newar kinship terms in the light of
kinship typology

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According to Schusky, 1965, there are two major ways of classifying kinship systems, one which classifies such systems according to the terms used for addressing one's cousins and one which classifies such systems according to the terms which one uses for one's parents and their siblings. The purpose of this study is to examine the Newar kinship system from these two points of view.


Six major types of kinship system are commonly distinguished on the basis of cousin terminology: 1. The Eskimo system, 2. The Hawaiian system, 3. The Iroquois system, 4. The Crow system, 5. The Omaha system, and 6. The Sudanese system. Figure 1. summarizes the defining features of each of these six types. From Figure 2 it can be observed that all cousins are lumped with siblings. Thus, the term, dāju, is used not only for one's elder brother but also for any son of either of one's parent's siblings who is older than ego; kijā is used for one's younger brother, but also for any son of either of one's parent's siblings who is younger than ego; tatā is used both for one's older sister and for a daughter of one's parent's siblings who is older than ego; and kehe applies to one's younger sister as well as to a daughter of a parent's sibling who is younger than ego. It may be fairly concluded that the system of kinship terms found in Newari is a system of the Hawaiian type.

B. Classification by Terms for Parents and their Siblings.

According to Schusky there are four basic types within this type of classificatory scheme: 1. The lineal system, 2. The generational system, 3. The bifurcate merging system, and 4. The bifurcate collateral system.
Figure 1. Six major types of kinship system commonly distinguished on the basis of cousin terminology.
With Figure 1 in mind consider now Figure 2, which outlines the relevant portion of the Newar Kinship system.

Figure 2. Chart of Newari Kinship Terms for Cousins and for First Ascending Generation.

Terms for Figure 2:
1. bāh, bwā, abu, bau
2. māqś
3. dāju (older than ego)
4. kijē (younger than ego)
5. tatā (older than ego)
6. kehā (younger than ego)
10. taa-bāh (older than father)
11. ciri-bwā (younger than father)
12. nini (age irrelevant)
13. pāju (age irrelevant)
14. tari-māqś, taa-māqś
15. camā, ca-māqś

(Numbers 7, 8, and 9 are omitted from Figure 2).
Figure 3 summarizes the defining features for each of these types.

- **Generational**
  - Parents' siblings are lumped with parents (MoSi = Mo; FaSi = Mo)

- **Lineal**
  - Parents' siblings are distinguished from parents, but are lumped together as aunts and uncles (MoSi = FaSi = aunt; FaBr = MoBr = uncle)

- **Bifurcate**
  - MoSi = Mo but FaSi has a distinguished term

- **Merging**
  - Separate terms for Mo, Fa, MoBr, MoSi, FaBr, and FaSi

- **Bifurcate Collateral**

Figure 3, Types of Kin Term Systems According to First Ascending Generation.

Schusky notes in addition that the generational system is similar in principle to the Hawaiian system, the Sudanese system is bifurcate collateral, and most Iroquois, Crow, and Omaha systems are bifurcate merging.

From Figures 2 and 3 it can be seen that the Newar system is closely related to the bifurcate merging system. Newari has no single term for Mother's Sister but distinguishes obligatorily between elder and younger Mother's Sister. What differentiates the terms for Mother's Sisters and the term for Mother are the relative age prefixes. The same relationship holds between the term for Father and the terms for Father's Elder and Younger Brothers. By contrast, Father's Sister and Mother's Brother have separate terms, apparently unrelated morphemically to the terms for Father and Mother.
C. A Glossary of Kirtipur-Nāgā-Pāṅgā Newari Kinship Terms

This glossary makes use of the following abbreviations:

Ad.  Term of address. Ni  Niece
Br.  Brother  Pa  Parent
Ch.  Child  Rf.  Term of reference
Da.  Daughter  Srt.  Used by Sresthas
El.  Elder  Sb  Sibling
Fa.  Father  Si  Sister
Gb.  Used by Gubhājaus  So  Son
Hu.  Husband  Sp  Spouse
var.  variant
Jyp.  Used by Jyāpus  var. of is a variant of
Ktm.  Kathmandu form  Wi  Wife
Mo.  Mother  Yr  Younger
Ne.  Nephew

aji, Ad. Rf. 1. Mother's mother. 2. Father's mother. 3. Only female ancestor of the third desending generation. (Rf. ghat ghāe aji, tapāā aji.)

abu, Ad. Rf. (Honorific var. abu-ju) Father.

abu-bājya, Ad. Rf. (Used both for individuals and collectively) Ancestor. (Syn. bājya-aju).

