

Kinship Terms of the Mukkuva Dialect

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Abstract

Kinship plays an important role in all human societies, both in the regulation of behavior between persons and in the formation of social, political and territorial groups. The aim of the present study deals with the classification and analysis of kinship terms used by Mukkuvas. The dialect area selected for this study is Puthukurichy in the coastal area of Trivandrum district which belongs to Chirayinkil Taluk. The place is about thirty kilometers away from Trivandrum city.

Keywords: Mukkuva, elementary terms, derivative terms, denotative terms, classificatory terms.

Introduction

Kinship is one of the universals in human society. The system depends on the social recognition and cultural implementation of relationships derived from descent and marriage. The domestic family survives as basic social unit. Two persons are considered kin to each other when they are linked by socially recognized bonds descent or marriage whether real or functional. The young child may grow up in the care and protection of physical parents or, in some societies may be reared by people who are not its physical parents and it may take its place in society as the child of others.

All societies distinguish various categories of relationship by descent or consanguinity. Most societies distinguish relationships by marriage or affinity. The system of kinship and marriage plays cohesion and solidarity. Kinship systems are found to vary in different societies with respect to a number of characteristics. They are:

1. The extent to which genealogical and affinal relationships are recognized for social purpose.
2. The ways in which relative so recognized are classified or grouped in social categories.
3. The particular customs by which the behavior of these relatives is regulated in daily life.
4. The linguistic forms which are used to denote the various categories of kin.

Collection of data

