Color and Kinship

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Overview

1. Intro to Linguistic Universals
2. Relationships and Predication
3. Implications in Kinship
4. Summary and Conclusion

Two Types of Universals

1.Formal Universals

A formal universal is like a mathematical axiom,
it is a starting point that we have to assume to be true to get anything done.

'All lexical definitions in all languages are analysable as a set of components.'

2. Substantive Universals

A substantive universal usually carries more content, and states some sort of concept as a universal.

'All languages have the contrast between "animate" and "in-animate".'

Strong Universal

Weak Universal

"Every language has X as a feature of it"

"X is a member of the universal set of language features."

Berlin and Kay presented a very strong universal in the form of a statement on colour terms in various languages. They stated, that there is a

black
white

red

green
yellow

blue

brown

purple
pink
orange
grey

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Relationships and Predication

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Kinship

Kinship Terminology is more **Cultural** than **Perceptual.**

Though you may call your mother's brother "uncle" in English and "मामा" in Hindi, your relationship remains the same.

Though the relationships themselves are language-neutral, we will use some basic English terms to identify these relations **'universally'**.

F – Father

M – Mother

Ss – Sister's Son

FBd – Father's Brother's Daughter

Componential Analysis

In English, your uncle is your FB, MB, FSH, MSH etc.

We can also present a simpler more concise explanation of 'uncle' as 'male in the previous generation who is not your father'.

We shall attempt to do exactly this using componential analysis, i.e the breaking down of the kinship term into its discrete semantic components.

Though the kinship terms differ from language to language, the author claims that you can always perform such a componential analysis on the kinship terminology of a language to get a consistent set of distinctions.

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Lounsbury's Analysis

TABLE I

1. *haʔnih* 'my father'	F; FB; FMSs, FFBs, FMBs, FFSs, FFFBss, etc.	A
2. *noʔyẽh* 'my mother'	M; MS; MMSd; MFBd, MMBd, MFSd, MMSdd, etc.	
3. *hakhnoʔsẽh* 'my uncle'	MB; MMSs, MFBs, MMBs, MFSs, MMMSds, etc.	B
4. *akeːhak* 'my aunt'	FS; FMSd, FFBd, FMBd, FFSd; FFFBsd, etc.	
5. *hahtsiʔ* 'my elder brother'	B; MSs, FBs; MMSds, FFBss, MFBds, FMSss, MMBds, etc. (when older than ego)	C
6. *heʔkẽːʔ* 'my younger brother'	(same, when younger than ego)	
7. *ahtsiʔ* 'my elder sister'	S; MSd, FBd; MMSdd, FFBsd, MFBdd, FMSsd, MMBdd, etc. (when older than ego)	
8. *kheʔkẽːʔ* 'my younger sister'	(same, when younger than ego)	

This analysis by Lounsbury is based on his study of the **kinship system** of the **Seneca tribe**. There were some observations which may seem strange to those of us unfamiliar with them.

All relationships are defined with respect to '**ego**'

- **M-S** is called **'mother'** and,
- **F-B** is called **'father'** but,
- **M-B** is called **'uncle'** and,
- **F-S** is called **'aunt'**.

Similar terminology was followed for **Cousins of Father and Mother,** and this was quite different when compared to what we follow in our kinship system.

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Lounsbury's Analysis

TABLE 1 *Cont.*

9. *akyä:ʔse:ʔ* 'my cousin'	MBs, FSs; MMSss, FFBds, MFBss, FMSds, MMBss, etc. *also*: MBd, FSd; MMSsd, FFBdd, MFBsd, FMSdd, MMBsd, etc.	D
10. *he:awak* 'my son'	(a) s; Bs; MSss; FBss; MBss; FSss; MMSdss, etc. *for male ego* (b) s; Ss; MSds, FBds, MBds, FSds; MMSdds, etc. *for female ego*	E
11. *khe:awak* 'my daughter'	(a) d; Bd; MSsd, FBsd, MBsd, FSsd; MMSdsd, etc. *for male ego* (b) d; Sd; MSdd, FBdd, MBdd, FSdd; MMSddd, etc. *for female ego*	E
12. *heyẽ:wõ:tẽʔ* 'my nephew'	Ss; MSds, FBds, MBds, FSds, MMSdds, etc. *for male ego*	F
13. *hehsõʔneh* 'my nephew'	Bs; MSss, FBss, MBss, FSss; MMSdss, etc. *for female ego*	F
14. *kheyẽ:wõ:tẽʔ* 'my niece'	Sd; MSdd, FBdd, MBdd, FSdd, MMSddd, etc. *for male ego*	F
15. *khehsõʔneh* 'my niece'	Bd; MSsd, FBsd, MBsd, FSsd, MMSdsd, etc. *for female ego*	F

in Seneca,

- MSds, FBds, MBds are all your nephew for the male ego and,
- MSss, FBss, MBss are all you nephews for female ego,
- In examples from Group E, the ego is of the same sex as alter's linking parent.
- That is for a male ego, the last symbol but one is a male and the same is true for a female ego.
- But this is not true for group F where the case is exactly the opposite.