āju, Rf. 1. Father's father. 2. Mother's father. (Cf. Ad. bājya)

kakā, Ad. Rf. (Gb. Srt.) Father's younger brother.

kakā-bājya, Ad. Rf. 1. Father's father's younger brother. 2. Mother's father's younger brother.

kakā bāā, Rf. Father's younger brother. (Cf. Ad. bāā).


kalāā, Rf. (kalāta-) (Direct address avoided with circumlocutions such as Rām-yā māā, Mother of Ram) Wife. (Syn. nakti, jāhān).

kāki, Ad. Rf. (Gb. Srt.) Father's younger brother's wife.

kāki-māa, Ad. Rf. (Honorific var. (Rf. only) kāki-māa-ju) Husband's father's younger brother's wife.

kāe, Ad. Rf. (kāya-) Son.


kāe-bhāju, Ad. Rf. (Resp.) Son.


kijā bhāju, Rf. (Resp.) Younger brother. (Cf. Ad. kijā).


kehq bhwata, Rf. (var. of kehq-bhata).

kehq mae-ju, Rf. (Resp.) 1 Younger sister. 2. Parent's sibling's daughter (younger than ego). (Cf. Ad. kehq).

kwii, Rf. Descendant of the fifth generation (including SoSoSoSoSo; DaDaDaDaDa; SoDaSoSoSo; DaSoDaDaDa; SoSoDaSoSo; DaDaSoDaDa; SoSoSoDaSo; DaDaDaDaDa; SoSoDaDaSo; DaSoDaSoSo; etc. for all 64 fifth generation). (No.Ad.). (Syn. kwii-macā).
kwii-macă, Rf. Descendant of the fifth generation.
(No. Ad.). (Syn. kwii).

ghäe ghae aji, Rf. Female ancestor of the third ascending generation (including FaFaMo; FaMoMo; MoFaMo, MoMoMo). (Cf. Ad. aji). (Syn. tapäa aji).

ghäe ghae aju, Rf. Male ancestor of the third ascending generation (including FaFaFa; FaMoFa, MoFaFa; MoMoFa) (Cf. Ad. bājyā). Syn. tapäa āju ghäe ghäe bājyā).

ghäe ghae bājyā. same as above.


ca-mēa, Ad. Rf. (ca-māma-, var. of camā) Mother's younger sister.

cāa, Ad. Rf. (Gbj.) Mother's younger sister. (Cf. Jyp. camā; Srt. ciri-mēa).


ciri-bwā, Ad. Rf. Father's younger brother.


ciri-mēa, Ad. Rf. (māma-) Father's second (or subsequent) wife, Father's co-wife, Step-mother.


cir-mēa, Ad. Rf. (var. of ciri-mēa).

chae, Ad. Rf. Grand child, descendant of the second descending generation (including SoSo, DaDa, DaSo, DaDa). (Syn. chae-macā).
chāe-jilājāq, _RF._ (jilājana-) Grand daughter's husband (including DaDaHu, SoDaHu). (Cf. Ad. jicā-bḥāju).

chāe-bhincā, _RF._ Sister's grand child (including SiSoSo; SiSoDa; SiDaSo; SiDaDa). (Syn. chāe bhincā). (Cf. Ad. bhincā).

chāe-bhincā, _RF._ Sister's grand child (including SiSoSo; SiSoDa; SiDaSo; SiDaDa). (Syn. chāe bhincā-macā). (Cf. Ad. bhincā).

chāe-bhau, _RF._ Grandson's wife (including DaSoWi; SoSoWi). (Cf. Ad. bhau-macā).

chāe-macā, _RF._ Grand child (including SoSo; SoDa; DaSo; DaDa). (Cf. Ad. chāe).

chēq-jicā, _RF._ A man who is provided with board and room by his wife's kin.

chwii, _RF._ Great grand child, descendant of the third descending generation (including SoSoSo; SoSoDa; SoDaSo; SoDaDa; DaSoSo; DaSoDa; DaDaSo; DaDaDa). (No. Ad.). (Syn. chwii-macā).

chwii-macā, _RF._ Great grand child, descendant of the third descending generation. (No Ad.). (Syn. chwii).

jahān,  _RF._ Wife. (Address avoided with circumlocutions such as Rām-yā māā, Mother of Ram). (Syn. kalāā, nakii).


jicā-dāju,  _RF._ Elder sister's husband. (Cf. Ad. dāju).

jicā-pāju,  _RF._ Father's (elder or younger) sister's husband. (Cf. Ad. pāju).

jicā-bḥāju,  _Ad. RF._ (Resp.) 1. Daughter's husband. 2. (Elder or younger) sister's husband.


