

2:2 CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND THOUGHT

A. INTRODUCTION

- **NORMS:** Rules that define and regulate behavior
- **QUESTIONS:** Interrelation of culture, language, thought

B. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Origins of Cultural Institutions

Language and Myth

- a. Diffusion**
 - Kulturkreise
- b. Coincidence and independent invention**
 - American

2. Language and Culture

- a. Language controlling factor, Sapir-Whorf**
- b. “Blank slate (mind) ready to be imprinted . . .” B.F. Skinner**
- c. Cultural Evolution → Humanism**

C. RECENT THEORIES

1. Transformational Grammar, Noam Chomsky

- **“Biological Programmed . . . Language Learners”**
- a. **Deep Structure [Theory 2.2.1]**
 - **innate capacity . . . for language**
- b. **Transformational rules**
 - 1) **semantic component**
 - 2) **Phonological component**
- c. **Surface structure**
 - **Language appeared suddenly and fully developed**

2. Structure Analysis of Myth

- a. **Binary oppositions, Claude Levi-Strauss**
 - **linguistic model applied to myth**
- b. **Case Study: Bunyoro (John Beattie)**
 - 1) **Function = charter for social stratification**
 - 2) **Marxist = device of rulers**
 - 3) **Structuralist = binary contrasts**

D. SUMMARY