

DONEZK STUDIEN ZUR GERMANISTIK, KONTRASTIVEN
UND DIACHRONEN LINGUISTIK 2

Larysa Nikolayeva

Typology of Kinship Terms



PETER LANG
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KONTRASTIVEN UND DIACHRONEN
LINGUISTIK

Herausgegeben von
Vladimir Kaliuščenko und Andrzej Kątny

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Abbreviations and symbols

Language Name Abbreviations

Ab.	– Arabic	Malag.	– Malagasy
Alyaw.	– Alyawarra	Maori	– Maori
Ashan.	– Ashanti	Mg.	– Mongolian
Bam.	– Bamana	Nivkh	– Nivkh
Bashk.	– Bashkir	Oj.	– Ojibwa
Ch.	– Chinese	Osset.	– Ossetic
Chip.	– Chipewyan	Rap.	– Rapanui
Cree	– Cree	Rs.	– Russian
Djing.	– Djingili	Sp.	– Spanish
En.	– English	Tahit.	– Tahitian
Even	– Even	Tg.	– Tagalog
Evenki	– Evenki	Tk.	– Turkish
Fant.	– Fanti	Tura	– Tura
Fr.	– French	Uk.	– Ukrainian
Gag.	– Gagauz	Waal.	– Waalubal
Gk.	– Greek	Wiyot	– Wiyot
Gm.	– German	Yukag.	– Yukaghir
Hd.	– Hindi	Yur.	– Yurok
Hw.	– Hawaiian		
IE.	– Indo-European		
Jar.	– Jaralde		
Jp.	– Japanese		
Kalm.	– Kalmyk		
Kr.	– Korean		
Lat.	– Latin		
Li.	– Lithuanian		

Abbreviations and Symbols

adj.	– adjective
CKT	– blood kinship term
Ip	– polysemy index
KT	– kinship term
LSG	– lexico-semantic group
LSV	– lexico-semantic variant

AKT	– kinship term by marriage
n.	– noun
pref.	– prefix
suff.	– suffix

Other Abbreviations

abstr.	– abstract
anat.	– anatomical
bot.	– botanical
c.	– century
cf.	– compare
colloq.	– colloquial
constr.	– construction
dial.	– dialect
fig.	– figurative
geog.	– geographical
geol.	– geological
Germ.	– Germanic
hum.	– humorous
med.	– medical
obs.	– obsolete
ot.	– other
relig.	– religious
resp.	– respectively
tech.	– technical
yr.	– year
(f)	– woman speaking
(m)	– man speaking

Symbols

↑	– ascending generation
↓	– descending generation
?	– no data or unclear case
+/-	– presence/absence of a certain feature
*	– presence of a certain feature in some cases

Introduction

This work is devoted to the typology of kinship terms (KT) of forty languages belonging to ten language families.

Kinship term systems were first studied scientifically in the latter half of the 19th century by the American anthropological school (see Boas 1911; Kroeber 1909, et al.), whose scholars researched the culture of inhabitants of the North American continent, often drawing on linguistic data from many Indian tribes. This area is described as ethnosemantic, although other terms are frequently used to refer to it, such as anthropolinguistics, cognitive anthropology, ethnolinguistics, ethnopsychology and others (Lastovkina 1995, 8; Hoijer 1999, 44). However, historical knowledge alone is not enough to study family structure and the groundwork of philology should be taken into consideration here (Kryukov 1972, 14). The value of this assertion for linguistic research is that when searching for typologically relevant content-rich parameters/units we have to turn to their prototypes in non-linguistic reality. So, it is impossible to do without ethnographic and anthropological data when researching kinship terms (Kibrik 1990, 26).

A kinship term is defined as a lexical item which is used to name a person who is connected by certain blood relations with other persons or a group of persons (Bikbulatov 1981; Boas 1960; Burykin 1998; Dziebel 2001; Kryukov 1972; Pokrovskaya 1961). "There is no generally accepted name for kin words as a lexical element with the traditional –onym formant" (Dziebel 2001, 7). Kinship nomenclature is not a term, *per se*, since a term is "an element of a language system the terminological status of which is reflected in the degree to which the conceptual component of meaning correlates with the scientific concept processed by scientific knowledge and sanctioned by its content" (Lingvisticheskiy entsiklopedicheskiy slovar' 1990, 483). The naming of lexical items designating a person by kinship using terms is quite relative and follows accepted tradition (Baskakov 1981; Bikbulatov 1981; Burykin 1998, 1999, 2001; Dziebel 2001; Idiatov 2000; Kreynovich 1934, 1937, 1958, 1982; Likhtenberg 1960; Maslov 2001; Ol'derogge 1960; Pokrovskaya 1961, 1995; Popov 1977, 1979, 1980; Tadina 2001; Taksami 1967, 1975; Tomchina 1972; Fedorova 1978, 1995; Shternberg 1933; Yazyki narodov SSSR 1968; Yazyki Rossiyskoy Federatsii i sosednikh gosudarstv 2001; Bellah 1952; Blake 1987; Chadwick 1975; Christaller 1881; Yallop 1977; Gifford 1917; Hogbin 1963; Rattray 1923).

It is noted in works devoted to the methods of typological studies that it is possible to obtain substantial results only by using a large number of languages

of different families (Kibrik 1993, 16; Bell 1978, 143; Comrie 1981, 12; 2000, 80). The so-called “criterion of broad material coverage” (Yelizova 2002, 58; Uspenskiy 1965, 59) is one of the underlying criteria of typological study. The number of languages allowing to make typologically valid conclusions is much greater than the number that can be covered by the researcher. So all modern research is essentially based on descriptions of languages taken from other works which are sometimes based on different principles (Uspenskiy 1965, 3; Croft 1993, 25; Raible 2001, 3) and are logically dependent on descriptive linguistics since they rely to a considerable extent on ready-made descriptions (Vardul’ 1985, 26).

The data base of this work is kinship terms of forty languages from different families:

- I. *Indo-European languages*
 1. Slavic languages: Russian, Ukrainian;
 2. Germanic languages: German, English;
 3. Romance languages: French, Spanish;
 4. Iranian languages: Ossetic;
 5. Indo-Aryan languages: Hindi
- II. *Altaic languages*
 1. Turkic languages: Turkish, Bashkir, Gagauz;
 2. Mongolic languages: Mongolian, Kalmyk;
 3. Tungusic languages: Even, Evenki
- III. *Semitic languages*: Arabic
- IV. *Language isolates*: Japanese, Korean
- V. *Sino-Tibetan languages*
 1. Han languages: Chinese
- VI. *Austronesian languages*
 1. Indonesian languages: Malagasy, Tagalog;
 2. Oceanic languages: Rapanui, Hawaiian, Maori, Tahitian.
- VII. *Australian languages*: Alyawarra, Waalubal, Djingili, Jaralde.
- VIII. *Amerindian languages*: Chipewyan, Ojibwa, Wiyot, Cree, Yurok.
- IX. *Niger-Congo languages*
 1. Guinean languages: Ashanti, Fanti;
 2. Mande languages: Bamana, Tura.
- X. *Paleoasian languages*: Nivkh, Yukaghir.