

Kinship

- overview
- terminology, key concepts
- descent rules, groups, marriage
- major patterns of kinship

Kinship

- ‘Kinship is an old, established specialization in anthropology, noted more for its difficult jargon and tortuous diagrams than for the light it sheds on gender. Indeed, A. F. Robertson (1991: 3) accused anthropologists of having “punished generations of students with the complexities of ‘kinship and marriage’ in tribal and peasant communities.”’ (Stone 2013:1)
- “For kinship is the phenomenon which begins earliest in life and which lasts longest, even, as the word mother is usually the first word formed and often the last word uttered.” (Malinowski 1930)
- “Kinship systems are cultural constructions, no doubt, but the scaffolding of such constructions are, to a large extent anyway, the universal biological categories given by nature, sex, age, and genealogy.” (Foley 2005: 147)

Kinship

- “All human societies have kinship, that is, they all impose some privileged cultural order over the biological universals of sexual relations and continuous human reproduction through birth.” (Parkin 1997)
- “It is important to realize at the outset that, while the biologist studies kinship in the physical sense, for the social anthropologist kinship is not biology, but particular social or cultural interpretations of the biological universals...” (Parkin 1997)
- “The Point of departure for the analysis of kinship is the nuclear family. Universally, it is this social group that the developing child [...] learns to respond in particular ways towards his father, his mother, his brothers and sisters, and to expect certain kinds of behaviour in return.” (Murdock 1949)

Kinship



Kinship terminology (Parkin 1997)

I		II		III		IV	
F	father	Fa	father	F	father	F	father
M	mother	Mo	mother	m	mother	M	mother
B	brother	Br	brother	B	brother	B	brother
Z	sister	Si	sister	s	sister	S	sister
S	son	So	son	S	son	s	son
D	daughter	Da	daughter	d	daughter	d	daughter
H	husband	Hu	husband	H	husband	H	husband
W	wife	Wi	wife	w	wife	W	wife
P	parent	Pa	parent				
G	sibling	Sb	sibling				
E	spouse	Sp	spouse				
C	child	Ch	child				

- before: 'e' = elder, 'y' = younger, 'os' = opposite sex, 'ss' = same sex
- after: 'e' and 'y' refer to the whole specification

Kinship terminology - some examples

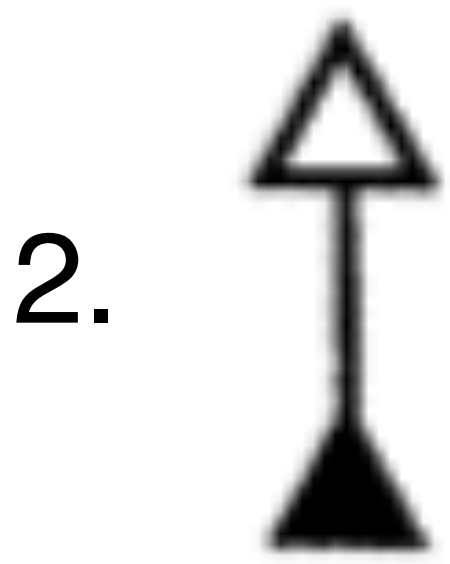
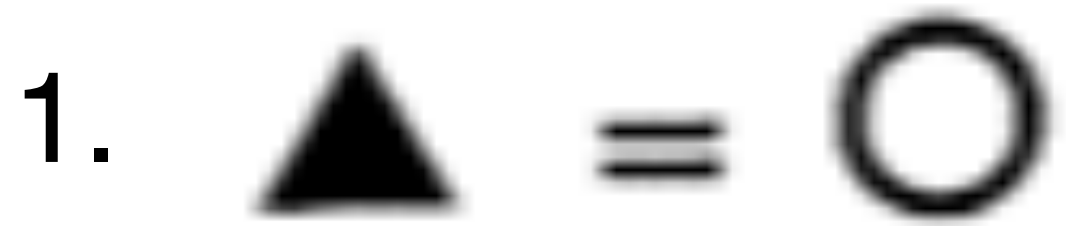
- G
- E
- C
- FZH
- MFBSD
- eB
- MeBD
- MeBDy

Kinship symbols (Stone 2013)

△	Male
○	Female
□	Person of either sex
△, ∅, ▢	Deceased
=	Marriage
≠	Divorce
—	Sexual relationship
	Descent
┌	Sibling relationship
▲, ●, ■	Ego

FIGURE 1.1 The Kinship Code

Kinship symbols - some examples



Kinship diagrams (Parkins 1997)

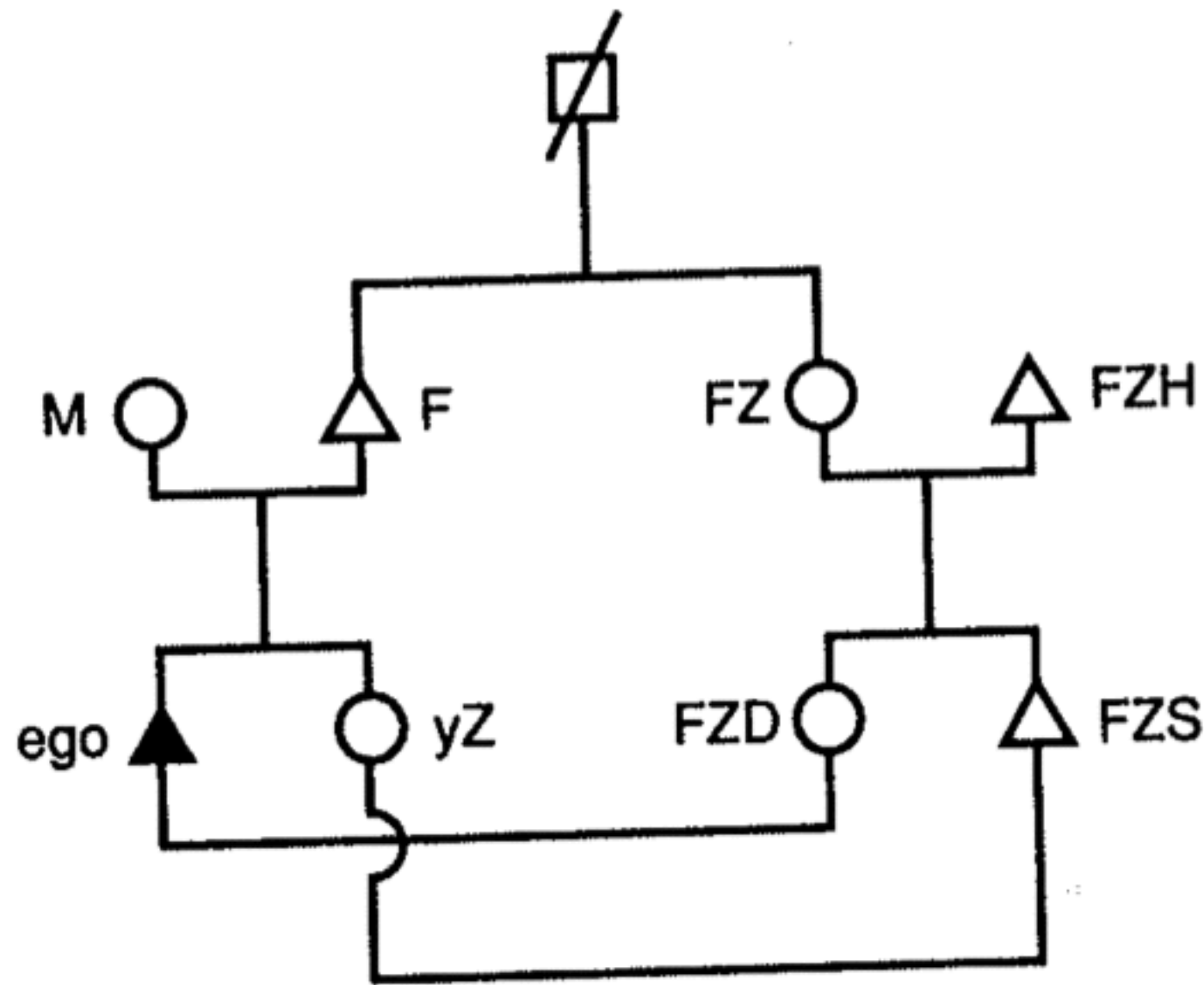


Figure 1.2 Symbols. The diagram shows male ego's marriage to his FZD, and that of his yZ to his FZS (who is younger than FZD). Everyone of this generation, plus ego's F and FZ, are descended from a deceased individual of unspecified sex. Ego's parents' generation also shows two marriages.

Kinship diagrams (Stone 2013)

