The Ethnographic Triangle

The Human

Lifeworld

What is an ethnographer trying to understand?

Social Structural Features Cultural Features

 Lived Experience

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 Cultural Features

 (Cultural Anthropology)

 Cosmology

How do people understand their place in the world?

Meanings of gender, socioeconomic divisions

 Symbols and rituals—Religion

 Literature and art

 Taxonomies and taboos

 Meaning of Parenthood
 Resonance of Language

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Social Structural Features:

(Sociology, Social Anthropology)

Who has power? What kind of power?

How is society organized?

Who has authority?

Gender roles

Socio-economic divisions

Laws, form of government

Who has resources?

Kinship Rules and Obligations

Access to healthcare

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Lived Experience

 (Phenomenological Anthropology)

Personal Life History (Illness, significant events, learning over time)

Intersubjective relations with others

Communal experiences of migration, persecution, or flourishing

The ways in which cultural and social structural elements actually impinge on some particular person or community’s life