

!Kung Bushman Kinship

Componential Analysis and Alternative Interpretations

By JOHANNES FABIAN

Contents:

Introductory Remarks

Consanguineous Kinship

- I. MARSHALL's "System A": The terminology of consanguineous kinship
- II. The "factor of the name"
- III. Joking/avoidance relations
- IV. Marriage regulations
- V. Residence and cooperation

Affinal Kinship

- I. MARSHALL's "System B": The terminology of affinal kinship
- II. The "factor of the name"
- III. Joking/avoidance relations
- IV. Marriage regulations
- V. Residence and cooperation

Problems of Theory and Comparison

- I. Once more: Componential analysis
- II. Typology and "classifieriness"
- III. Similarities between non-contiguous "Eskimo" systems
- IV. The significance of names
- V. Names and the organization of kinship

References

Introductory Remarks

This paper is intended as an exercise in the description and analysis of kinship. LORNA MARSHALL's material on !Kung kinship has been chosen for two reasons: Her presentation combines a wealth of interesting material with a relatively unpretentious analysis, leaving many questions open and, in some cases, challenging alternative explanations. Methodologically, this brief re-analysis and re-interpretation of MARSHALL's account will make use of "componential analysis" as applied to kinship by GOODENOUGH (1956). It will become clear that a paradigmatic (componential) presentation of a set of kin terms can serve, at least, as a useful formulation of some of the problems for analysis, although it does not provide the solution. This is in reply to criticism