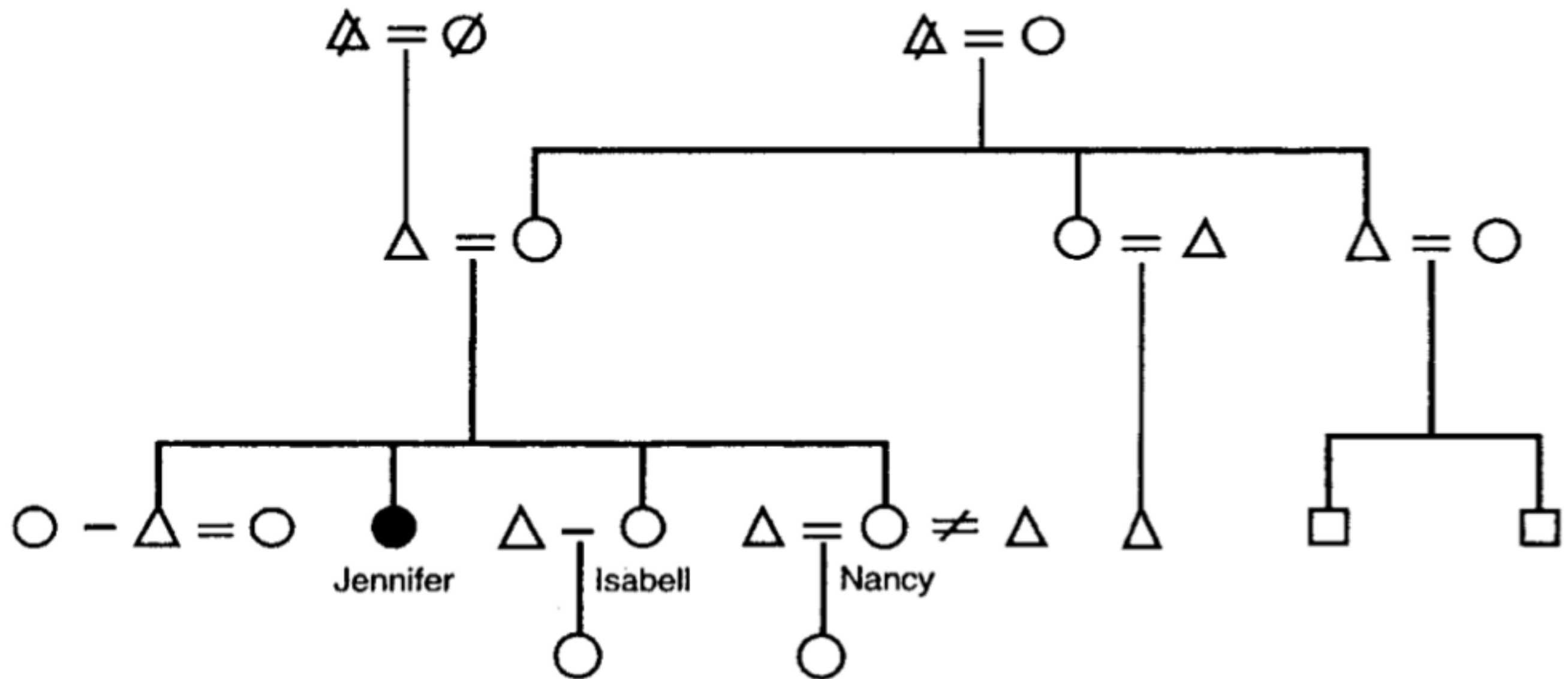


FIGURE 1.2 An Illustration of the Kinship Code

Kinship diagrams (Stone 2013)

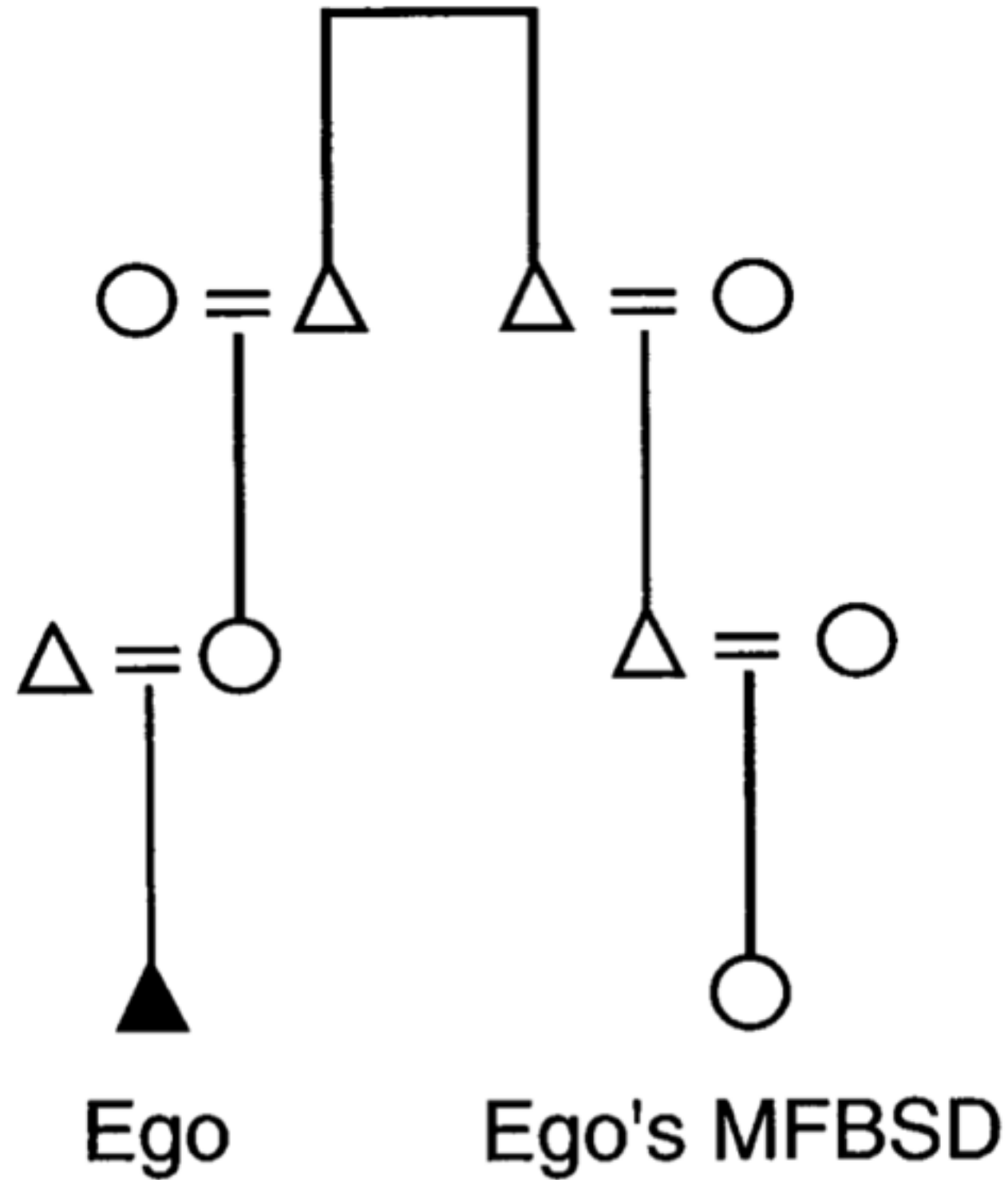
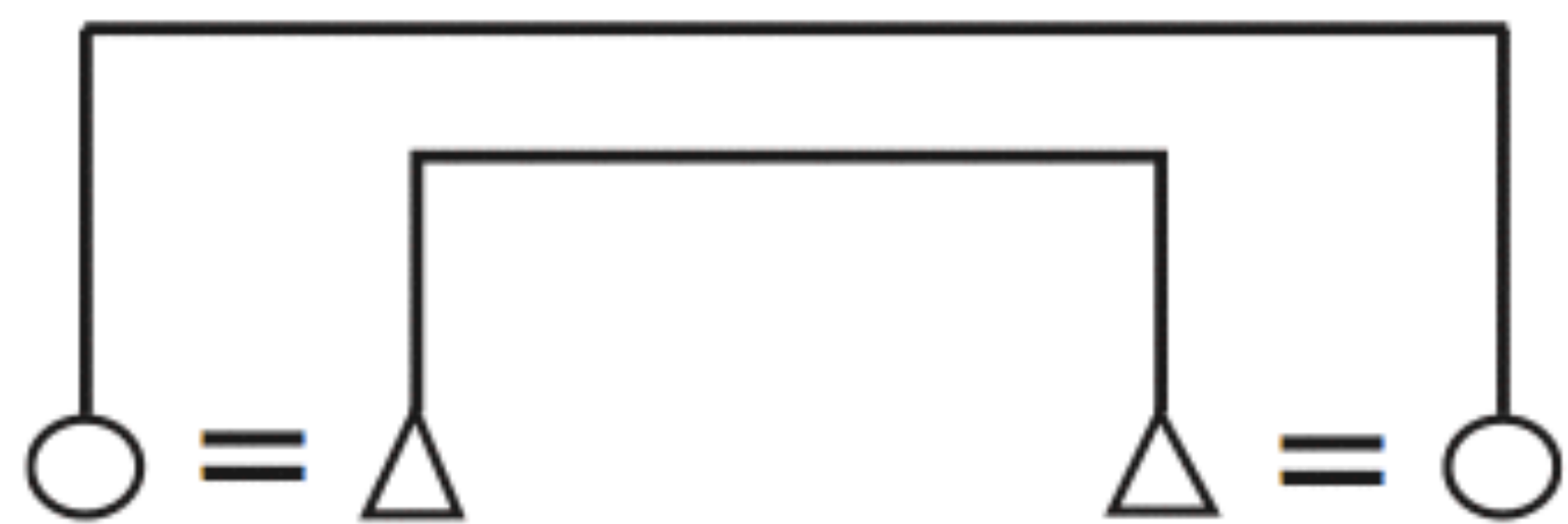


FIGURE 1.4 A Kinship Diagram Connecting Ego to an MFBSD

Kinship diagrams can be used for...

1. Actual genealogy
2. Model of a particular kinship system (or part of it, e.g. marriage system, descent system)
3. Content of relationships or some subsidiary aspect of the system (e.g. circulation of gifts)
4. Abstractions or models of kinships systems made by the anthropologist on the basis of features that are more or less common to a number of societies
5. The kinship terminology, through many anthropologists prefer other ways or representing this diagrammatically

Kinship diagrams (Stone 2013)



Kinship diagrams (Stone 2013)

