1. **Functionalism**
2. Biological Functionalism

Bronislow Malinowski (1884-1992) lived among the natives of the Trobriand Islands during World War-I. He used participant observation to study thier culture and to view the world from their perspective. During his study, he presented the theory of functionalism. Functionalism assumes that all cultural traits serve to the needs of individuals in society. It explains that the function of a cultural trait is to satisfy some basic or derived needs of the member of groups. Malinowski suggested that individuals have physiological needs (reproduction, food, shelter) and that social institutions exist to meet these needs. There are also culturally derived needs and **four basic “instrumental needs”** (economics, social control, education, and political organization), that require institutional devices. Each institution has personnel, a charter, a set of norms or rules, activities, material apparatus (technology), and a function. Malinowski argued that uniform psychological responses are correlates of physiological needs. . Some of the cultural aspects satisfy these basic needs. In doing so, some derived needs also arise which are also satisfied by culture. For example, cultural traits to satisfy basic need of food will give rise to production of food. Hence, societies will develop political organization to control the required co-operation in food production. So, he concluded that individual needs are psychological and physiological and cultural institutions, customs and traditions exist to satisfy them. The method of functionalism was based on fieldwork and direct observations of societies. Anthropologists were to describe various cultural institutions that make up a society, explain their social function, and show their contribution to the overall stability of a society. At the same time, this functionalist approach was criticized for not considering cultural changes of traditional societies.

1. Structural Functionalism

This theory was presented by Redcliff Brown in which he explains that various social behavior exists to maintain a society’s social structure rather than to develop to satisfy individual needs. He focused on how society works. According to him, society has several institutions like economic, socio-political, and religion etc. These institutions ensure solidarity and work for the integration of society as a whole. He focused on the social structure of society and suggested that a society is a system of relationships maintaining itself. Institutions are sets relationships whose function is to maintain society as a whole system. He was highly interested in kinship and commented on how kinship can promote order and solidarity. He used this approach in analysis of the way in which different societies deal with the tensions that are likely to develop among people related through marriage, to reduce tension between in-laws, he suggests people cope with it in two ways. They may develop strict rules for avoidance each other or may put the relationship on casual humorous basis.

Radcliff Brown suggests that society is composed of various parts and these parts have individual functions. These parts come together to make the social structure. If change occurs in one part the whole system changes. These parts work together to maintain the whole structure of society and its function as a whole.

**Criticism**

The theory does not explain cultural differences that why there are different ways to satisfy same needs across cultures. The theory also neglects the historical process of society. The theory was also criticized because it does not explain cultural and social change, as it view society as stable and unchanging.