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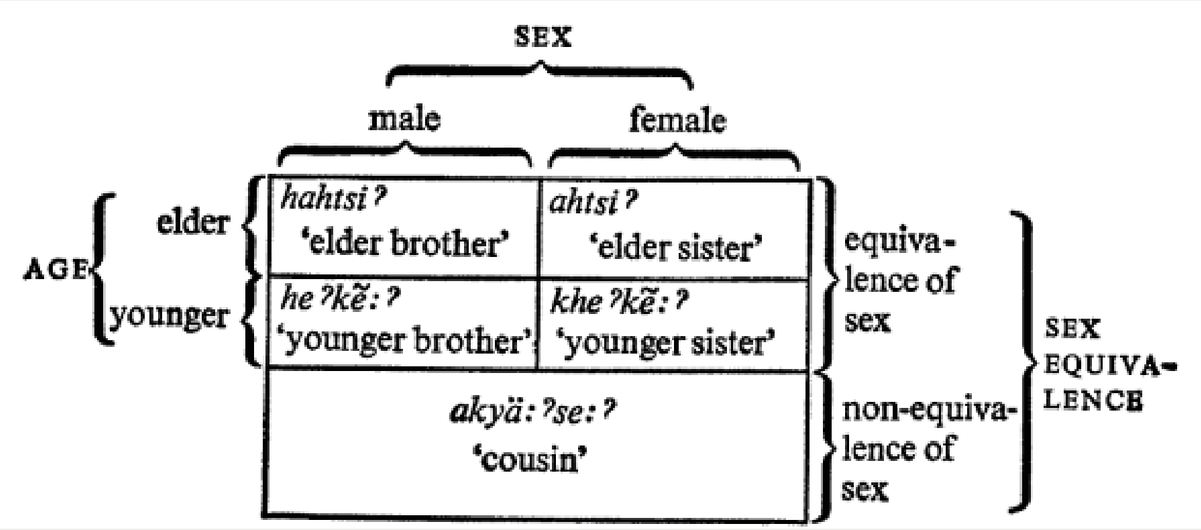
Lounsbury's Analysis



in Seneca,

- For Group C, a group consisting of brothers and sisters we notice that the linking parent of the ego and the linking parent of the ego are of the same gender.
- Whereas this is not true for group D, for example, **Father's Brothers son** is "**Brother**", whereas **Father's Sisters son** is "**Cousin**"

The questions that should be raised are -

For > Generation- Is there a sex equivalence between ego's linking parent and alter?

For < Generation- Is there a sex equivalence between ego and alter's linking parent?

For = Generation- Is there a sex equivalence between ego's linking parent and alter's linking parent?

Lounsbury's Analysis

In Conclusion to his analysis, Lounsbury says that these are all instances of the same semantic contrast.
Hence this entire Componential Analysis can be simplified by using a single componential opposition which we may symbolize as **+PARALLEL** & **-PARALLEL**

+PARALLEL - There is an equivalence of sex between the two kin of the generation above ego or alter (whichever is **junior**)
-PARALLEL - The opposite of the above.

And now we can notice that the groups divided by broken lines correspond to distinction with respect to the **+PARALLEL/ -PARALLEL** rule.

Rules of Implication

We shall now use some rules that we derive from implications to further strengthen and simplify our definitions of kinship terms

Defining Siblinghood

Introduction of Lineal Generation System

Differentiating between cousins

Define SiblingHood

We shall attempt to define more complex relations only in terms of ←**PARENT**, →**PARENT** and **+MALE/ - MALE.**

However, we immediately can see an issue in our definitions, for eg. that of *brother*.

brother: +MALE.←PARENT..→PARENT.
sister: −MALE.←PARENT..→PARENT.
uncle: +MALE.←PARENT..→PARENT..→PARENT.
aunt: −MALE.←PARENT..→PARENT..→PARENT.
nephew: +MALE.←PARENT..←PARENT..→PARENT.
great niece: −MALE.←PARENT..←PARENT..←PARENT.
. →PARENT.

