STRUCTURE OF CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION FORMS

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Contents

1. Introduction
2. Contingent structures and essentials in the phenomenon of culture
3. Structures in the concept of culture
   3.1 A definition of structure with respect to culture
   3.2 Filling holes in terminology and expanding on structure
   3.3 Epistemological considerations
4. Structures of culture in action
5. Communication forms
   5.1. Touch
   5.2 Sound
   5.3 Text
   5.4 Digital data
   5.5 Mass & multimedia
6. Conclusion
Glossary
Bibliography
Biographical Sketch

Summary

The concept of structure is apprehended in various applications before it is related to culture. Taken from a static inorganic context (architecture), the concept is metaphorically transplanted serving to explain the organisation of dynamic systems, like culture, and representing the interplay between form and substance by the combination of relations in a network of connections and operations. Structure being eminently the expression of order in the world of matter, it also affects language and communication in its various forms as exposed.

1. Introduction

Culture, as the way of life of societies, obeys certain rules of order (structure), organizing, as it were, the relations of its members to the best of the community. The social ordering system is paralleled and backed up by the legal system, regulating the rights and duties of the citizen in respect of others and of the community as a whole, in particular the security of the individual and the collectivity. In modern societies,
collective and individual life is largely ruled and supervised by the State, which has replaced also in this respect the hitherto predominant position of religion. Culture is, as it were, a concordia discordantium, i.e. the harmonious resolution of contradictions extant in a changing society, a sort of balance of conflicting powers in perpetual movement. It is also a synthesis, always un-typical, like a paradox, but allows for structuring, as we shall see in the following.

The structure of culture follows that of human life in its evolution, activities, and interests. Man being a social animal (ζοον πολιτικον) gifted with intelligence and experiencing emotions of which he can render account, communication is his main concern, and we shall examine hereafter in more detail the various forms and circumstances under which this impetuous desire functions. It would seem that the forms of communication dictate the structure of culture, language being naturally the most privileged but not exclusive means by which the communication process can work.

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**Biographical Sketch**

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