jilājāq bḥāju,  _RF._ Ad. 1. Resp. daughter's husband, 2. Younger sister's husband.
jiica, Ad. Rf. (var. of jicā).

taa-kehē, Rf. Collective term for brothers and sisters as well as cousins. (Cf. Srt. phukii).


tāta-ju, Ad. Rf. (Srt.) Elder brother's wife. (Cf. Jyp. bhwata; Gbj. pii-bhata).


tāta-bhwata, Rf. (var. of tāta-bhata).

tapāā-aji, Ad. Rf. Female ancestor of the third ascending generation (including FaFaMo; FaMoMo; MoMoMo). (Syn. ghāe ghāe-aji). (Ktm. tapāe-aji).

tapāā āju, Rf. Male ancestor of the third ascending generation (including FaFaFa; FaMoFa; MoFaFa; MoMoFa). (Syn. ghāe ghāe-āju). (Cf. Ad. tapāā bājyā). (Ktm. tapae-aju).

tapāā bājyā, Ad. Rf. Male ancestor of the third ascending generation (including FaFaFa; FaMoFa; MoFaFa; MoMoFa). (Ktm. tapāe bājyā).

ta-māā, Ad. Rf. (māma-, var. of tari-māā) 1. Mother's elder sister. 2. Father's elder brother's wife.


tari-nini, Ad. Rf. Father's elder sister. (Cf. cirī-nini, FaYrSi).

tari-pāju, Ad. Rf. Mother's elder brother. (Cf. cirī-pāju, MoYrBr).
tari-bāā, Ad. Rf. Father's elder brother. (Cf. ciri-
bāā, FaYrBr).

tari-bu, Ad. Father's elder brother. (Cf. Rf. tari-bwā, 
tari-bāā, tari-abu).

tari-bwā, Ad. Fr. Father's elder brother. (Cf. ciri-bwā, 
FaYrBr.)

tari-male-ju, Rf. Mother's elder brother's wife. (Cf. 
Ad. male-ju).

tari-mal-ju, Rf. (var. of tari-male-ju).

tari-māā, Ad. Rf. 1. Father's elder brother's wife. 
2. Mother's elder sister.

tā, Ad. Elder sister. (Ref. tatā).


tātā, Ad. Rf. (Child talk) Elder sister.

twāe, Rf. Bond friend. (Compounds ambiguously with kin 
terms: twāe kijā, Bond friend's younger brother, 
Younger brother's bond friend; twāe käe, Bond 
friend's son, Son's bond friend, etc.) (Ad. 
avoided).

twāe-ju, Rf. (Resp.) Bond friend.

thaa, Rf. (thawa-) Relatives, close kin.

thaa-gu che, Rf. Husband's home.

thaa che, Rf. (A married woman's) father's home.

thaa che khalaa, Rf. (khalaka-) (A married woman's) 
father's relatives.

thaa thiti, Rf. Relative, Kin.

thyākā macā, Rf. An adopted child.

dadā, Rf. (var. darā) Elder brother: (Cf. Ad. dāju).

dadā-bhata, Rf. (var. darā-bhata, Jyp.) Husband's 
dāju-bhata).
dadā-bhwata, Rf. (var. of dadā-bhata, var. dara-bhwata).

darā, Rf. (var. of dadā).

darā-bhata, Rf. (var. of dadā-bhata).

darā-bhwata, Rf. (var. of dadā-bhwata).


dāi dāi, Ad. Rf. (Child talk) Elder brother.


duu-pāsā, Rf. The female chaperone of the bride who accompanies her to the groom's house.

dwala-ji, Rf. A man who is given food and lodging by his wife's kin.


nakī, Rf. Wife. (Ad. avoided with circumlocutions such as Rām-yā-māā, The mother of Ram). (Syn. kālāā, jahān).

nālā, Rf. Adopted. (Occurs with a wide range of kin terms; nāla-kāē, Adopted son; nālā-kehe, Adopted younger sister; nālā-kijā, Adopted younger brother; nālā-tatā, Adopted elder sister; nālā-dāju, Adopted elder brother; nālā-macā, Adopted child; nālā-mhyāē, Adopted daughter).

nini, Ad. Rf. Father's (elder or younger) sister.
nini-aji, Rf. Father's father's (elder or younger) sister. (Cf. Ad. aji).

nini-khalaa, Rf. (khalaka-) Father's (elder or younger) sister's husband's kin.

nini-bajee, Rf. Father's father's (elder or younger) sister. (Cf. Ad. bajee).


nini-māā-ju, Rf. Husband's father's (elder or younger) sister. (Ad. avoided).

nini-māā-ju, Ad. Rf. Term of respect used by persons of lower caste for an elderly woman of higher caste.