Define SiblingHood

So, Leech has defined a special term to describe sibling relationship and it is denoted using " **↔SIBLING**" as shown in the example below.

"**SIBLING**" is defined as child of the parent of the ego that is not the same as ego.

First cousin: ←PARENT..↔SIBLING..→PARENT.
Second cousin: ←PARENT..←PARENT..↔SIBLING..→PARENT..→PARENT.

Third cousin: ←PARENT..←PARENT..←PARENT..↔SIBLING..→PARENT
..→PARENT..→PARENT.

(etc.)

Lineal Generation

Similar to the case of siblings, managing kinship across generations can also get confusing if we consider more than one generation gap. to solve this, Leech devised a Lineal Generation system as mentioned in the example below.

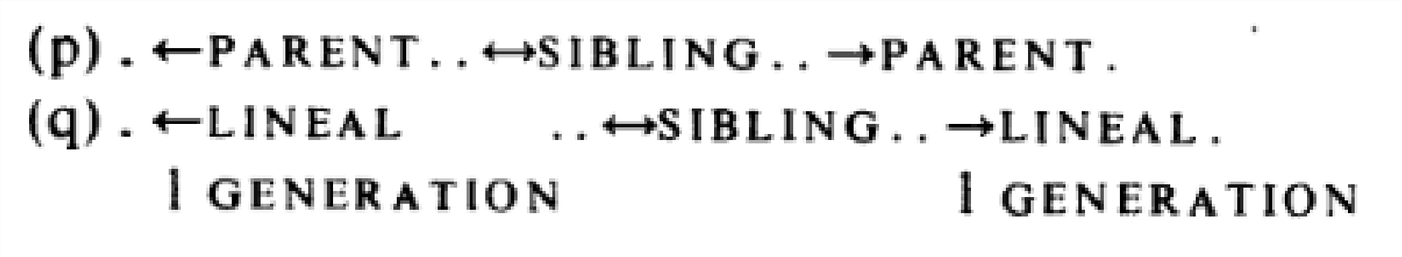
+MALE.→PARENT..→PARENT. = +MALE.→LINEAL 2 GENERATION . 'grandfather'

'male parent of parent of' = 'male second-generation ancestor'

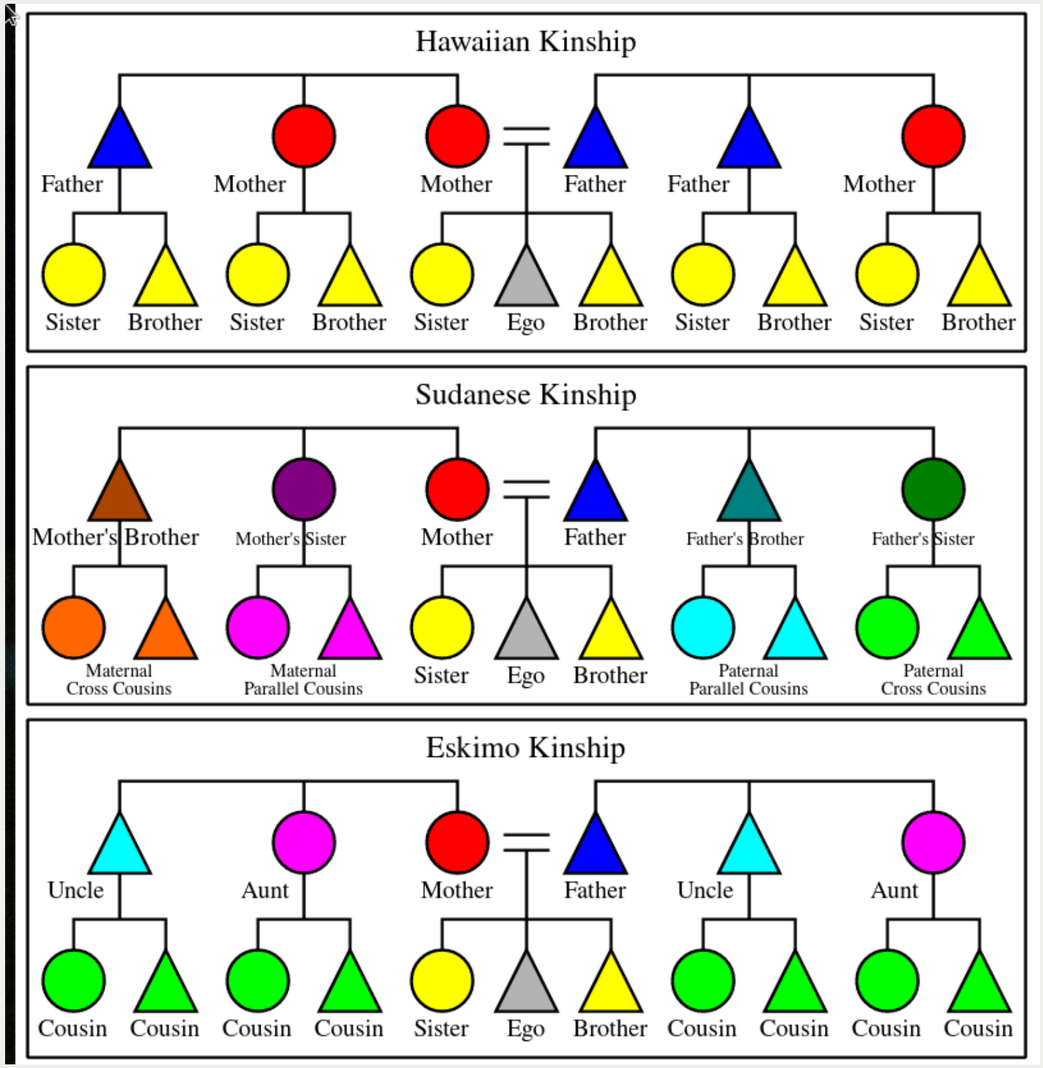
This rule can also be used in the opposite direction to give a more generalized version of the order of decendents

