

Pattern

Cultural style is the organization of cultural elements or compounds into an integrated unit. Depending on the nature of the principle of complementarity, we can distinguish between a cultural pattern as it refers to trends in a particular value system and a gestalt as a profile and a specific culture. Thus Hoebel defines the cultural pattern as "a normative form of behavior determined by the consensus of the members of society." The "cultural formation" is the "distinctive arrangement of cultural elements that gives culture its own contours."

Today the ethnological discussion of value patterns focuses on two concepts: the spirit of society and the underlying theme, while the concept of the pattern of culture has become more identical to formation in the sense referred to above. Thus, Cropper views patterns as "those organizations or systems of the internal relationship that give any culture a coherence or plan, and prevents them from being only casual particles." But that does not stop Cropper from saying that "macro cultural patterns tend to be somewhat psychological, as they have psychological implications." On the other hand, the term gestalt was the criterion of value. Benedict used it as a synonym for cultural style, and Kluckhohn defines it as "our subconscious value system."