

The ethnological approach to health items: A contribution to archaeological research on African health thought Bangka District, Indonesia

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Abstract :

The ethnological approach to health items is defined as an innovative field of investigation in the disciplinary field of health socio-anthropology. This is a site of intense research on all material objects related health problems. The objective of the research is to understand how cultural communities in their history think and interpret various diseases according to their own perceptions and representations from these objects. In this case, the research is applied to the Ivorian ground of West Africa as an experiment. This research field is fundamentally distinct from the field of pharmacopoeia and mystical practices connected to talisman. According ethnocultural areas in Côte d'Ivoire, these health items are varied. Over time, some of these objects have undergone metamorphosis. Others have disappeared under the law of evolution like the loss of animal and plant biodiversity. However, the results indicate four groups of objects. These are the objects in healing power and/ or preventive; the symbolic objects of worship; conditionings models of drug products; and technological instruments of preservation, processing or preparation in African medicine. We discover in this classification, cross-functional objects but also specific character to objects. The other observation is that the diseases targeted by these objects are either the same or different passing from one culture to another. The interest and the stake of this research consist in showing another track of collaboration between the two disciplines which are ethnology and archeology. The game challenges include the history of cross-cultural perceptions of health and disease and sustainable development in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

Introduction :

Evolutionary biology is a field of study that investigates the ways that natural processes have shaped the development of life on Earth, producing measurable changes in populations over time. Humans, *Homo sapiens*, are a special case in the discussion of evolution. We are a relatively young species that has been on Earth for only about 195,000 years. Although this may sound like a long time, compared with other animals, humans are newcomers and we have been subject to processes of natural selection and adaptation for less time than many other living things. In that short time period, human lifestyles have changed dramatically.

The first humans evolved in Africa and had a foraging lifestyle, living in small, kin-based groups. Today, millions of people live in crowded, fast-paced, and technologically advanced agricultural societies. In evolutionary terms, this change has happened rapidly. The fact that these rapid changes were even possible reveals that human lifestyles are biocultural, products of interactions between biology and culture. This has many implications for understanding human health.

Conclusion :

As the global population becomes larger, it is increasingly challenging to address the health needs of the world's population. Today, 1 in 8 people in the world do not have access to adequate nutrition, the most basic element of good health. More than half the human population lives in an urban environment where infectious diseases can spread rapidly, sparking pandemics. Many of these cities include dense concentrations of poverty and health-care systems that are not adequate to meet demand. Globalization, a process that connects cultures through trade, tourism, and migration, contributes to the spread of pathogens that negatively affect human health and exacerbates political and economic inequalities that make the provision of healthcare more difficult.

Human health is complex and these are daunting challenges, but medical anthropologists have a unique perspective to contribute to finding solutions. Medical anthropology offers a holistic perspective on human evolutionary and biocultural adaptations as well as insights into the relationship between health and culture. As anthropologists study the ways people think about health and illness and the socioeconomic and cultural dynamics that affect the provision of health services, there is a potential to develop new methods for improving the health and quality of life for people all over the world.