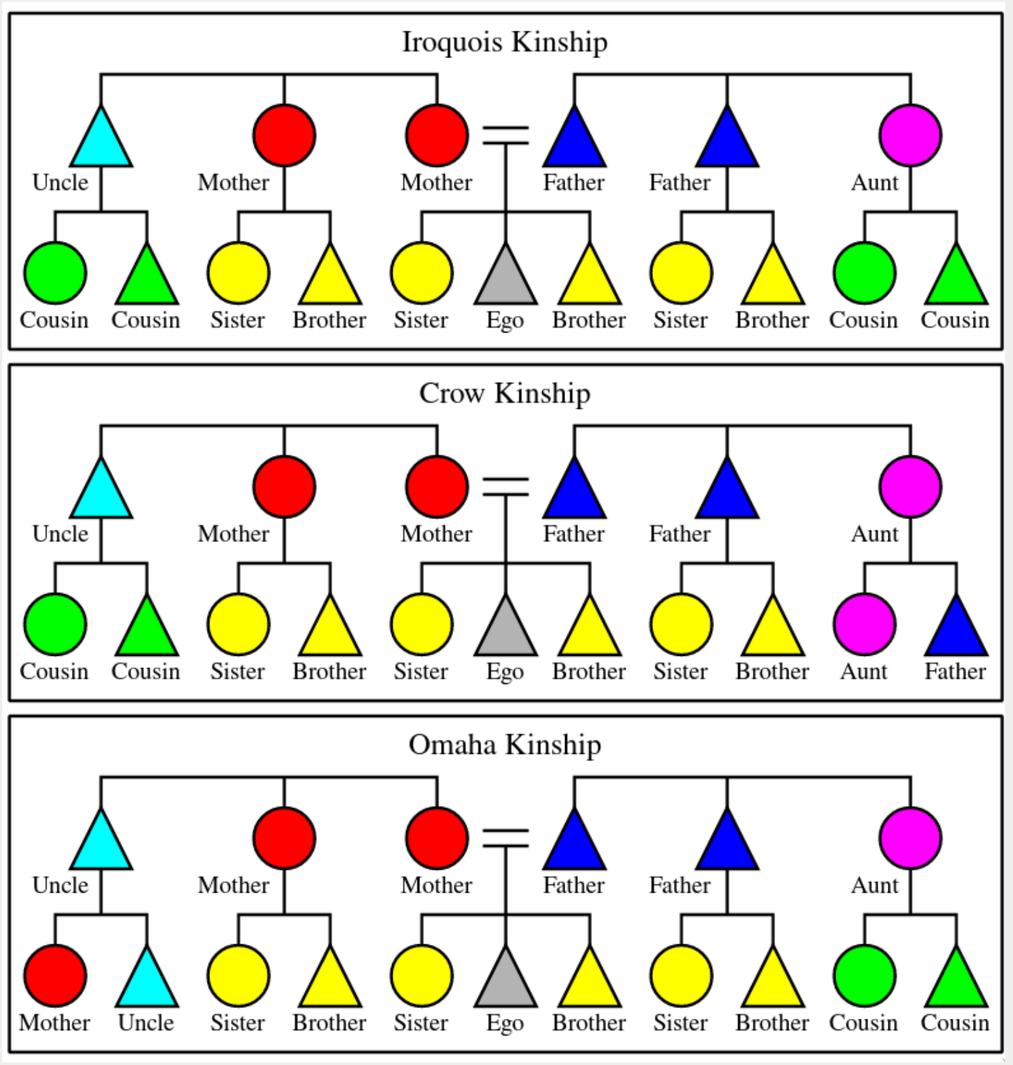
Defining cousins on the basis of 1st two implications

