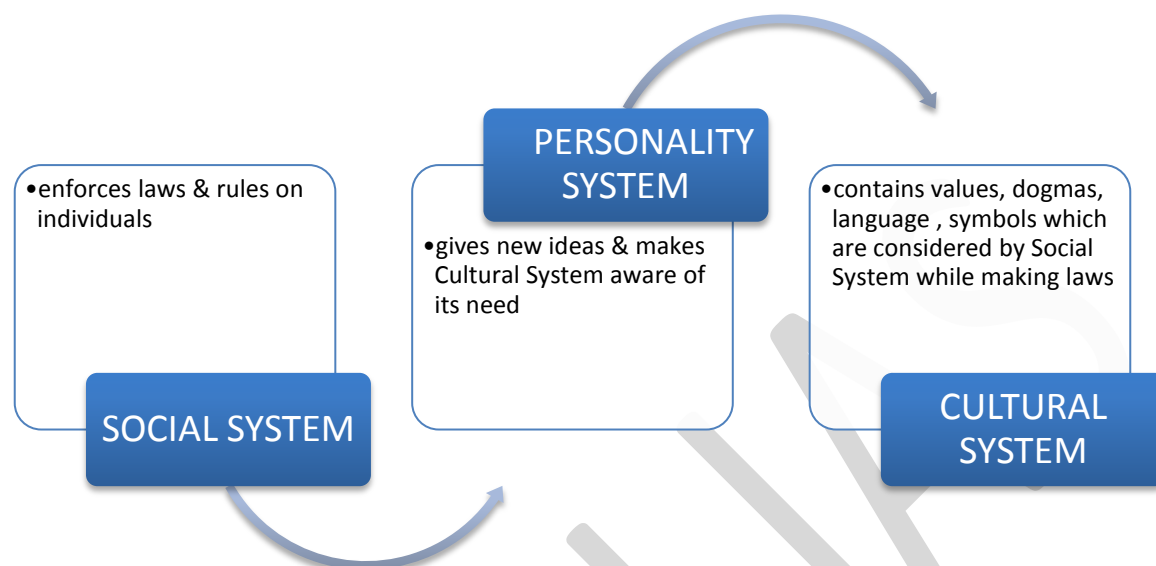


because it is internalized by individual members and becomes part of them and motivates their actions. In this sense, culture determines our own personal moral codes and how we behave.

SOCIAL SYSTEMS THEORY & ROLE OF CULTURE



Talcott Parsons viewed society as a system. According to him, Culture has a peculiar capacity to become, at least in part, a component of other systems, for example- Culture in Social System is embodied in **norms & values** & in Personality System it is internalized by the actor.

However Cultural System is not simply a part of 'other systems', it also has a separate existence in the form of **symbols, ideas, knowledge**, etc. These aspects of Cultural System are available to Social & Personality Systems but they do not become a part of them automatically because Culture is largely symbolic & subjective & gets transmitted from one Social System to another through **diffusion** & from one Personality System to another through **learning & socialization**.

He argued that any social system has **four basic functional prerequisites**:

- **Adaptation** refers to a system's need to adapt to its environment, and to transform an environment in order to meet the needs of the system.
- **Goal attainment** refers to a system's need to create and achieve goals.
- **Integration** refers to the need of a system to coordinate the interrelationships among its component parts.
- **Latency, or pattern maintenance**, refers to the need of a system to provide and renew the motivation of individuals and the patterns of culture that motivate people.

This is Parsons' famous AGIL scheme

Parsons also linked the four functional imperatives to **four subsystems** in society.

- The **Economy** performs the adaptation function through labour, production, and allocation.
- The **Polity, or Political system**, performs the function of goal-attainment by determining social goals and mobilizing resources for the achievement of these goals.
- The **Fiduciary system** (which Parsons construes as such institutions as the family and education) performs the function of latency by conveying norms and values and socializing people.