

AFFINITY

"Relationship by marriage ties. May include the relationship between corporate groups linked by marriage between their members. A relative by marriage is an affine.

AGAMY

"The lack of any rule in regard to marriage within or without of a group; it denotes absence of marriage regulations on the part of a social unit."

AGNATIC

An agnate, then, is a person related by patrilineal."

ALLIANCE

"In kinship theory, this refers to a view of society which emphasizes marital interactions (usually repetitive) between descent groups as a basis for social integration and group definition

AMBILATERAL

"Ambilateral is sometimes used in kinship studies to refer to non-unilineal systems in which an individual may choose to align himself with either of his parental groups

AMITACLAN

"A clan with patrilineal descent in which unmarried females reside with a paternal aunt and bring their husbands to the father's sister's home. It parallels the avunculan, but is only theoretical."

AMITALOCAL RESIDENCE

"The norm whereby wives take their husbands to the residence of the bride's father's sister. It parallels avunculocal residence, but is only theoretical."

AMITATE

"In the amitate a sister is superior to her brother in that the paternal aunt can dictate the matrimonial destinies of her brother's children."

AVOIDANCE RELATIONSHIPS

"A pattern of complete avoidance of speech and physical contact between relatives. Murdock (1949:273) suggests that such a technique is an aspect of sex regulation in societies where sexual prohibitions are not strongly internalized in enculturation."

AVUNCULATE

"denotes the institutionalization of authority by the mother's brother over the sister's son and the latter being made the heir and companion of the former."

AVUNCULOCAL RESIDENCE

"Postmarital residence of a newlywed couple with husband's mother's brother. Some have argued that the terms "viri-avunculocal" or "avuncu-virilocal" are more precise."

BILATERAL (KINSHIP)

"Kinship traced to relatives through both father and mother. Syn. "consanguineal kinship".


BILOCAL RESIDENCE

"A norm which permits a married couple to live with or near the parents of either spouse; a factor such as the relative wealth of the two families is likely to determine where the couple will reside." ES:73.

BRIDEWEALTH (OR BRIDEPRICE)

"Tangible items of value transferred from the groom or groom's group to the bride's group, the prestation serving to validate the marriage union.

CLAN

 A unilineal descent group or category whose members trace patrilineal descent (patriclan) or matrilineal descent (matriclan) from an apical ancestor/ess, but do not know the genealogical links that connect them to the apical ancestor/ess. In the common British anthropological sense, a descent group, usually consisting of several lineages, between which shared descent from an ancestor (or ancestress) is assumed but cannot actually be demonstrated. Many American anthropologists, following

Murdock (1949), regard a "clan" as the localized core of a dispersed unilineal descent group (i.e., a **patri- or matri-sib**) or non-unilineal descent group

CLASSIFACTORY SYSTEM

A mode of kinship classification in which collateral kin are terminologically **equated** with lineal kin

COGNATE

A bilateral (consanguineal) kinsman or kinswoman.

CONSANGUINITY

Relationship by blood (i.e., presumed biological) ties. A consanguine is a relative by birth (i.e., a "blood" relative), as distinguished from in-laws

CROSS-COUSINS

The children of opposite-sexed siblings; similarly, the offspring of one's parents' opposite-sexed siblings.

CROSS-COUSIN MARRIAGE

"In alliance theory (especially in its early versions), a rule or practice of marriage between father's sister's child and mother's brother's child (a man's marriage with MBD is "matrilateral cross-cousin marriage");

DESCENT

"A relationship defined by connection to an ancestor (or ancestress) through a culturally recognized sequence of parent-child links (from father to son to son's son= patrilineal descent, from mother to daughter to daughter's daughter = matrilineal descent" (RK:148). In other words, descent is the tracing of relationships inter-generationally through real, putative, or fictive parent-child links. Various typologies of descent have been proposed

Keesing's Typology of Descent

PATRILINEAL DESCENT (OR AGNATIC)

descent from an ancestor down through a series of male links (i.e., through the ancestor's son, his son's sons, his son's sons' sons, etc.)

MATRILINEAL DESCENT (OR UTERINE)

descent from an ancestress down through a series of female links (through daughter, daughter's daughter, etc.)

COGNATIC DESCENT

descent from an ancestor or ancestress through a series of links that can be male or female or any combination of the two.

DOUBLE DESCENT

a system whereby two sets of social groups or categories exist (for different purposes) in the same society, one based on patrilineal descent and the other on matrilineal descent (so a person belongs to his/her father's patrilineal group and his/her mother's matrilineal group).

Tuzin's Typology of Descent

UNILINEAL DESCENT

The principle whereby descent is traced either through the male line ("patrilineal") or the female line ("matrilineal"), but not both

DOUBLE DESCENT

The principle whereby descent is traced through the male line for certain prescribed purposes, and through the female line for other prescribed purposes; also called Double Unilineal Descent

NON-UNILINEAL DESCENT

AMBILINEAL DESCENT

The principle whereby descent is reckoned through male or female links without set order

BILATERAL DESCENT

The principle whereby descent is traced equally through males (i.e., father) and females (i.e., mother). Also called Cognatic. English kinship embodies such a descent principle

Note: Principles of descent often govern recruitment to social groups (e.g., Ego is admitted to membership in a patrilineage according to the principle of patrilineal descent), but these correspondences must be verified empirically.

DESCENT GROUP

"A kin group whose membership is based on a rule of descent. Appropriate descent status (patrilineal, matrilineal, or cognatic, depending on the society) entitles a person to be a member of the group." (RK:148). A socially recognized group of persons, all of whom trace real or putative descent from a common ancestor (or ancestress) with parent-child links between every generation. In-marrying persons ("affines") may or may not be assimilated to this group as formal members

DESCENT RULE

"A descent principle culturally used to define eligibility for membership in a kin group"

DESCRIPTIVE KINSHIP TERM

"A term that combines two or more elementary terms to denote a specific relative

DESCRIPTIVE TERMINOLOGY

"Sets off the direct line of a person's descent and the immediate relatives of his own generation from all other individuals. Lineal relatives are all differentiated from collateral relatives." ES:75.

DOWRY

Tangible items of value transferred from the bride's group to the groom or groom's group to validate the marriage union. Often this is more properly seen as the early



bestowal of the girl's inheritance, over which she may retain considerable control. Contra. "bridewealth"

DRAVIDIAN TERMINOLOGY

"A mode of kinship reckoning whereby parallel and cross relatives (or "kin" and "affines") are systematically distinguished; characteristically, but apparently not always, associated with a rule of symmetrical alliance (direct exchange), i.e., a two-section system." RK:149.

EGO

The point of view taken in describing a relationship

ELEMENTARY FAMILY

Same as "Nuclear Family". Note that a childless family would not constitute an elementary family. ES:75.

ELEMENTARY KINSHIP TERM

"A term that cannot be reduced into component elements. "Father" and "niece" are elementary terms in English." ES:75.

ENDOGAMY

"A requirement for marriage within a defined category or range or group or community ("in-marriage"). All societies are minimally endogamous in that they limit marriage to members of the same species; most limit marriage to members of the opposite sex." RK:149. Contra. "Exogamy".

EXOLOGY

Marriage to person(s) outside the group, however defined (e.g., descent, locality, castes, etc.). Contra. "Endogamy"

EXTENDED FAMILY

"A domestic group or composite of domestic groups consisting of two or more nuclear families linked together through parent and child (patrilineal extended family...)"