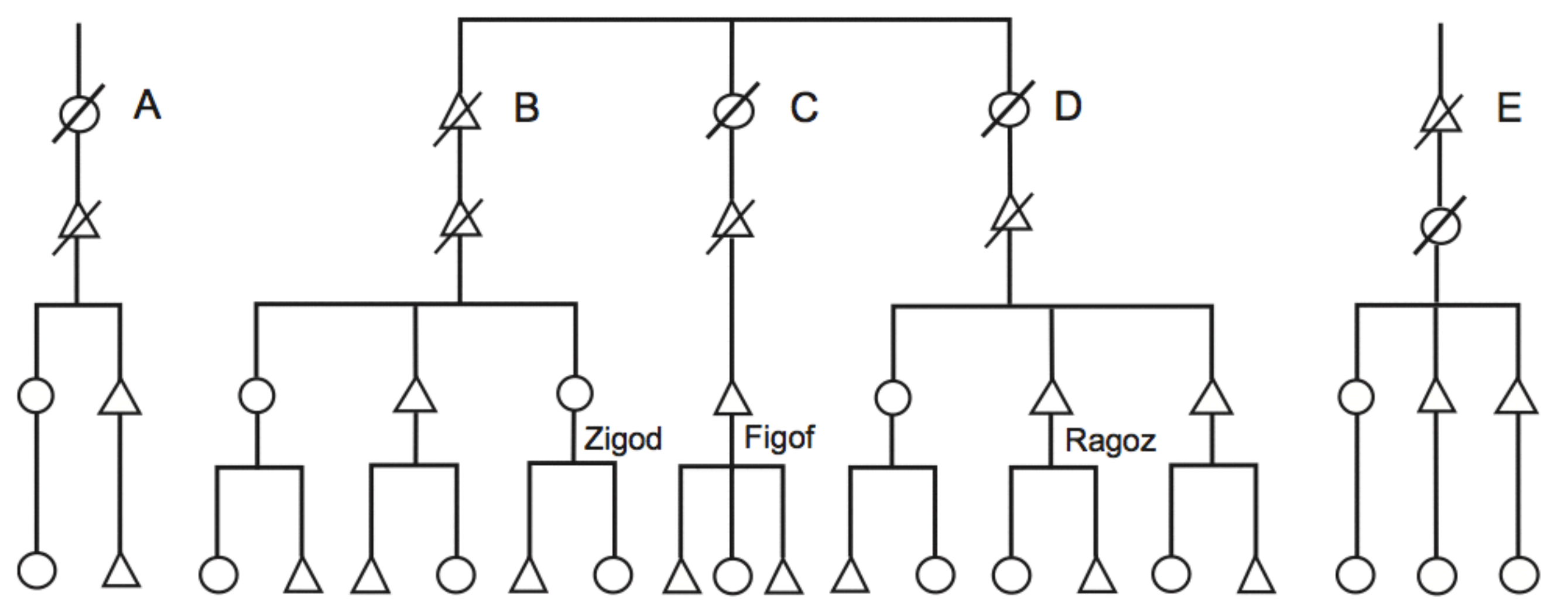


FIGURE 1.7 Kinship Connections in a Hypothetical Early Human Population

Kinship diagrams (Stone 2013) - formation of descent groups

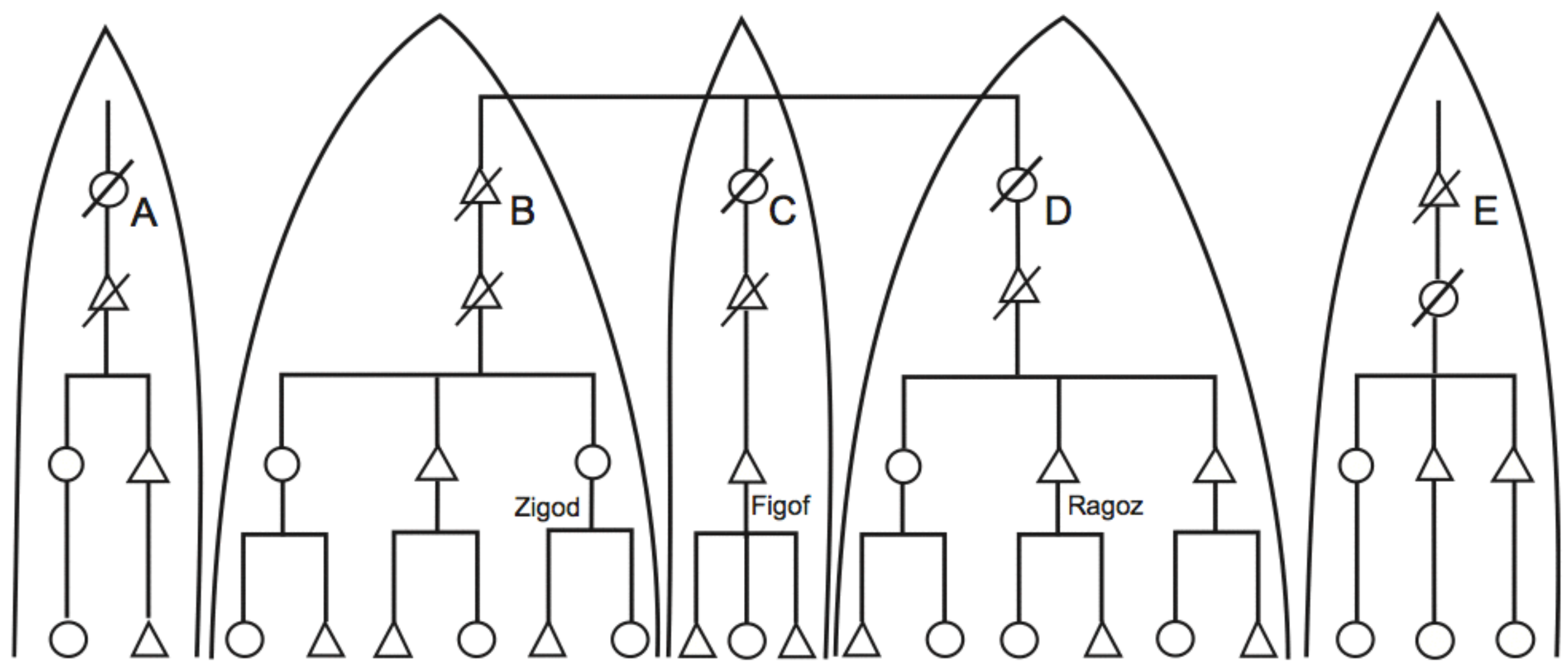


FIGURE 1.8 The Formation of Descent Groups from Common Ancestors

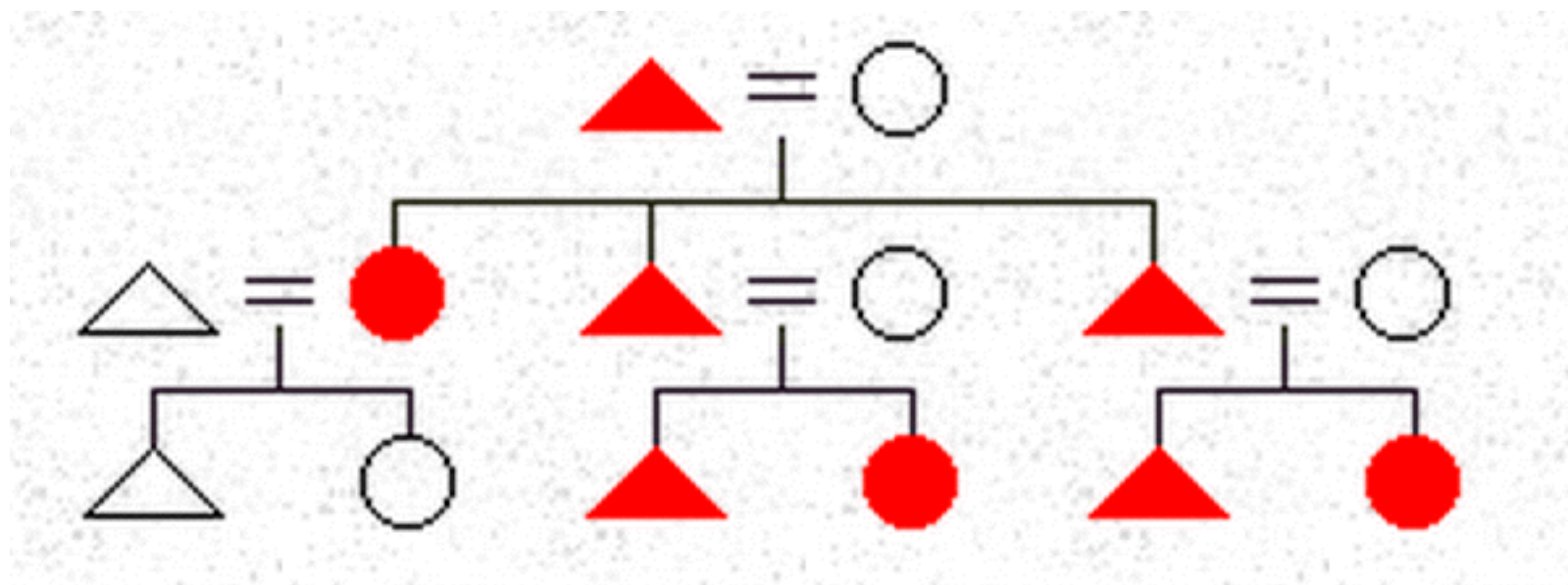
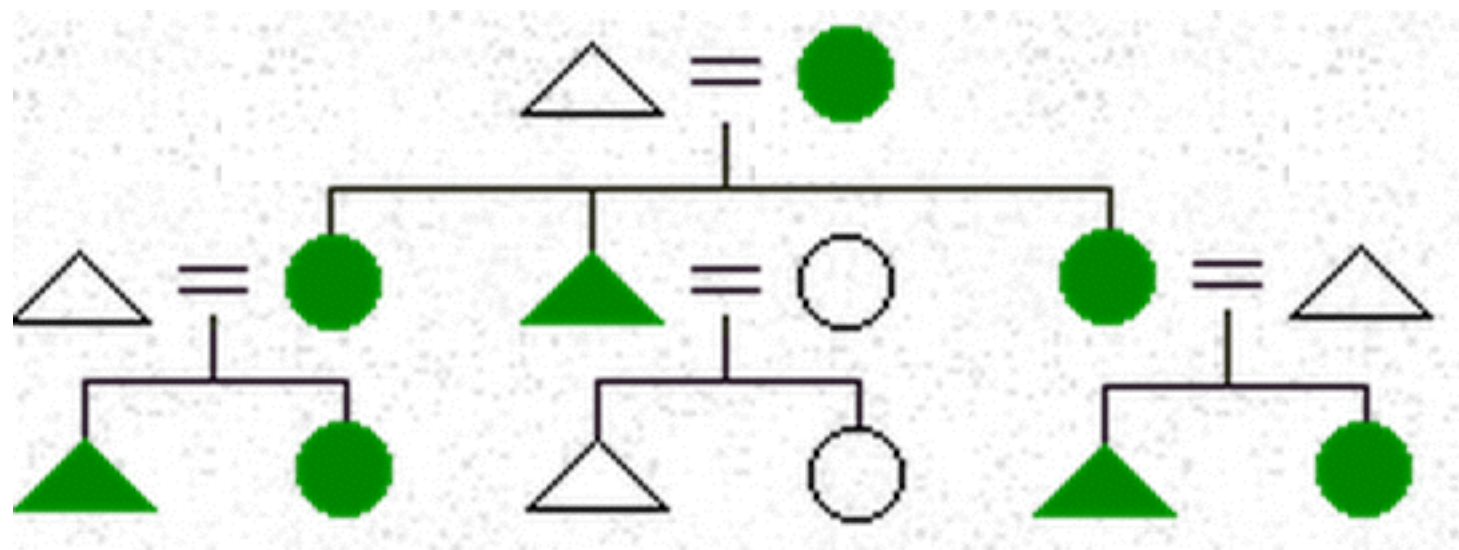
Types of descent in human societies

