

Ortner

Why are women oppressed?

- Women are closer to nature.
 - Culture dominates nature.
 - Men dominate women.

* 3 ways Women are closer to nature

1) A woman's body and its function are more closely linked to life.

Women are "more enslaved to the species than the male, her animality is more manifest."

* Pg. 30

2) A woman's social role is closer to nature
Breast feeding and child rearing place women in the domestic sphere.

3) A woman's psyche is closer to nature
Girl / Concrete / Nature
Boy / Abstract / Culture

* Ortner says that women play an intermediary role between nature and culture

Who does she draw on?

Levi-Strauss Pg. 33

How is she a gender constructionist?

"Ultimately, it must be stressed again that the whole scheme is a construct of culture rather than a fact of nature."



LEACOCK

* Women used to have power but Σ introduction of capitalism nuclear family became important - woman's role in household had less power

public vs. private sphere

↓
male dominated

↓
woman's space

Capitalism → nuclear family → male dominated public sphere

"Historically, then, capitalism has been inseparable from racist brutality: national oppression throughout its history." p. 14

so women's power has been ignored throughout history

↓
includes oppression of women among other groups

* draws on Marx "Karl"

Marx - looked at exploitation as principle but this was only applied to white males / class conflict

Leacock applies this principle to women as an oppressed group



* Women back in the day who had power:

Manenko - young woman chief
of a Balonda village
in the Congo

Naskapi ppl of Canada - group decisions,
equal power
powerful women Shamans, tortured
prisoners more than men

* gender constructionist:

evil capitalism changed the
role of women, not biology -
but history has conveniently
ignored this!

-the environment (change to capitalism)
affected womens power, not their
biology

similar to cultural determinism

