royal and wollashow medal. He died on 19 april 1882 (73 years old).



(Charles Robert Darwin)

Darwin's theory of Evolution the Premise :

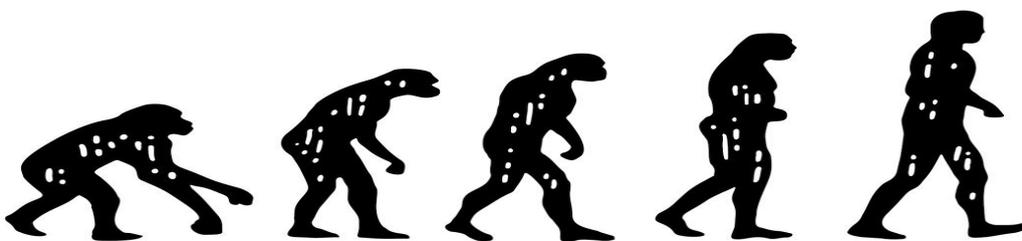
Darwin's theory of Evolution is the widely held notion that "**All life is related**" and has **descended from a common ancestor**: the monkeys, the birds, the plants; the bananes, the flowers and fish ...all related.

Darwin's general theory presumes the development of life from non-life and stresses a purely naturalistic view.

"Descent with modification"

That is, complex creatures evolve from more simplistic ancestors naturally over time. To sum up, as random genetic mutations occur within an organism's genetic code, the beneficial mutations are preserved because they aid survival. A process known as: **natural selection**. These beneficial mutations are passed on the next generation.

Over time, **beneficial mutations** accumulate and the result is an entirely different organism.(not just a variation of the original but an entirely different creature. Thus animal to Man.



(A picture represents Darwin's Theory)

Natural selection **acts to preserve and accumulate minor advantageous mutations**.The inferior (disadvantaged) members of the same species would gradually die out leaving only superior.

Natural selection: is the preservation of a functional advantage that enables a species to compete better in the wild. It is also defined as is the process that results in

adaptation of an organism to its environment by means of selectivity reproducing changes in its genotype.

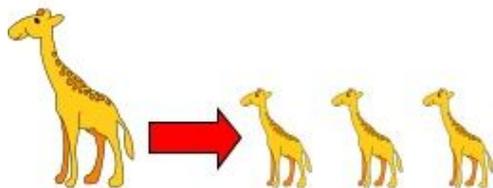
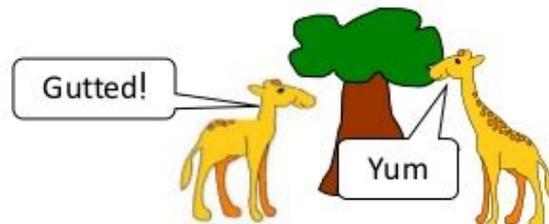
Natural Selection

1) Each species shows variation:



2) There is competition within each species for food, living space, water, mates etc.

3) The “better adapted” members of these species are more likely to survive – “Survival of the Fittest”



4) These survivors will pass on their better genes to their offspring who will also show this beneficial variation.

3.4. Criticism of Darwin’s Theory: Darwin himself said that there were gaps in his theory.

- If we suppose that Darwin's theory is acceptable, where are the different stages of development presented ?
- The failure of fossil record to provide support for darwinian evolution (Lack of fossils)
- The failure of molecular biology to provide evidence for a grand “tree of life.
- Natural selection is an extremely inefficient method of spreading traits in populations unless a trait has an extremely high selection coefficient.
- Humans show many behavioral and cognitive traits and abilities that offer no apparent survival advantage (e.g. music, art, religion, ability to ponder the nature of the universe). (Luskin,2012)

