1. **Neo-Evolutionism**

This school of thought is also termed as cultural ecology. It explains the condition of humans in relation to the environment. Neo-Evolutionism refers to the relationship between man and the material components of environment. It explains that environment determines culture. This theory does not consider socio-cultural evolution as a progress process. They consider some aspects of small-scale societies are better than those of complex societies. The main theorists in neo-evolutionism were Leslie White and Julian Steward.

Leslies White considered energy use and technology as the main cause of cultural evolution and change. According to him the cultural change depends on the per capita use of energy in a year, if this per capita energy use increases, change happens for example in the hunter gatherers, people only used human energy and could not use any other energy. In agricultural society, people use their own energy plus the energy of animal and plants. As a result, change occurs.

In modern industrialized societies, people are using diverse source of energy as a result there is a great transformation in culture. The more complex the use of technology, the more complex becomes the cultural development. It is to be noted that Leslie White did not mention about any particular case or culture when describing this evolution. That’s why this view is not ethnocentric and can be associated with the society in general.

Julian Steward emphasized the interrelation among the natural conditions in the environment rainfall, temperature, soils and technology, social organization and attitudes within a particular socio-cultural system. Julian Steward divided evolution into three schools.

1. Unilineal
2. Universal
3. Multilinear
4. **Unilineal Evolution**

Julian Steward feels that Morgan and Tylor are examples of the unilineal approach to cultural evolution which attempts to place particular cultures superior. Unilineal evolutionists believed that there is a kind of psychic unity among all the people which explained that because of basic similarities common to all people, different societies find same solution to same problems and that culture develop in one direction from simple to complex stage.

1. **Universalism**

This school is concerned with culture in broad sense rather than with individual cultures e.g. Leslie White.

1. **Multilinear**

Julian Steward classified himself as multilinear evolutionist, one who deals with evolution of particular cultures and only with demonstrated sequence of parallel cultural change. Marshall Sahlins and Elman Service, who were students and colleagues of both Leslie White and Julian Steward, combine White’s and Steward’s view by recognizing two kinds of evolution-specific and general. Specific evolution refers to particular sequence of change and adaptation of a particular society in a given environment. General evolution refers to the general progress of human society in which society progress from a lower, simple stage to complex and higher stage of development. Thus, specific evolution is similar to Steward’s multilinear evolution and general evolution resembles to White’s universal evolution.