

# Ethnozology as a Fundamental Field of Study

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## Introduction

Ethnozology is the scientific study of the relationships between animals and various ethnicities across the world. Ethnozology is a fundamental field of study because it enhances understanding of indigenous cultures that rely on hunting and gathering as their dominant economic activity.

Ethnozologists study relationships between animals and varied ethnicities so that they can elucidate the cultural importance of animals. Among indigenous communities, animals play a significant role in cultures because they do not only have economic value, but also cultural value in terms of shaping traditions, beliefs, and taboos of people.

Ethnic communities such as Gwich'in, Seri Indians, Koyukon, and Sebei attach their cultural traditions, beliefs, and taboos to animals. The Gwich'in is an indigenous community that lives in Alaska, while Seri Indians are indigenous community that lives in Sonora, Mexico.

The Koyukon is an indigenous community that lives in northern Alaska, while the Sebei is an indigenous community that lives in eastern Uganda around the slopes of Mount Elgon. Since the four indigenous ethnicities rely on animals in their social, economic, and cultural aspects, ethnozology is essential in understanding their traditions, beliefs, and taboos.

Hence, ethnozology of different ethnicities indicates that, respect given to animals is central in the formulation of taboos relating to interaction with animals and restriction of women's roles.