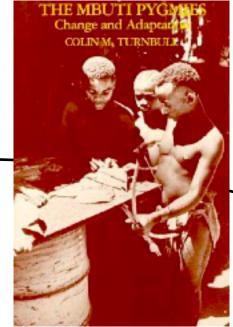
The hunter-gatherer social learning data

A systematic cross-cultural sample

Mbuti, Central Africa



Turnbull, Colin M.
The Mbuti Pygmies: change and adaptation

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Section: ELDERS AND ARBITRATION

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It was at moments like this that the elders came into prominence. In the Mbuti scheme of things age was clearly the dominant principle of social organization, with territory hard on its heels, then gender, and kinship lagging behind. The responsibility allocated to childhood was that of ritual purification, most specifically in the daily act of lighting the hunting fire. The youths had full control of the political arena, and the adults were fully occupied with all the major economic responsibilities. The role of the elders was the one, as vital as all the others, of socialization. During the daytime, when youths and adults were off on the hunt, the elders mostly stayed behind in the camp, looking after the young children. By playing with them, acting out great sagas of the hunting and gathering days of yore, or just by lying back under the trees and telling stories, old women and men, the tata of the camp, filled the youngsters with their own love of the forest, their trust in it, and their respect for the forest values that made life so good.

Age stratification (561)
Status of children (858)
Transmission of cultural
norms (867)
Status of adolescents (882)
Activities of the aged (887)
Status and treatment of the
aged (888)

Domain: Cultural values,

Mode: Oblique,

Process:Teaching (storytelling)

Age: Early childhood **Gender**: Neutral

Domain: Subsistence

Mode: Oblique

Process: Collaborative learning

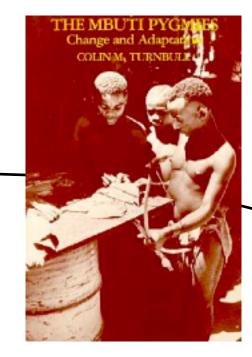
Age: Early childhood

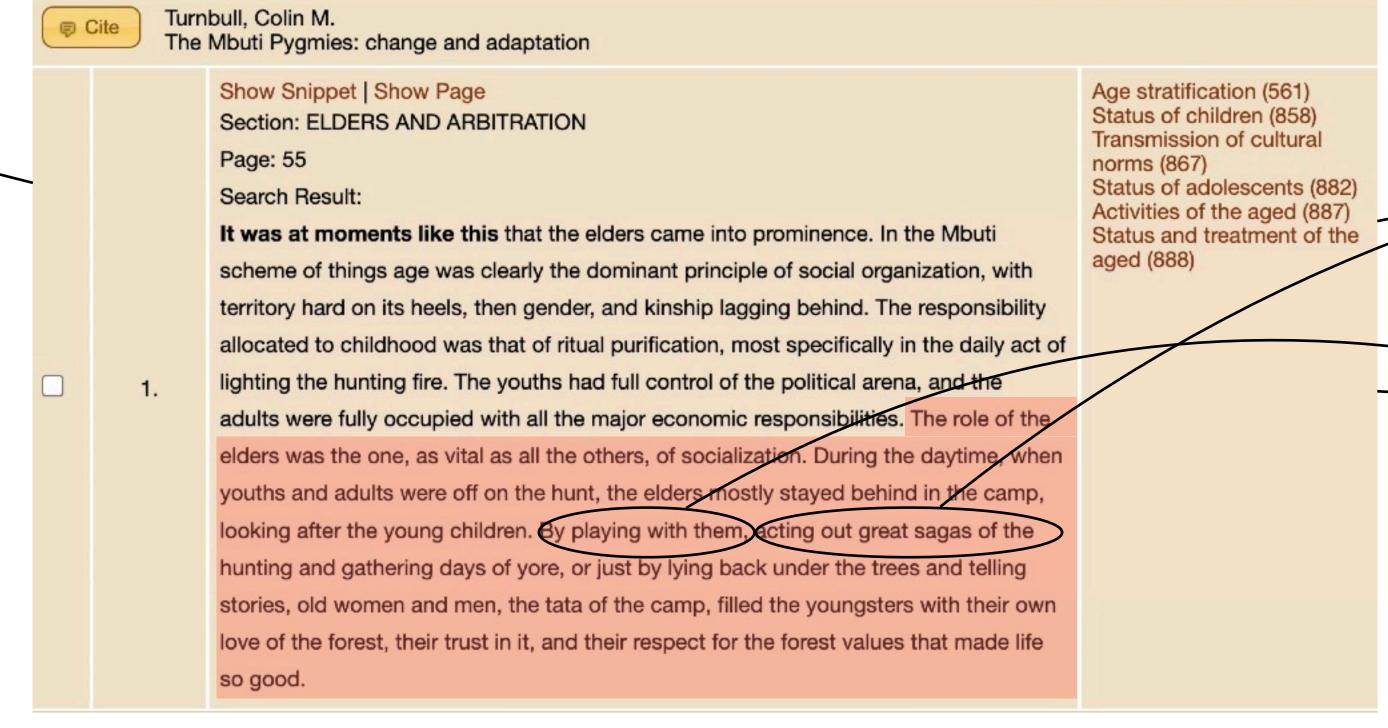
Gender: Neutral

The hunter-gatherer social learning data

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Domain: Cultural values,

Mode: Oblique,

Process:Teaching (storytelling)

Age: Early childhood **Gender**: Neutral

Domain: Subsistence

Mode: Oblique

Process: Collaborative learning

Age: Early childhood

Gender: Neutral