

# philippine studies

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## **Glossary of Sociological Terms**

**by Clement S. Mihanovich, Ph.D., Robert J. McNamara S.J.  
and William N. Tome S.J.**

Review Author: Thomas A. Mitchell

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reason seems to be based on the idea that some knowledge is better than no knowledge. Whether this is sound knowledge in the sense of truth is not the point at issue for her. As long as there is some weight of probability for such knowledge, it is useful. This would be true in her field of research if there were no ultimates. Such a position we think dangerous for a psychologist who is working with human beings.

Part Three deals with "varieties of group differences" and will be of interest to the social psychologists. The subjects treated are: sex-difference, race and nationality differences, class differences, age difference, the mentally deficient and the unusually gifted. Dr. Tyler's best contribution here is the remark that despite certain marked differences it is difficult to generalize on groups and even more difficult to characterize a particular individual within the group.

Part Four is a clear presentation of some factors that probably account for human differences. Most of the work done in the field of physical characteristics in relation to personality and intelligence is suggestive rather than conclusive. The same holds true for the nature-nurture issue.

Dr. Tyler's style is succinct and clear and the summaries at the end of each chapter are excellent. Perhaps the most difficult part is Part One where Dr. Tyler attempts to simplify the ideas for interpreting statistics. The book however should be useful to social psychologists, social workers and counselors.

JAMES CULLIGAN

**GLOSSARY OF SOCIOLOGICAL TERMS.** By Clement S. Mihonovich, Ph.D., Robert J. McNamara S.J. and William N. Tome S.J. Milwaukee. The Bruce Publishing Co. 1957. Pp. iv, 36.

WHETHER in classroom, lecture hall or written book there is need of a precise medium for expressing thought. This is especially true of the social sciences, and sociology is no exception. It is well known that much discussion and debate could have been avoid-

ed had the contenders known from the beginning that they attached variant meanings to terms or expressions used. This *Glossary of Sociological Terms* will help eliminate, or at least greatly reduce such confusion. It likewise offers beginners in sociology a firmer comprehension of their subject through exact definitions. As the authors anticipate, perhaps not every sociologist will be ready to accept the definitions given in this little book; but those who adhere to them will have greater assurance among themselves that they are conveying their ideas precisely and that they are correctly understood.

This is not the greatest of the many writings which have been published under the name of Dr. Mihanovich, but it is a precision tool which will aid sociologists and sociology students to greater scientific accuracy.

THOMAS A. MITCHELL

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