

The thesis is an attempt to relate the work of Gregory Bateson to the concept of culturology as it is being developed at the Department of Cultural Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts at Charles University in Prague. It consists of three relatively independent parts each of them dealing with particular science with which Bateson was concerned – anthropology, psychology and ecology.

In the first part, notions of function, cultural structure, ethos, eidos and schismogenesis are discussed. It is asserted that Bateson's anthropological work represents integration of British functionalism and American configurationism and that the concept of cultural structure anticipates French structuralism.

The second part is concerned with Bateson's concepts developed during the forties and fifties which related mostly to psychological topics, especially his best known double bind theory. It also treats Russell's type theory that plays a central role in most of Bateson's works.

And finally, the ecological part deals with Bateson's epistemology and evolutionary theory. In addition to his major epistemological notions – “a difference which makes a difference” and the fundamental distinction of Pleroma versus Creatura, which he borrowed from famous Swiss psychologist Carl Gustav Jung – his picture of new interdisciplinary science and his conviction of necessary unity of mind and nature are discussed.