



VI. Geertz' interpretive anthropology:

- A. Culture consists of symbols, motivations, moods and thoughts.
- B. Anthropology's product is writing -- **ethnographic ventriloquism**
- C. All ethnographic descriptions are homemade; they are the describer's descriptions, not those being described.
- D. Culture is a **complex web**, a meaningful text and layers of text that can be read over the shoulder of people doing it. The project is to understand and unravel this web.
- E. Anthropologists can elaborate on the meaning of these symbols.
- F. Geertz is interested in games and sports, including religious practices as reflections of cultural ideas.
 - 1. Example in American culture is Football as a metaphor for corporate culture -- it is hierarchical, puts primary leadership and power in one person (the QB), the goal is territorial expansion and domination of the field.
- G. In the Balinese cockfight, who is actually fighting? Is it the cocks or the men?
 - 1. Geertz called this "ambulant genitals". The double-entendre of 'cock' works in both cultures. 'Sabong' which means 'cock' in Balinese, also means 'tough-guy', 'macho', etc.
 - 2. How does Geertz conclude that cockfighting is so important and indicative of Balinese culture?
 - a. He describes the tempers expressed there, saying they are indicative of the larger society through reactions: the thrill of risk, despair at loss, and the pleasure of triumph.
 - b. Games, in this view, can be seen as microcosms for cultural indices.
 - c. It is also important to consider who is at the game? What kinds of people? What are their ages? Background? Income level?
 - d. Games are a 'focused gathering.'

VII. Catching up on the !Kung. We left off with them in the mid-1970s. Where are they now?

- A. Now they live on small settlements. They do some foraging, some agriculture, some work acting like Bushmen for tourists. They work as cleaning people for the Herero.
- B. Many live below the international poverty line.
- C. !Kung young are no longer learning the ways of their ancestors. They have some language preservation, but not tracking or hunting.
- D. The !Kung are still recognized for their healing powers. Even recognized by the government.
- E. The !Kung are now facing HIV/AIDS crisis affecting minority populations everywhere. They still have lower infection rate than other South Africans, but it is still high.
- F. They also suffer from alcoholism and TB.
- G. The !Kung were never really isolated, but now we can see they are really integrated in modern existence.