

Q. Explain the basic features of Post-modernism in anthropology. (15 m/20 m)

In anthropology, post modernism is stream which emphasises on humanistic studies of culture by taking into account various viewpoints.

History & evolution

It emerged in 1970s from America and France. Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida & Clifford James were its main proponents.

Basic features

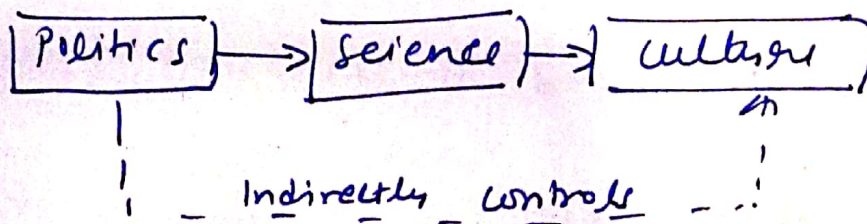
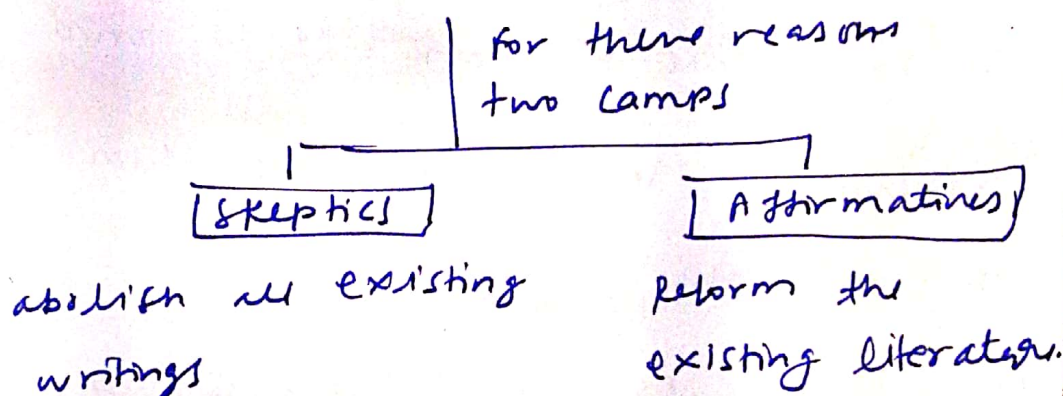
① found existing modern schools of culture study flawed due to following reasons:

- 1.1 View of subaltern (women, poor, etc) missing.
- 1.2 Epistemological writing but true objectivity not possible.

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1.3 Permanent truth not possible

1.4



② Representation of marginalised and subaltern → with every section's representation ethnography more holistic.

eg) old NCERT's which represented colonial way of looking at history from the ruler's perspective replaced with new NCERT's which allow perspective of common people.

③ Polyvocality - every viewpoint is correct and shall be accommodated. therefore culture

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shall be studied from multiple viewpoint and recorded in ethnography.

- ④ Self reflexivity - Ethnographer need to be aware of own biases and reflect on those to eliminate them from the writings.
- ⑤ Deconstruction - simplifying the ethnography so that common people can access it.
- ⑥ Intuitive interpretation - Allowing the interpretation based on intuition.
- ⑦ Field work not essential as it displays ethnographer's bias → library study → poetic probe and writings.
- ⑧ Ideas such as sustainability and nature's conservation are central.

Criticism

- ① Marshall Sahlins criticise for preoccupation with politics & power.
- ② Roy D'Andrade says true objectivity is possible and its not dehumanising.
- ③ By rejecting all views, post modernists promote nihilism.

Although criticised, but by accommodatory voices of marginalised, humanistic treatment of culture bearers and demystifying for masses, it is made the discipline intellectually credible.