

NOTES ON KINSHIP

Descent (Consanguineal) & Affinity

Primate Background (Macaques)

Westermarch & Incest Taboo

(Sempua, Kibbutz=psychological)

-some states prohibit marriage

to 1st cousins, some even to 2nd

-Royal Incest

-Sister Exchange

-Brideprice/wealth (Divorce) & Bride Service (Yanomamö &

Bible: Jacob for Laban)

Exogamy/Endogamy (why there are not 2 or more species of

H.Sapiens)

Like Language, has elements & rules

Marriage:

1.) Monogamy

a.) Strict (Suttee)

b.) Serial

c.) Sororate/Levirate

2.) Polygamy (has the demographic aspect of restricting population growth even though individual families may be large)

Polygyny (permitted in Bible)

1.) Sororal (Jacob)

2.) General

Polyandry

1.) Fraternal (Radcliffe-Brown="Equivalence of Siblings")

2.) General

Group Marriage

Primary & Secondary Marriages

(secondary, depends on relationship to senior wife)

Ethnophysiology & "Elements" of Kinship

Physiological Father/Mother

Genitor/Genetrix

Pater/Mater

Tibetan Polyandry (Tibet & Nepal)-mountainous territory, keeps fields from being divided

Nuer Ghost Fathers (Levirate, brother fathers children in his name)

Christians believe in spirit impregnation also, as in Mary, Joseph & the Holy Spirit=the "Immaculate Conception" of Jesus

Female Fathers (W.Africa, wealth transmitted father-child, pater)

Shipibo Plural Fathers (Genitors, but not Paters)

Siblings & half siblings-co-wives

(descent & co-descent)

Post-Marital Residence Patterns

- 1.) Neolocal**
- 2.) Patrilocal (Virilocal)**
- 3.) Matrilocal (Uxorilocal)**
- 4.) Avunculocal (Trobriand-in adolescence, boy moves, after marriage wife joins him with uncle)**
- 5.) Bilocal (constantly shuttle or choose)**
- 6.) Duolocal (Ashanti, sexual residence segregation)**
- 7.) Circulating (Kanuri-man visits separate hearths)***
- 8.) Central (men's hut, sexual residential segregation)***

Family Types

- 1.) Matrifocal (as of 2000 a 25% increase since 1990 in the number of single mothers raising families, up to 7.2% of U.S. families)**
- 2.) Nuclear (as of 2000 for the 1st time this type of family has fallen to less than 50% of all U.S. family types)**
- 3.) Extended (several nuclear families together)**
 - a.) Stem (only parents & 1 unmarried son & family)**
 - b.) Extended: Brothers & parents & their families**
 - i.) Patrilocally extended**
 - ii.) Matrilocally extended**
 - iii.) bilocally extended**
 - iv.) avunculocally extended**

Kinship Terminology (Lewis Henry Morgan-Classificatory/Descriptive)

Elman Service & Evolutionary Scheme

- 1.) kinship level**
- 2.) sociocentric-familistic (larger groups like clans)**
- 3.) egocentric-nonfamilistic (pre-industrial stratified, m'lord)**
- 4.) sociocentric-nonfamilistic (modern, "you guys")**

Cross-Parallel Cousins

This shows the plasticity of the "incest taboo" in that it makes distinctions within a category of people, first cousins, that the Western tradition generally assumes are non-marriageable, that is, incestuous, but which most traditional peoples regard as ideal marriage mates, close enough not to be enemies, but far enough away to be marriageable.

This distinction is based upon the sex of the "linking relative" on either "side" of your parents: ("mother's side"="matrilateral"/"father's side"="patrilateral"), that is, on the parental generation.

"Equivalence of Siblings"=This is the general principle, that in traditional

society siblings are thought to be the same "social person". From the point of view of sociobiology they, in fact, share the most genes with you save for your parents, so if your genes don't survive in you, half of them will live on in your brother or sister. Therefore, these are people to cherish and protect. If the sororate is present you may, in fact, call both your "mother" and your "mother's sister"=maternal aunt "mother" and the reciprocal, is also true, both of those women will call you "son" or "daughter".

1.) Parallel Cousins (something is "in parallel" if it doesn't change) i.e., if your mother has a sister & she has children, then the sex on the parental generation has not changed (your mother is a female & so is your mother's sister, your maternal aunt). Hence, they remain "in parallel" and any children they have (your first cousins are those people) will also be "in parallel" to you & considered by you to be "siblings", hence incestuous.

These 2 people are: your MZD (Mother's Sister's Daughter) & your MZS (Mother's Sister's Son)--"Z" is used for "Sister" since that name & "Son" both start with "S". They are on your mother's side, so they are your "Matrilateral Parallel First Cousins". The same holds for your father's side, your "Patrilateral Parallel First Cousins" (who would be your Father's Brother's Son & Daughter (FBS, FBD).

Because sex & gender are so important in traditional society, if the sex changes the person is psychologically felt to be "more different", or "farther away" ("psychological distance"), hence less like a sibling & more mysterious, hence a potentially marriageable person. They will be:

2.) Cross-Cousins (something "crosses-over" if it becomes different, that is, changes from male-to-female or female-to-male).

Hence traditional people regard the children of these differently-sexed individuals on the parental generation to be more remote, marriageable. In a "prescriptive" system (like when a doctor gives you a prescription, that is something you not only can take, but must take), one of these figures will actually be "prescribed" as the "ideal" choice. Usually that is the MBD, the "Mother's Brother's Daughter", less commonly the FZD, the "Father's Sister's Daughter". Other "cross-cousins" would be your "Patrilateral" (Father's Side) FZS, Father's Sister's Son", and your "Matrilateral" (Mother's Side") MBS, Mother's Brother's Son".

Of course, from the point of view of genetics, all of these people are equally related to you, but, from the cultural perspective, may not be!

Unilineal Descent Groups (Corporate Groups)

- 1.) Unilineally Extended Families (Minimal Lineages)
- 2.) Lineage (i.e., Maximal Lineages=demonstrated descent)
 - Patrilineal=The ancient Semetic, modern Jewish system (Robertson Smith); sister is a member, but **not** her children; a man's wife is also a member
 - Most herding societies are patrilineal because men own the domesticates
 - Matrilineal=West African, remnants in African American kinship; brother a member, **not** his children;
 - more common among horticultural peoples where the gardens are conceptually female + long-distance warfare as among Shipibo leads to male absence, hence the importance of matriarchs
- 3.) Clan (stipulated descent & totemism)
- 4.) Double descent (belong to both)
- 5.) Moieties (2 section systems)
- 7.) Segmentary Descent Groups (Nuer versus Dinka-predatory)
- 8.) Cognatic (either mother or father or both) Ego-Centered Descent Groups, **unlike** corporate groups, can have overlapping membership, and the element of **choice** is important (flexibility like Oceania)-about 60% of all foraging societies are cognatic

Bilateral Kinship

- 1.) Personal kindreds (the Anglo-Saxon pattern & **wiergild**="Blood Money"); quick assembly of kin, but not stable, is **not** a corporate group; traced thru both genders (two-sided); it is not an accident that gender liberation evolved in this society

Alliance:

- 1.) Direct (brother-sister) or symmetrical/Generalized (MBD); "A" gives to "B"; "B" gives to "A" (everybody is equal). Like the Yanomamö do, this normally involves 2 men, or similar groups of men, exchanging sisters.
- 2.) Asymmetrical=circulating connubia; "A" gives to "B", "B" gives to "C" and "C" gives to "A" (wife takers superior to wife givers), therefore "A" is superior to "B" & "B" to "C"--even tho "C" will, in fact, become the wife-giver to "A".