nini-māju. (Var. of nini-māā-ju).


nhe-su, Rf. Pertaining to husband's former wife. (Occurs with a range of kin terms: nhe-su-kāe, Son by husband's former wife; nhe-su-mhyāe, Daughter by husband's former wife; nhe-su-macā, Child by husband's former wife). (Cf. li-su, pertaining to husband's later wife).

pāu, Ad. Rf. (Child talk) Mother's (elder or younger) brother.

pāju, Ad. Rf. Mother's (elder or younger) brother.

pāju, Ad. Father's (elder or younger) sister's husband. (Rf. nini-pāju).

pāju khalaa, Rf. (khalaka-) Mother's (elder or younger) brother's wife's kin.

pāju-bajee, Rf. 1. Mother's mother. 2. Mother's mother's (elder or younger) brother's wife. 3. Father's mother's (elder or younger) brother's wife. (Cf. Ad. bajee).

pāju-bājyā, Rf. 1. Father's mother's (elder or younger) brother. 2. Mother's mother's (elder or younger) brother. (Cf. Ad. bājyā).
pāe-aji, Rf. Grandmother's brother's wife (includes FaMoElBrWi; FaMoYrBrWi; MoMoElBrWi; and MoMoYrBrWi). (Cf. Ad. aji, pāe-ji).

pāe-ji, Ad. Grandmother's brother's wife (includes FaMoElBrWi; FaMoYrBrWi; MoMoElBrWi; and MoMoYrBrWi). (Cf. Rf. tapāā-aji, pāe-aji). (Syn pāju-bajee).

piili-māeli, Rf. (var. piili, Collective term used only with reference to a set of kin) Husband's (elder and younger) brothers' wives.

phukii, Rf. (phukija-) Lineage, male kin descended from a common ancestor.

phukii-bākā, Rf. Relatives.

phukii-bākae, Rf. 1. Father's (elder and younger) brothers and their sons (collective term). 2. Relatives.

bajee, Ad. Rf. (Srt.) Grandmother (includes FaMo and MoMo).

bajee-māā, Ad. Rf. (Jyp.) but Rf. only (Srt.) Grandmother (includes FaMo and MoMo). (Cf. Ad. (Srt.) bajee).

babā, Ad. Rf. (Child talk) Father.


bājyā, 1. (Ad. Rf.) Grandfather (includes FaFa and MoFa). 2. (Ad. only) Male ancestor of the third ascending generation. (Cf. Rf. ghāe ghāe bājyā, tapāā bajyā).

bu, Ad. Fr. Father. (Syn. bwā, bāā, abu).

bau, Rf. Father. (Ad. bāā, bwā, abu).

bwā, 1. (Ad. Rf.) Father. 2. (Ad. only) Husband's father.

bwā–ju, Rf. A mother who has eloped with a paramour. (Ad. avoided). (Cf. māā–ju, A father whose wife has eloped with a paramour).
bhāq-macā, Ad. Rf. (var. of bhalimacā).

bhāq-macā, Rf. Bride.

bhāq-macā-mae-ju, Rf. (Resp.) Bride.


bhami-macā, Ad. Rf. (Resp., var. bhāq-macā) Son's wife.

bhāāta, Rf. Husband. (Ad. avoided by used of circumlocutions such as Rām-yā bau, Ram's father).

bhīnā-macā, Rf. Sister's child (includes ELSiSo; YrSiSo; ELsiDa; YrSiDa) (Cf. Ad. bhīncā).

bhīncā, Ad. Rf. Sister's child (includes ELSiSo; YrSiSo; ELsiDa; YrSiDa).

bhīncā jilājā, Rf. (jilājana-) (Elder or younger) sister's daughter's husband. (Cf. Ad. jicā bhāju).

bhīncā bhāju, Rf. (Resp.) Elder sister's son. (Cf. Ad. bhīncā).

bhīncā bhaū, Rf. Father's (elder or younger) sister's son's wife. (Cf. Ad. bhaū-macā).

bhīncā maeju, Rf. (Resp.) Younger sister's daughter. (Cf. Ad. bhīncā).

bhaū, Rf. 1. Son's wife. 2. Younger brother's wife. (Cf. Ad. bhaū-macā)

bhāwata, Rf. (var. of bhata).

bhāwata, Rf. (Jyp.) Elder brother's wife. (Cf. Srt. tātā-ju; Gbj. pii-bhata).

bhāwii, Rf. Descendent of the sixth descending generation (including SoSoSoSoSoSoSo; DaDaDaDaDaDaDaDa, etc. for all sixty-four kin relations). (No. Ad.).
macā-yā bau, Ad. (Avoidance term) Husband.


