

Journal 9/5/18

WRITE ABOUT AN EXPERIENCE YOU HAD WHERE YOU INTERPRETED SOMETHING INCORRECTLY

(EXAMPLE: IN A CONVERSATION, TEXT MESSAGE, BODY LANGUAGE, SIGN, LABEL, ETC.)

- WHY WAS THERE A MISINTERPRETATION?
- WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE MISINTERPRETATION?

Unit 1: Sociological Theory

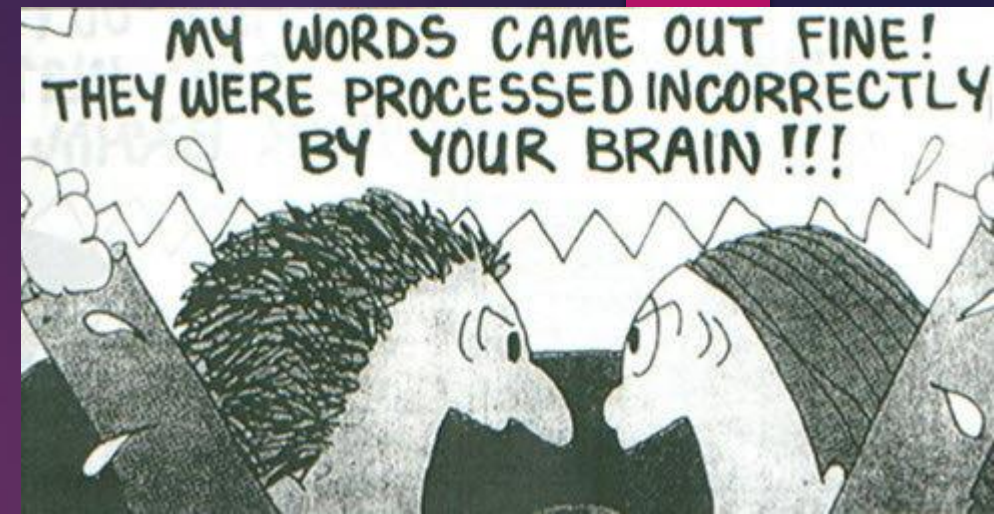
Table of Contents

1. Unit 1 Table of Contents
2. Notes: What is Sociology/Origins of Sociology
3. Questions: Origins of Sociology Questions
4. Notes: Sociological Imagination
5. Sociological Imagination Activity
6. Have Smart Phones Destroyed a Generation?
7. Socratic Seminar Prep
8. Notes: Theory Overview
9. Notes: Functionalism
10. Notes: Conflict Theory
11. Charlottesville: Race and Terror
12. Notes: Symbolic Interactionism

Symbolic Interactionism

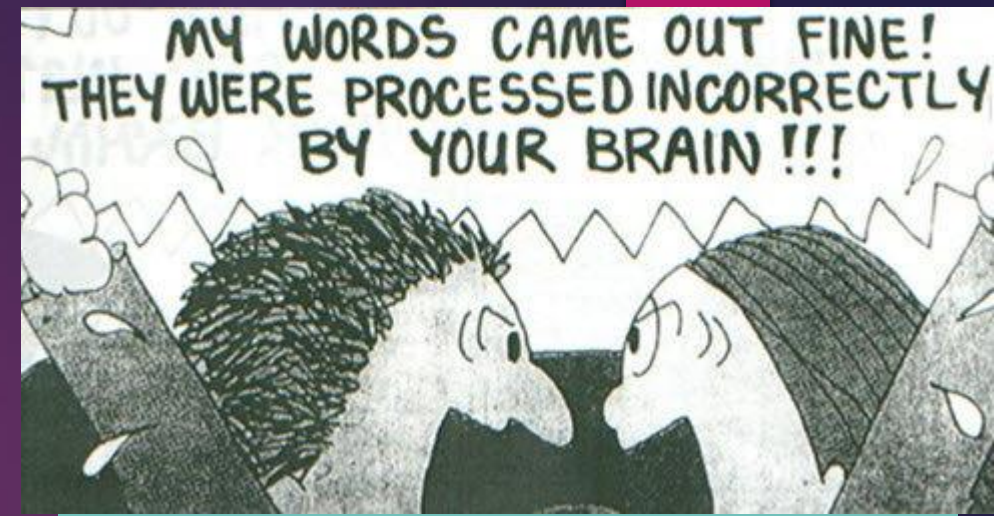
Symbolic Interactionism

- ▶ Symbolic interactionism is a sociological theory developed from the work of Charles Cooley and George Herbert Mead in the early part of the twentieth century
- ▶ According to this theory, people inhabit a world that is in large part socially constructed.



