California Indian Social Organization

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Anthropology 131CA

Outline of Topics

- Social Organization Terms
- Types of Corporate Groups in Native California
- Kinship Classification & Common Types Occurring among Native Americans
- Chumash Case Study
- Cross Cultural Analysis of Postmarital Residence and Polygamy

Social Organization Terms

Sociopolitical Complexity
- Band
- Tribelet
- Chiefdom

Types of Kin Groups
- Lineage
- Clan
- Moiety
- Phratry

Descendant Reckoning
- Patrilineal
- Matrilineal
- Bilateral

Residence Patterns
- Patrilocal
- Matrilocal
- Ambilocal
- Neolocal
- Avunculocal

Distribution of Types of California Indian Corporate Groups

- Patrilineal clans and lineages predominate south of Bay Area.
- Bilateral societies characterize northern California.
- Chumash Indians were only matriloclal group.

Ohlone (Costanoan) Ethnolinguistic Groups and Tribelets

Eight Ethnolinguistic Divisions
50+ Ohlone Tribelets (Independent Sociopolitical Groups)

Kinship Classification

Based largely on how a person classifies his/her cousins.

- Cross Cousins
- Parallel Cousins
- Siblings
- Parallel Cousins
- Cross Cousins
Example of Chumash Matrilocal Postmarital Residence

Fernando Librado Kitsepawit (1839-1915)

Kitsepawit’s Family Genealogy

(Note that each of his parents were born in matrilocal households on Santa Cruz Island)

Chumash Social Organization Study: Santa Ynez Valley and Adjacent Coastal Area (40 Native Rancherías)

Chumash Postmarital Residence among Study Area Rancherías was predominantly matrilocal.

Chumash chiefs and their sons differed from the rest of society by practicing patrilocal residence, being polygamous, and marrying spouses from distant groups.

Table 6.1: Postmarital Residence for Exogenous Marriages within the Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Patrilocal</th>
<th>Matrilocal</th>
<th>Hetero-local</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intraregional</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Valley</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intrastate</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes all marriages with evidence of both matrilocal and patrilocal residence.

* Includes all marriages with evidence of both patrilocal and non-local residence.

Besides chiefs being polygamous, there were also some instances of sororal polygamy occurring in Chumash society.

Are Chumash Marriage Patterns Typical of Matrilocal Societies?

Cross-Cultural Analysis Using Human Relations Area Files (HRAF)
Cross-Cultural Analysis of Postmarital Residence and Types of Polygamy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF POLYGAMY</th>
<th>Leaders Only</th>
<th>General Polygyny</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matrilocal</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrilocal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prob. = 0.004, Phi = 0.558

Matrilocal Residence Correlates with Polygamy Practiced Only by Chiefs

Cross-Cultural Analysis of Postmarital Residence and Presence or Absence of Sororal Polygyny

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SORORAL POLYGyny</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matrilocal</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrilocal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prob. = 0.0007, Phi = 0.702

Matrilocal Residence Correlates with Presence of Sororal Polygyny

Summary

- The basic sociopolitical territorial units found in Native California were small scale tribelets.
- Three social structural types characterized the California Region: (a) patrilineal descent groups (south), (b) bilateral groups (north), (c) matrilocal (Chumash).
- Kinship terminologies often reflect other aspects of social organization, e.g., Crow cousin terms correlate with matrilineal, and Omaha cousin terms indicate patrilineal descent groups.
- Chumash Indians used Iroquois cousin terminology and practiced matrilocal residence.
- Chumash chiefs and their sons differed from the rest of society by practicing patrilocal residence, being polygamous, and marrying spouses from distant groups.
- Besides chiefs being polygamous, there were also some instances of sororal polygamy occurring in Chumash society.
- Cross-cultural analysis indicates that chiefs in matrilocal societies double from the rest of society in about a 2:1 ratio in that they appear to reside patrilocally.
- Cross-cultural analysis of matrilocal vs. patrilocal residence indicates that marriage types correlate strongly with different types of polygamy.