1. Unilineal descent

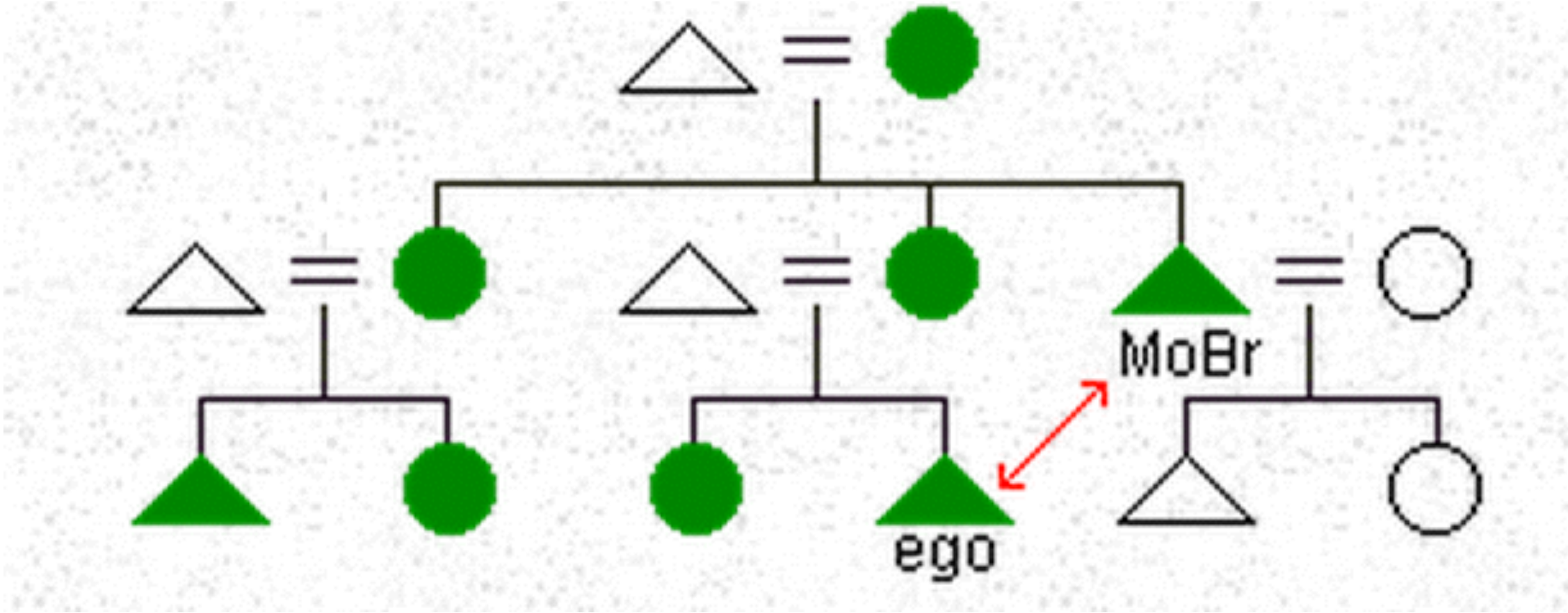
- Patrilineal descent (agnatic descent) - based on links through males only
- Matrilineal descent (uterine descent) - based on links through females only

2. Cognatic descent - based on links through both men and women

Kinship diagrams



Kinship diagrams



Kinship diagrams (Parkin 1997)

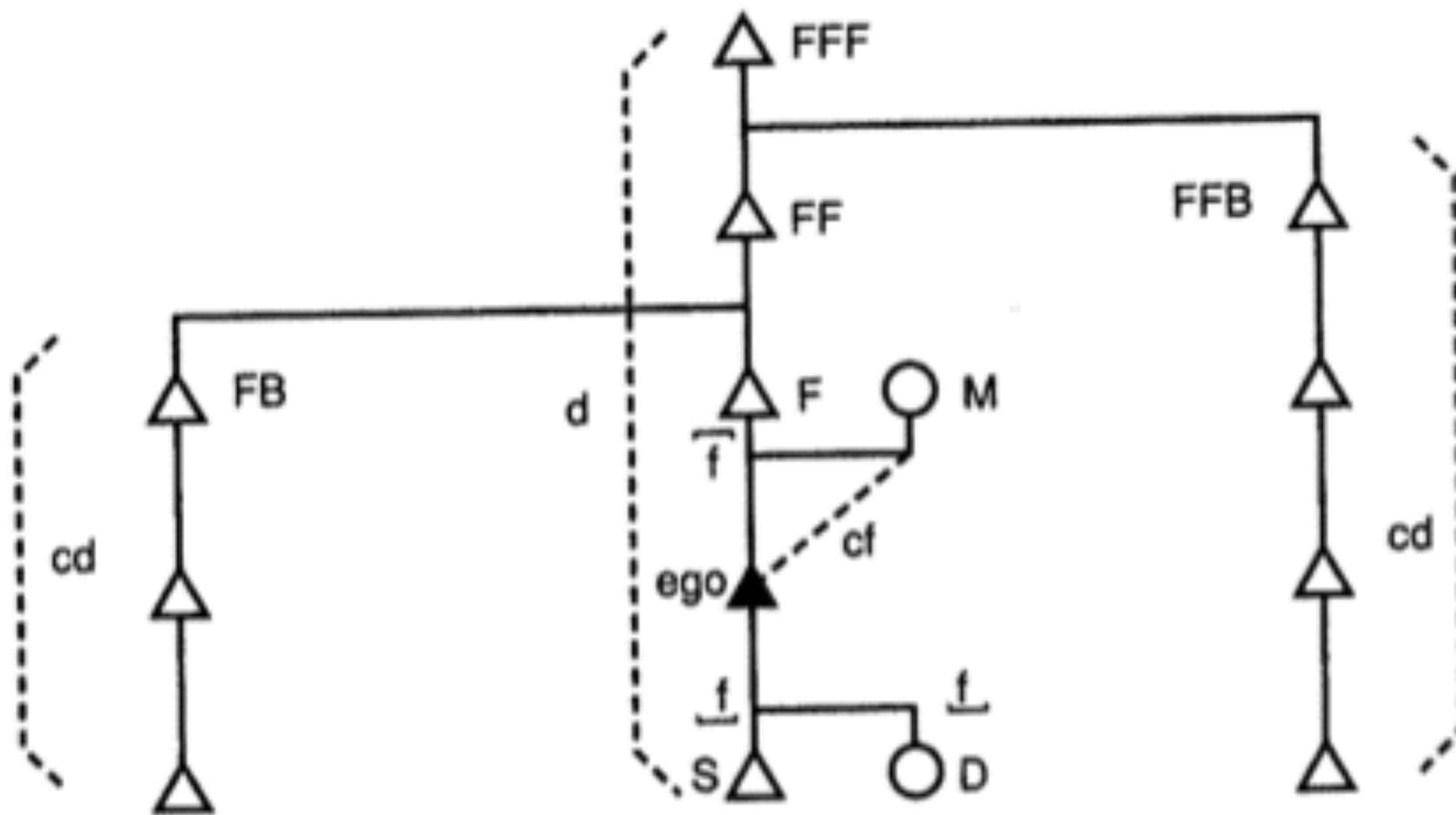
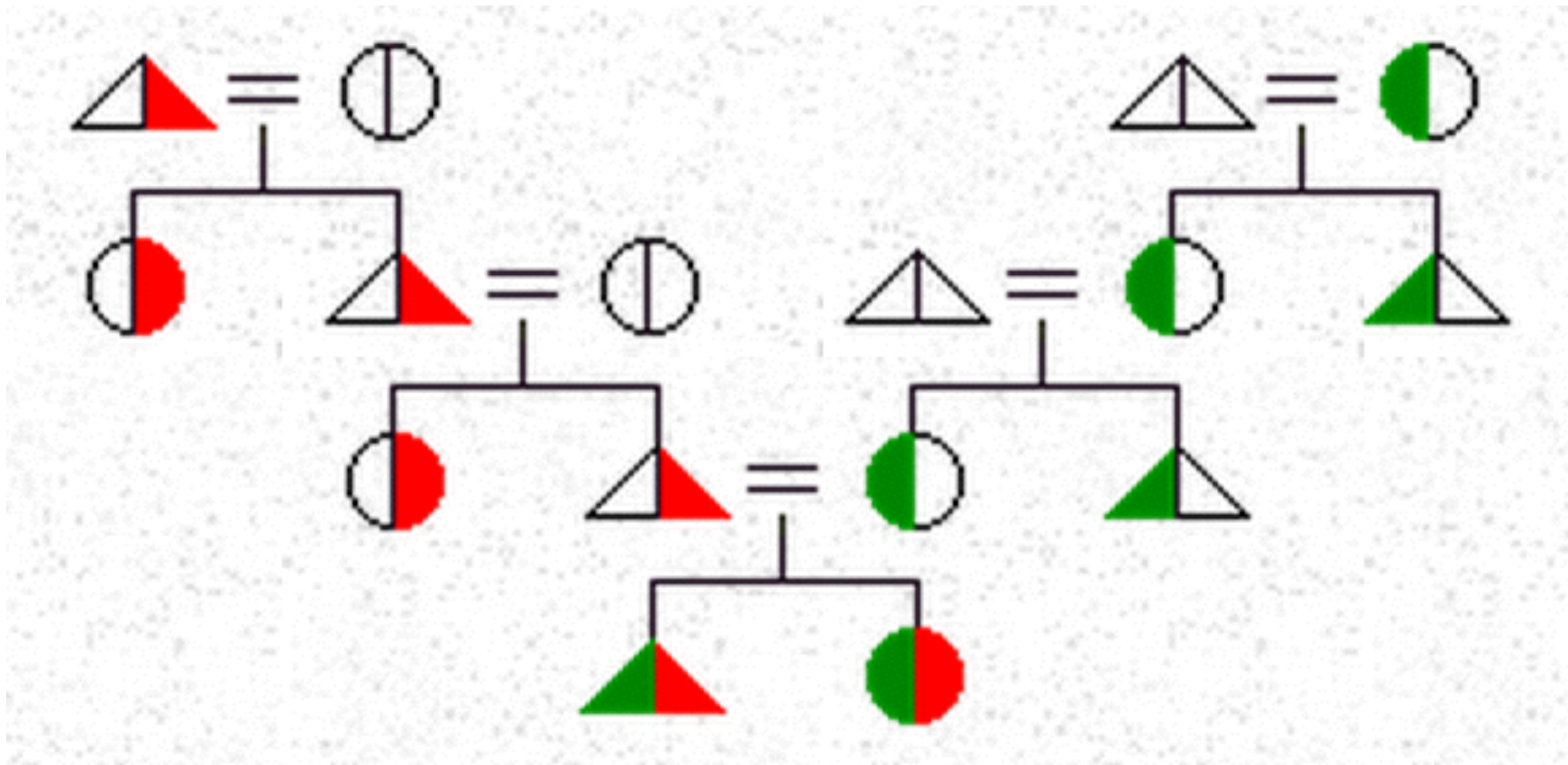