māma, Ad. Rf. (Child talk) Mother

male, Ad. Rf. (Gbj.) Mother's brother's wife.

male-ju, Ad. Rf. (var. mal-ju) Mother's (elder or younger) brother's wife. (Ktm. male).

mal-ju, Ad, Rf. (var. of male-ju).

māa, Ad. Rf. (māma-) Mother.

māa-cā, Rf. (Child talk, term of affection) Mother. (Cf. Ad. māa).

māa-ju, Rf. A father whose wife has eloped with another man. (Cf. Ad. bāa, abu).


māma, Ad. Rf. (Child talk) Mother.


mhyāe, Ad. Rf. (mhyāca-) Daughter.

mhyāe-cā, Ad. Rf. Sibling's daughter (including EBrDa; YBrDa; ElSiDa; YrSiDa).

mhyāe-chae, Rf. Daughter's child (including DaSo; DaDa). (Cf. Ad. chae).

mhyāe jilājā, Rf. (jilājana-) Daughter's husband. (Cf. Ad. jica-bhāju).

mhyāe mae-ju, Rf. (Resp.) Daughter. (Ad. mhyāe).


lāhi, Rf. (Collective term) Blood relatives. (Lit. one's flesh and blood).

li-thu, Rf. Husband's second wife, co-wife.


li-su, Rf. Pertaining to one's husband's second wife or co-wife. (Occurs with other kin terms: lisukāe, Rf. Hu second WiSo; lisu-mhyāe, Rf. (mhyāca-) Hu second WiDa; lisu-macā, Rf. Hu second WiCh).

wii, Rf. Descendant of the fourth descending generation (including SoSoSoSo; DaDaDaDa; SoSoSoDa; DaDaDaSo; etc. for all sixteen kin of the fourth generation).

samilcā, Rf. Female chaperone of the same age as the bride who accompanies the bride to the groom's house and stays with her for the first few days after the wedding.

samji, Rf. 1. Daughter's husband's Parent (including DaHuMo and DaHuFa). 2. Son's wife's parent (including SoWiMo and SoWiFa). (Ad. avoided).

samji khalaa, Rf. (khalaka-) 1. Son's wife's family. 2. Daughter's husband's family.

sasaa, Rf. (sasala-) Pertaining to the in-laws, one's affines, the family of one's spouse.

sasaa-aji, Rf. Wife's grandmother (including WiFaMo and WiMoMo) (Cf. Ad. aji).


sasaa-kāki, Rf. (Srt. Gbj.) Wife's father's younger brother's wife. (Cf. Ad. kāki). (Cf. Jyp. sasaa māmā, Rf. (Ad. māmā)).


sasaa-kâe-cā, Rf. X. Spouse's father's younger brother's son. (Includes HuFaYrBrSo and WiFaYrBrSo). (Cf. Ad. kâe-cā).


sasaa khalaal, Rf. (khalaka-) l. (Gbj. Srt. Jyp.) Wife's father's family. 2. (Jyp. only) Husband's father's family.


sasaa dāju, Rf. Wife's elder brother. (Cf. Ad. dāju).

sasaa pāju, Rf. Spouse's mother's brother (including HuMoYrBr; HuMoElBr; WiMoElBr; and WiMoYrBr). (Cf. Ad. pāju).


sasaa bājyā, Rf. Wife's grandfather (includes WiFaFa and WiMoFa). (Cf. Ad. bājyā).

sasaa bau, Rf. 1. Wife's father. 2. (Jyp.) Husband's father. (Cf. Ad. bau).

sasaa male-ju, Rf. (var. sasaa malju) Spouse's mother's brother's wife (including WiMoYrBrWi; WiMoElBrWi; HuMoYrBrWi; and HuMoElBrWi). (Cf. Ad. malju).


sasaa mãmã, Rf. Spouse's father's younger brother's wife (including WiFaYrBrWi and HuFaYrBrWi). (Cf. Ad. mãmã).

sasaa mâyãe-cã, Rf. Spouse's father's younger brother's daughter (including HuFaYrBrDa; and WiFaYrBrDa). (cf. Ad. mhyãe-cã).

syãã-, Rf. A prefix used to indicate a blood relative. (Occurs with a variety of other kin terms: syãã-kijã, Rf. A younger brother consanguinely related: syãã-dãju, Rf. An older brother related by blood; syãã-kehã, Rf. A younger sister related by blood; syãã-tatã, Rf. An older sister related by blood; syãã-taa-kehã, Rf. Collective term including brothers and sisters both older and younger. This term also includes all the cousins.

REFERENCES


FOOTNOTES

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