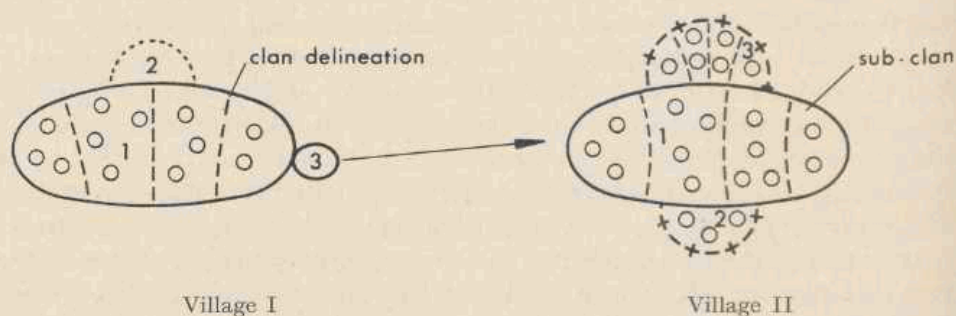


ically subordinate to the village chief. They likewise lack rain makers, officers in charge of the bush, etc., except when they are fairly important numerically in which case their internal structure tends to replicate in these matters that of the dominant group of the village. Members of any particular assistant group usually also claim putative common agnation whenever they share the same initiation site.

Thus, on the ground, a village is always minimally a territory inhabited by a group whose male members are all bound by the exogamy rule and by the rule of wife-taking prohibition within the group. This group has a chief, a sacred drum, a ritual ground for the *aso* initiation ceremonies, a ritual ground for the circumcision ceremonies and a pool of water for the welfare of the sisters' children. They stage the *andu* or *intup* dances on their own and they also initiate their children on their own at the *kugo* ceremonies. A village in that state is coincidental to a wife-taking unit provided that none of its members have settled as ritual assistants in another village. If we construct a model of a Rukuba village we should begin with a territorial wife-taking unit belonging indifferently to one or the other moiety. To this main core may be added one or several assistant groups having their initiation at the village either at the main ground or at separate grounds and/or one or several groups of ritual assistants belonging to another wife-taking unit, ritually dependant on the wife-taking unit they come from but politically subject to the chief of the territory they have settled in.

Rukuba Village Structure



1. Main core of the village (moiety A)
= one wife-taking unit
2. Ritual assistant group having *ASO* at the main core = one wife-taking unit (moiety B)
3. Ritual assistant group deferring to its parent village for *ASO* = part of the wife-taking unit being the core of village II

1. Main core of the village (moiety B)
= one wife-taking unit with group 3 of village I
2. Ritual assistant group having *ASO* at a separate ritual ground = one wife-taking unit (moiety A)
3. Big ritual assistant group with clans and own *ASO* ritual ground (moiety A)
= one wife-taking unit