Figure 2.1 Descent and filiation. The figure shows patrilineal descent in male ego's own line (d), his collateral lines of patrilineal descent (cd), and his ties of filiation (f) and complementary filiation (cf). In this case, filiation is with the father, complementary filiation with the mother; they would be reversed were descent matrilineal.

Kinship diagrams



Kinship diagrams (Parkin 1997)

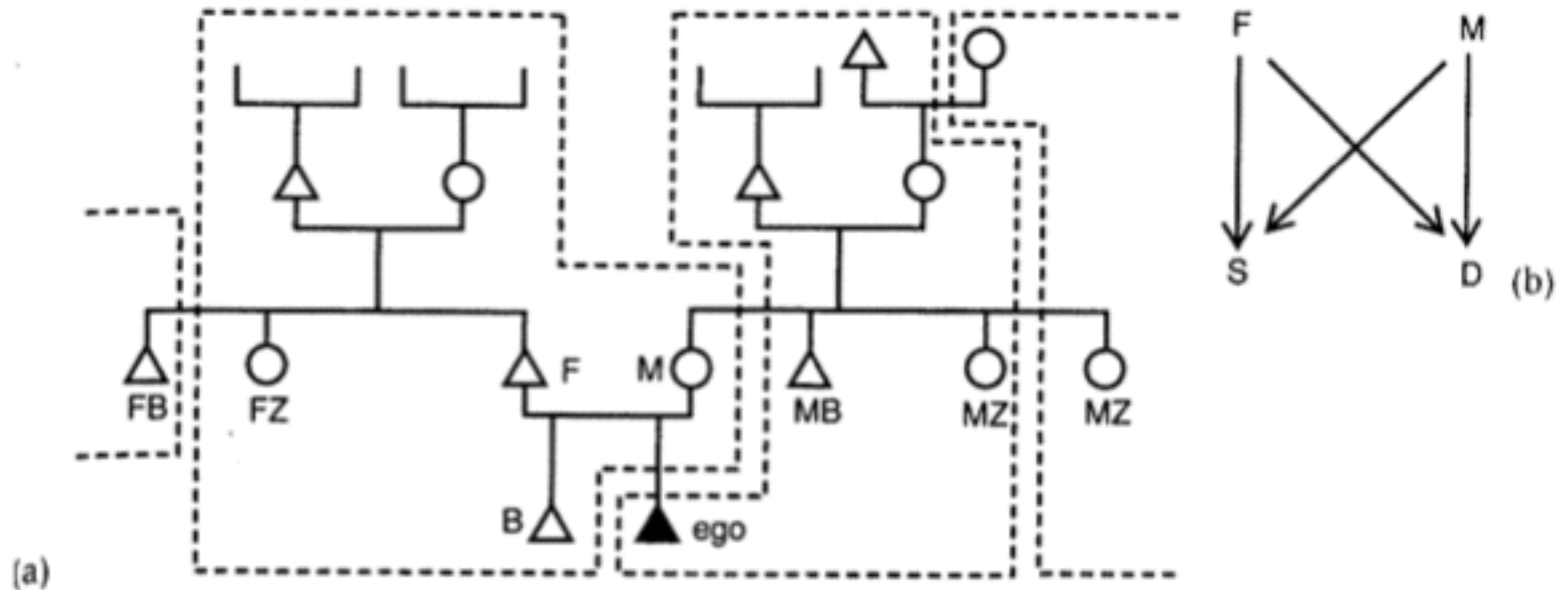


Figure 2.2 (a) Cognatic descent. The dotted lines enclose different residential groups; they represent only one set of possibilities among many. This example shows ego's parents residing together with his brother, but ego himself residing with his MB; similarly, ego's two mother's sisters live separately from one another and from ego's mother, as does ego's FB.

(b) Ties of cognatic descent between two siblings of opposite sex and their parents.

Residence: Dogon compound



Residence: Dogon compound



Residence

1. Patrilocal (also called virilocal), whereby a married couple lives with or near the groom's kin.
2. Matrilocal (also called uxorilocal), whereby a married couple lives with or near the bride's kin.
3. Ambilocal, whereby a married couple can choose to live with or near the kin of either the groom or the bride.
4. Neolocal, whereby a married couple moves to a new household or location, living with kin of neither the groom nor the bride.
5. Natolocal, whereby a wife and husband remain with their own natal kin and do not live together.
6. Avunculocal, whereby a married couple moves to or near the residence of the groom's mother's brother(s).

Marriage and marriage rules

1. Monogamy, or marriage between two persons, generally a man and a woman;
 2. Polygyny, or marriage of a man to two or more women at the same time; and
 3. Polyandry, or marriage of a woman to two or more men at the same time.
-
- Exogamy - marry outside a certain social category or group
 - Endogamy - marry within a certain social category or group

Cross and parallel cousins

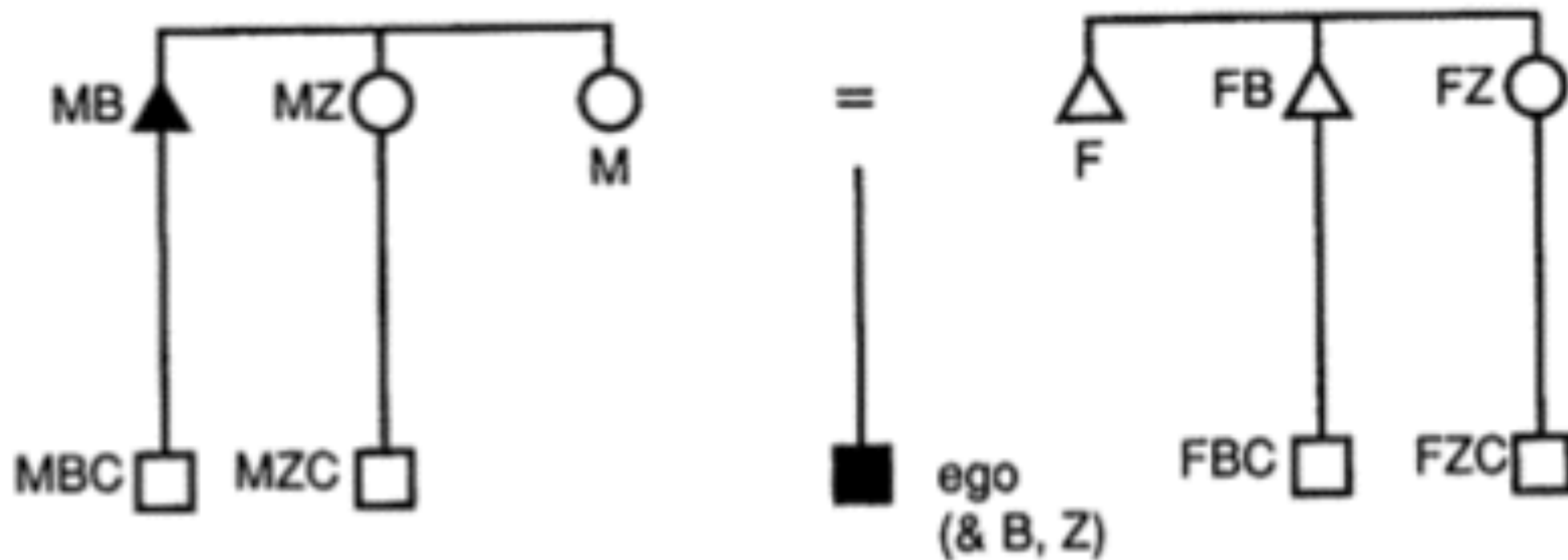
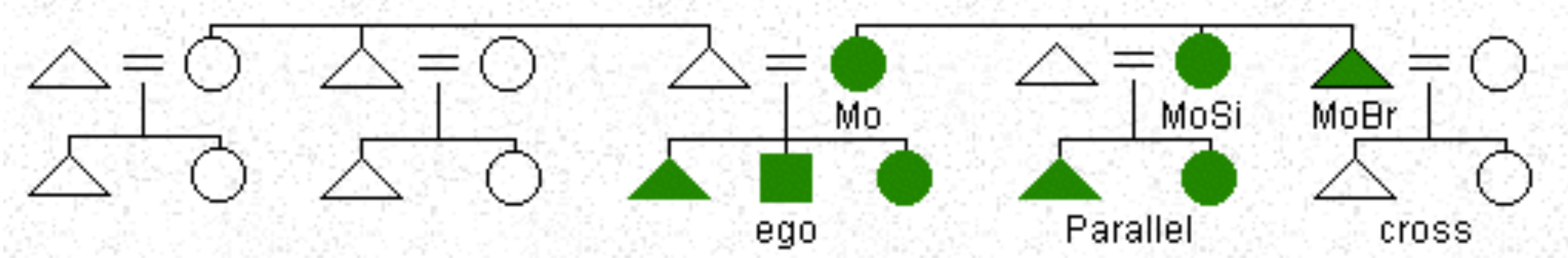
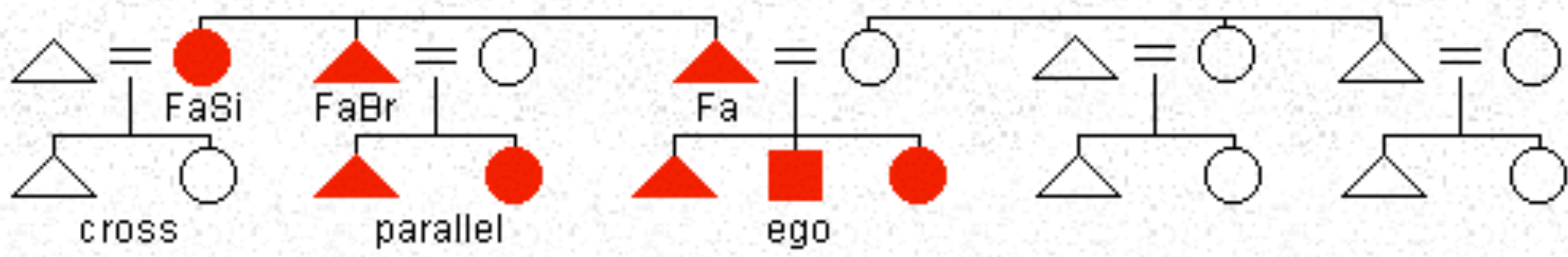
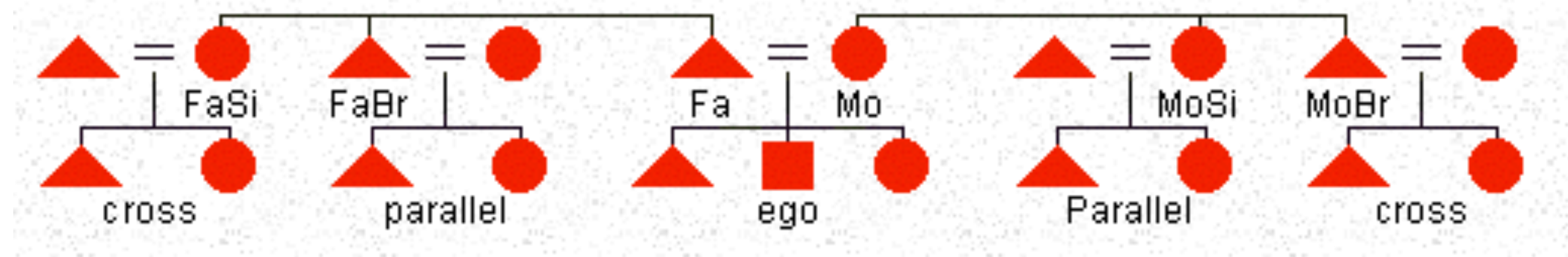


