

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PATTERNS
OF KINSHIP NOMENCLATURE

by
Gertrude E. Dole

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
INST. OF AFRICAN STUDIES
LIBRARY

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in the
University of Michigan
1957

University of NAIROBI Library



0548455 5

Doctoral Committee:

Professor Leslie A. White, Chairman
Associate Professor Werner S. Landecker
Assistant Professor Elman R. Service
Associate Professor Albert C. Spaulding
Professor Mischa Titiev

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
LIBRARY

1384

PREFACE

This thesis had its beginning in a discovery that existing typologies of kinship nomenclature have omitted a relatively common pattern of terminology. While doing field work among the Kuikuru Indians of central Brazil I found that their kinship nomenclature combines features of two traditionally recognized patterns of terminology. Later I discovered that the Kuikuru pattern is common to a large number of primitive societies. Among the Kuikuru this pattern reflects clearly the local alignment of relatives and customs of marriage. These discoveries stimulated my interest in the relation of kinship nomenclature to social organization. Inquiry into the relation of these two phenomena in other societies resulted in the project which is reported in the present thesis.

The field work which led to this project was carried out in 1953-1954 in the Upper Xingú region of Mato Grosso, Brazil, and was financed by a joint grant to my husband, Robert Carneiro, and myself from the Henry L. and Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation, Inc. I gratefully acknowledge its generous support.

I am indebted to many friends and acquaintances for information about their native kinship nomenclatures and usages. Some of these persons were very helpful also in obtaining kinship data from others. The project gained much from their assistance.