Symbolic Interactionism

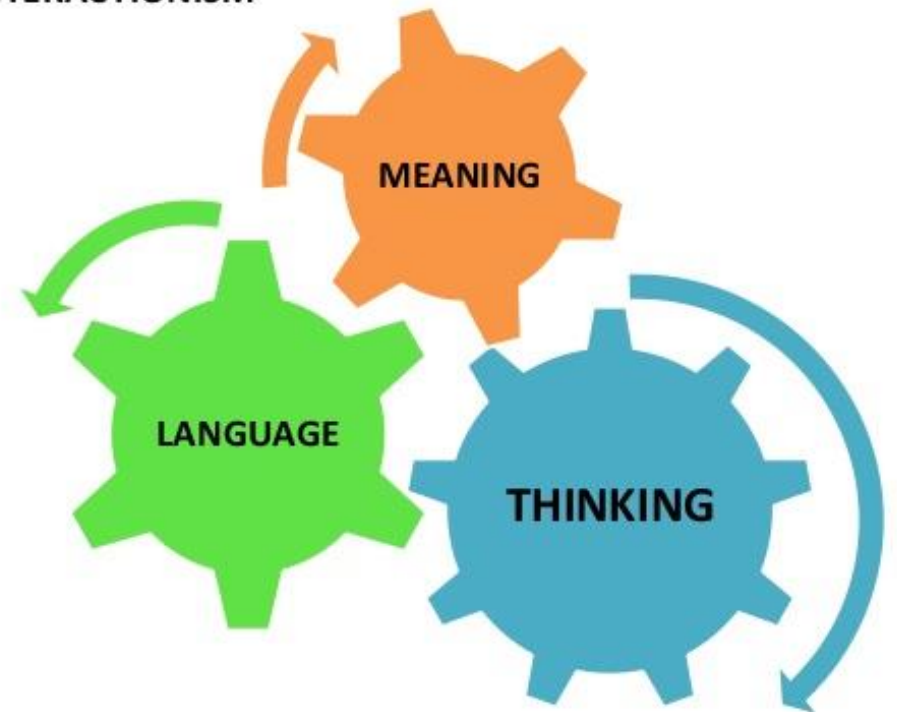
- ▶ According to this theory, people inhabit a world that is in large part socially constructed.
- ▶ The meaning of objects, events, and behaviors comes from the interpretation people give them, and interpretations vary from one group to another.



Symbolic Interactionism

- ▶ Herbert Blumer
 - ▶ People act toward things based on the meaning those things have for them, and these meanings are derived from social interaction and modified through interpretation

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM



Looking Glass Self

Cooley argued that

- ▶ the way we think about ourselves is a reflection (imagined) of other people's appraisals
- ▶ our self-concepts are built up in the intimate groups that he called "primary groups."



Looking Glass Self

Primary group

Small social group whose members share close, personal, enduring relationships

Secondary group

Interact on a less personal level than in a primary group, and their relationships are temporary rather than long lasting



Looking Glass Self

Primary group

Small social group whose members share close, personal, enduring relationships

Secondary group

Interact on a less personal level than in a primary group, and their relationships are temporary rather than long lasting



Looking Glass Self

- ▶ We imagine how we appear to others
- ▶ Based on others reactions to us, we determine whether others view us as we view ourselves
- ▶ We use our perceptions of how others see us to develop feelings about ourselves



The Generalized Other

George Herbert Mead

- ▶ The general notion that a person has of the common expectations that others have about actions and thoughts within a particular society, and thus serves to clarify their relation to the other as a representative member of a shared social system.
- ▶ Any time that an person tries to imagine what is expected of them, they are taking on the perspective of the generalized other.

5 Central Ideas

Joel M. Charon, *Symbolic Interactionism An Introduction, An Interpretation, An Integration*

- ▶ The human being must be understood as a social person
- ▶ The human being must be understood as a thinking being
- ▶ Humans do not sense their environment directly, humans define the situation they are in.
 - ▶ Definition results from ongoing social interaction and thinking
- ▶ The cause of human action is the result of what is occurring in our present situation
- ▶ Human beings are described as active beings in relation to their environment