Figure 5.1 Cross cousins and parallel cousins. The outer groups (MBC, FZC) are cross cousins, the inner groups (MZC, FBC) parallel cousins.

Cross and parallel cousins



Typology of kinship systems

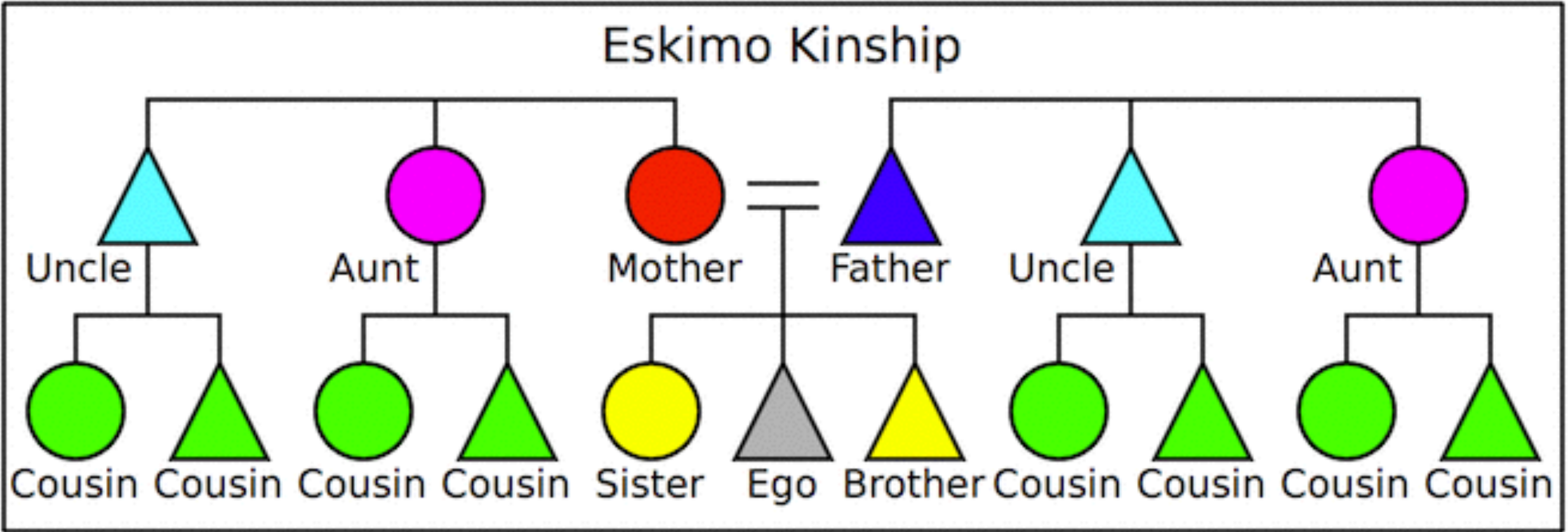
1. Eskimo (12%; most common in NA) - "lineal kinship" - gender and generation
2. Hawaiian (42% from 597 language sample) - "generational system" - least complex
3. Iroquois (28%) - "bifurcate merging"
4. Crow (17% with Omaha) - expansion of bifurcate merging
5. Omaha (17% with Crow) - expansion of bifurcate merging
6. Sudanese (1%) - the "descriptive system"

Kinship typology: Merging rule

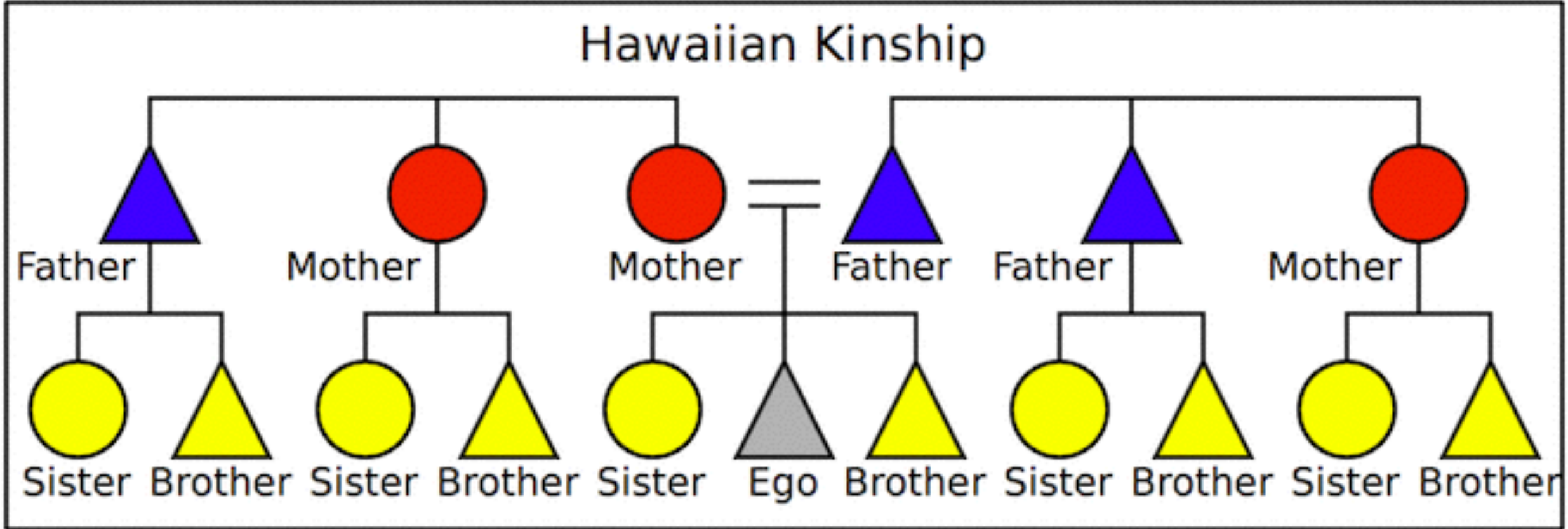
- MR applied: $XSib = X$
- MR not applied: $XSib \neq X$

<i>Traditional label</i>	<i>Systematic label</i>	
Hawaiian	generational	$F = FB = MB$
Dravidian or Iroquian (depending on grade)	bifurcate merging	$F = FB \neq MB$
	bifurcate collateral	$F \neq FB \neq MB$
Eskimo (English)	lineal	$F \neq FB = MB$