In the below example, both "p" and "q" refer to first cousins. If we had to define 2nd cousin, 3rd cousin, and so on we would have had to add "Parent modules" both the ends of "p" and it would get complicated as we further define kinship rules using this method. Contrary to that, we can just replace "Lineal 1 generation" with "Lineal 2 generation" in "q" to define 2nd cousin which is a lot more precise.



In his work *Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family,* Lewis H Morgan identified six main families of kinship terminology





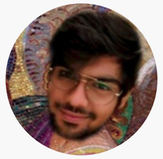
Abhinav

"Sudanese? Not exactly though also depends on the district and/or religion"

Vamshi

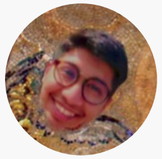
It's not here
So I didn't respond
Ig the closest thing is Sudanese

Shaswat



I think kinda Sudanese but all the cousins are the same. There's a term "mamata bhai"

Shubhankar



Crow is kinda the closest but, there are no distinct names for cousins.

Ever lost your marks trying to solve Blood Relation questions?

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just for you

We are here to help you get your marks back!*

Neelam who is Rohit’s daughter says to Indu, ‘Your mother Reeta is the sister of my father, who is the third child of Sohan.’ How is Sohan related to Indu?

***For legal reasons, that's a joke.**

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Answer: Grandfather

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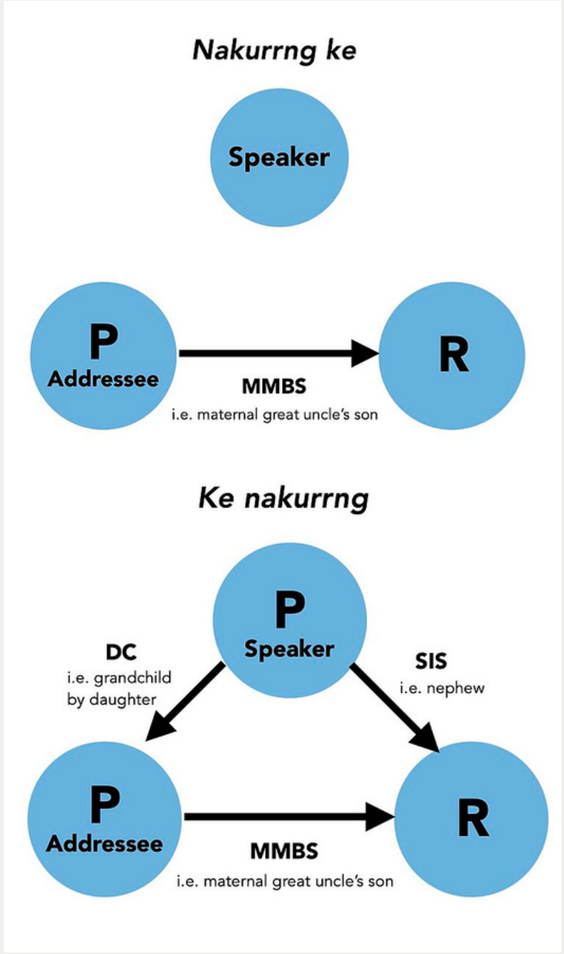
Bi-relational kinship

These kin-terms denote the relationship between 2 said entities.
For example: the word 'sister' denotes the relationship between the speaker or some other entity and another feminine entity that shares the parents of the former

Tri-relational kinship

These kin-terms denote denote the relationship between three distinct entities.
This type of kin terms are seen in Bininj Gun-Wok which is an Australian aboriginal words.



Chronological terms

In Nepali, one can even refer to people based on the chronological order of their birth among their siblings.

This can be used to refer to your own siblings, the siblings in the generation above you (your uncles and aunts), or even people in other families!

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