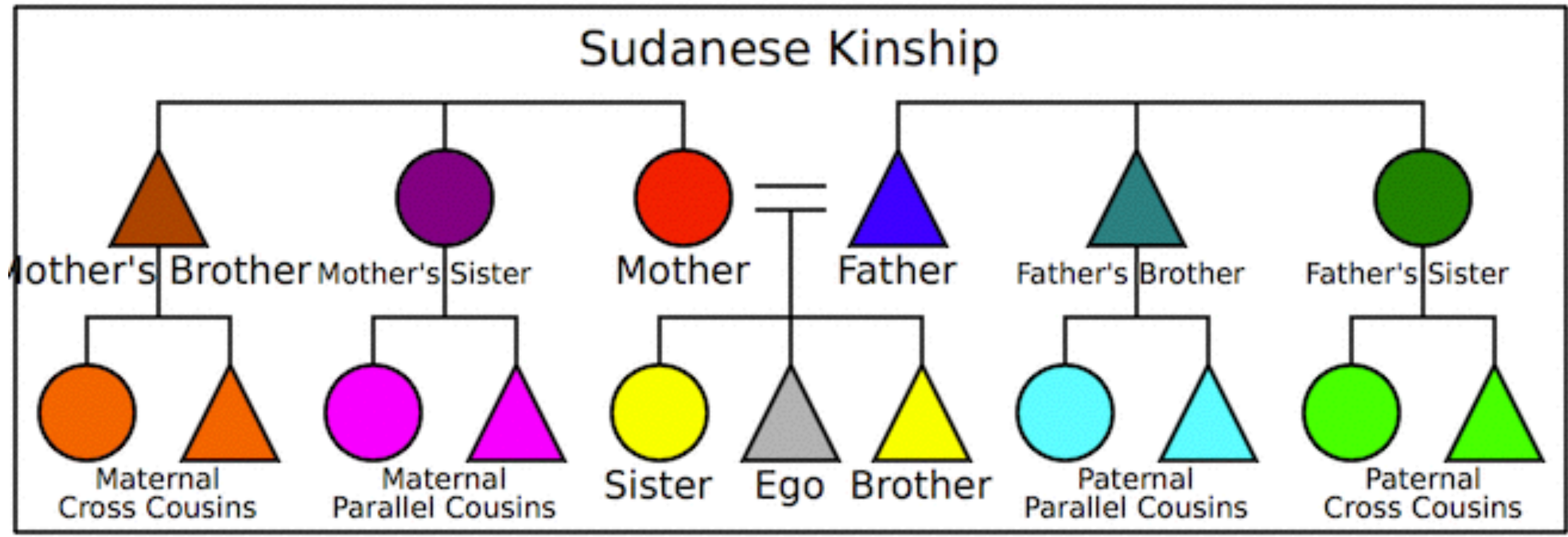
Kinship typology



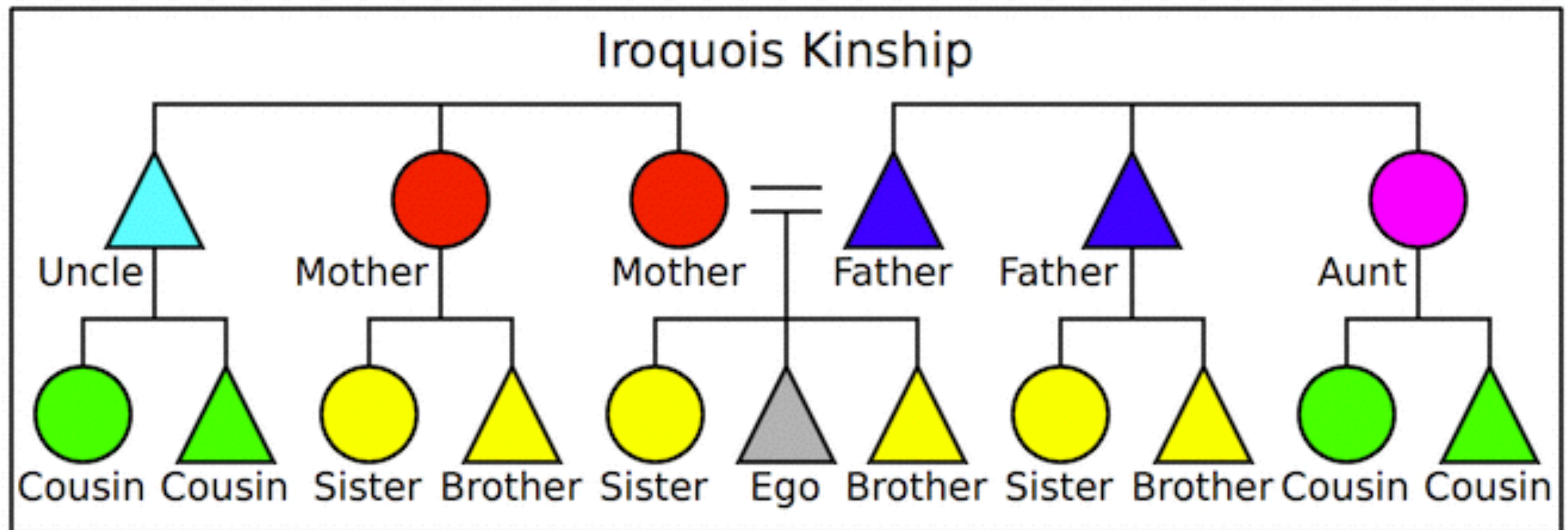
Kinship typology



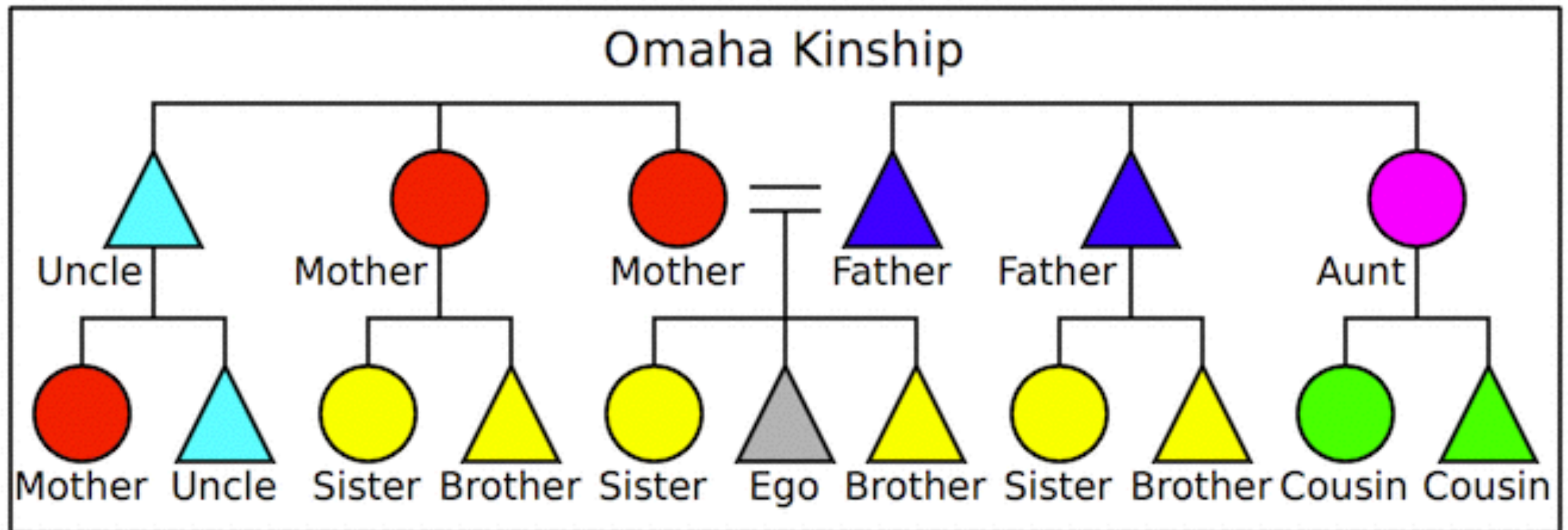
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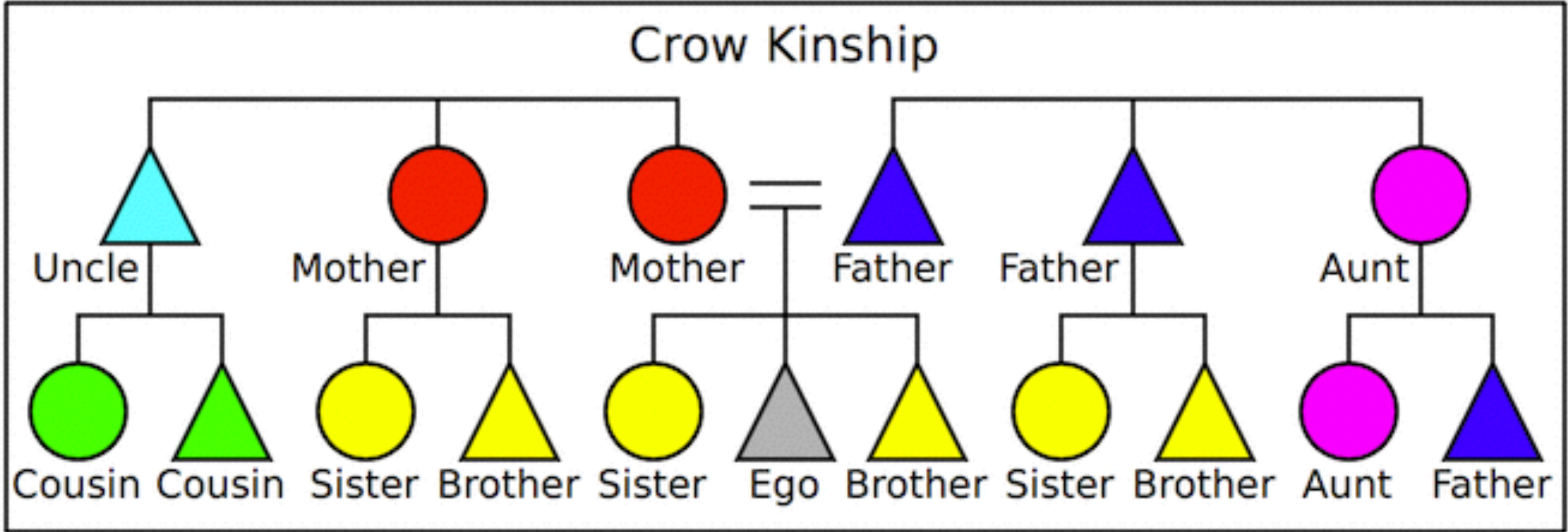
Kinship typology



Kinship typology

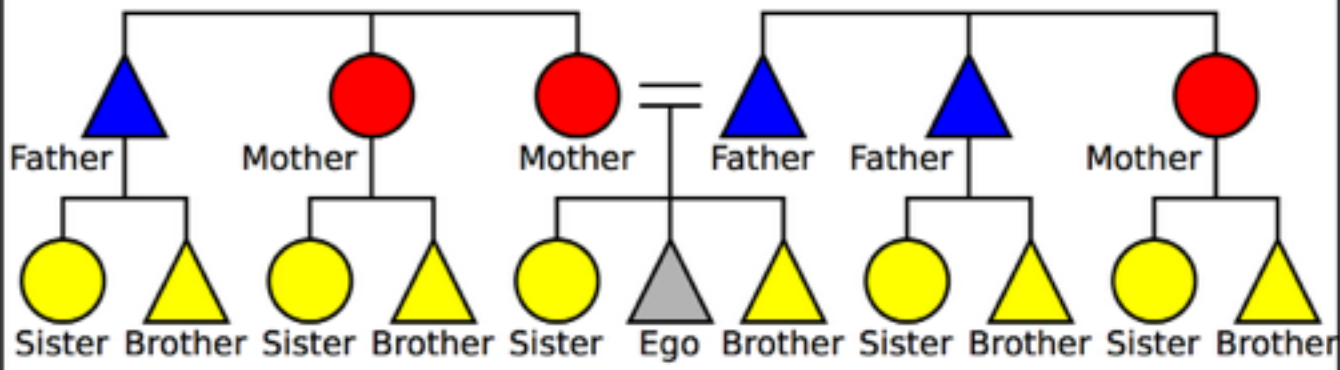


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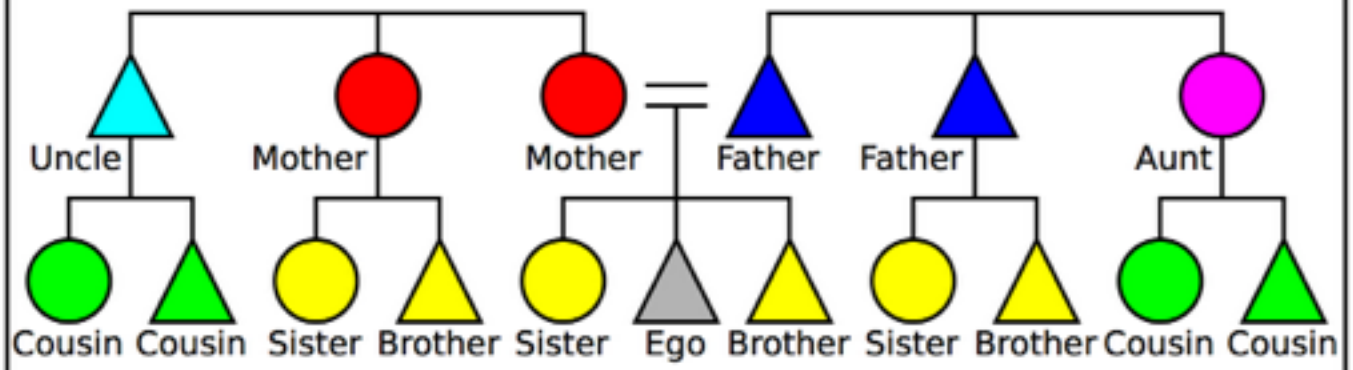


Kinship typology

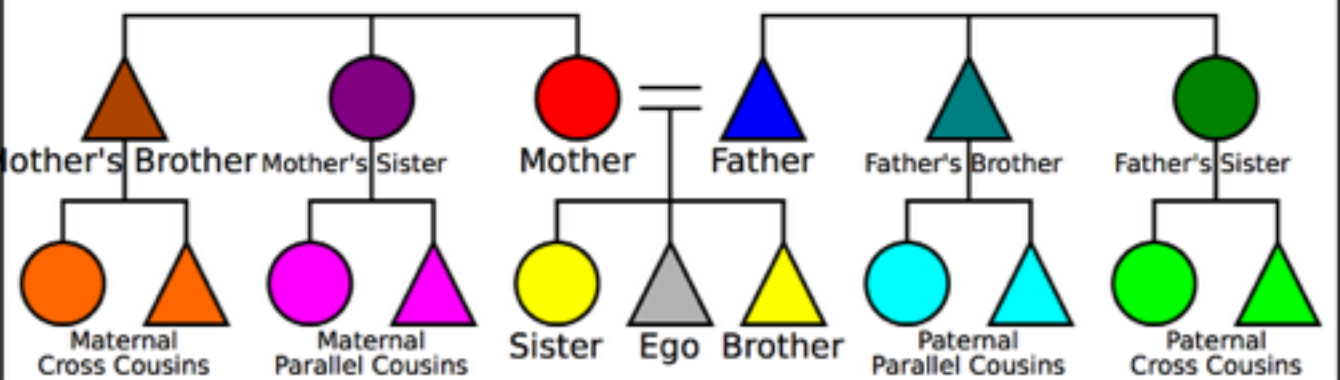
Hawaiian Kinship



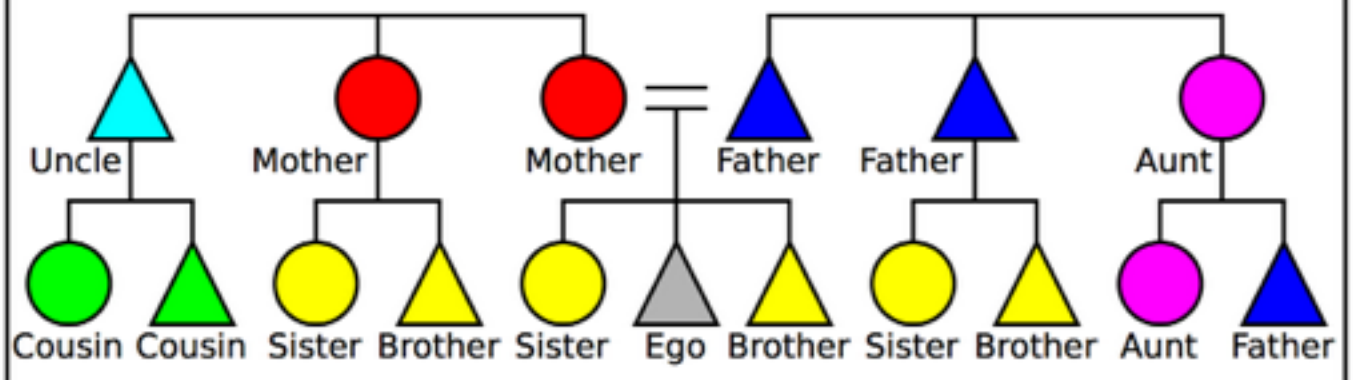
Iroquois Kinship



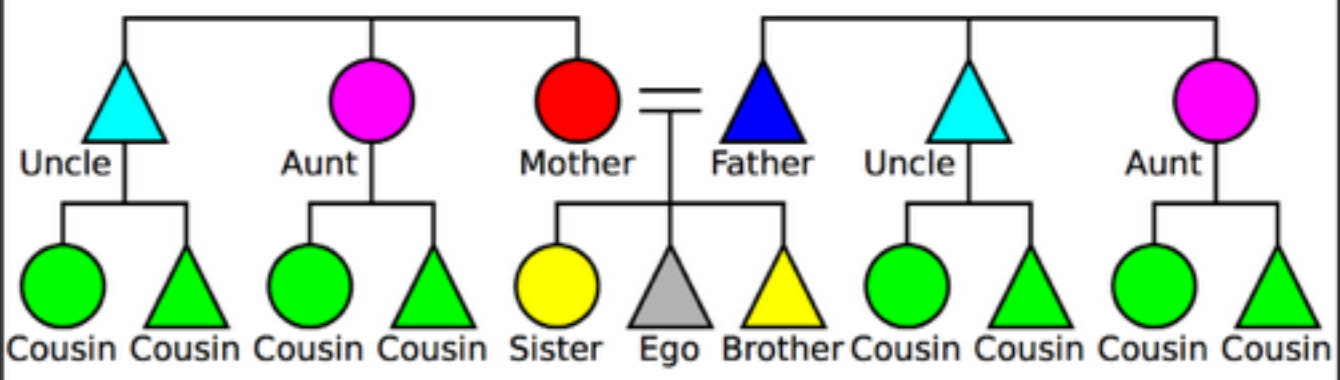
Sudanese Kinship



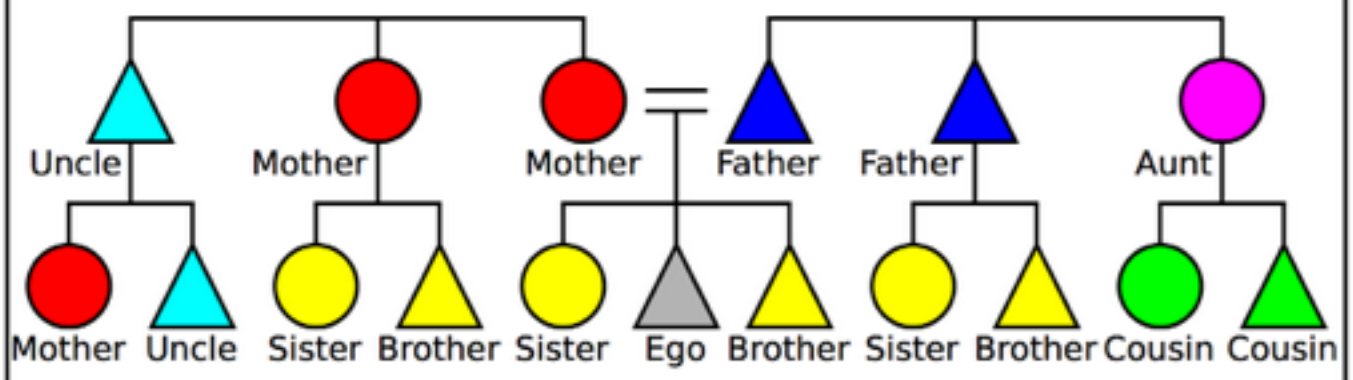
Crow Kinship



Eskimo Kinship



Omaha Kinship



Kinship typology: Merging Rule and simultaneously Half-Sibling Rule

- MR&HSR applied: PSibC=PC=Sib
- MR not applied: PSibC≠PC≠Sib

<i>Traditional label</i>	<i>Systematic label</i>		
Hawaiian	generational	B = FBS = MBS	
Dravidian or Iroquian (depending on grade)	bifurcate merging	B = FBS ≠ MBS	increased odds for prescriptive
	bifurcate collateral	B ≠ FBS ≠ MBS	
Eskimo (English)	lineal	B ≠ FBS = MBS	