

## **The Tiwi dataset**

Source : Jane C. Goodale, *Tiwi wives : a study of the women of Melville Island, North Australia*. University of Washington Press. 1971

Coding : Klaus Hamberger for the Kinsources project, January 2017

## **Ethnographic context**

The Tiwi are an aboriginal Australian people living in the Bathurst and Melville Islands. They are organized in unnamed, ideally exogamous matrilineal moieties, phratries, sibs and “sibling” sets (uniting persons of the same mother, grandmother or great grandmother), as well as in patrilineal lineages and sibling sets (uniting persons of the same father or grandfather). Husbands reside either in their mother’s group or in the group of a mother-in-law with whom they have established a marriage contract. Marriage is ideally by ongoing bilateral exchange between matrimonial groups (super-sibs situated between the sib and the phratry level). Landholding groups are preferably endogamous. Exogamous marriages are preferably with a woman from the mother’s landholding group.

The dataset is based on Goodale’s doctoral fieldwork in 1954. The oldest persons noted in the dataset are born in 1885, the youngest in 1960.

## **Data sources and coding**

Ten case studies of marriage contracts (linking a man to his mother in law) are discussed in Goodale’s book (pp. 119-129), with the help of two genealogical charts (pp. 128-9, see below). These charts have been coded in the present dataset.

The charts are partly standard genealogical diagrams but contain three special types of lines for *classificatory siblings* (conventional sibling lines with superscripts, see the SIBLING relation below), *marriage contract relations* between son-in-law and mother in law (slanting double solid lines, with numbers referring to the cases discussed in the book, see the CASE relation below), and *individual identity* of an individual figuring in different parts of the chart (broken lines).

While individuals can appear several times at different places in the charts, the author affirms that all individuals are identified by a unique initial. This rule is, however, subject to numerous exceptions (noted in the CODER comment field). In some (but not all) cases, symbols representing identical individuals are linked by broken lines.

Shading of symbols corresponds, according to the author, to the matrilineal sibs. No legend is given; but examination of the cases reveals a general correspondence between shading and phratries (see below). There are, however, several exceptions. In particular, the entire uterine progeny of R2 is shaded with a dot (usually used for phratry D), in spite of belonging to phratry B. All exceptions (drawing errors?) are noted in the CODER field.

In addition, we have indicated information on precise sib affiliation and phratry section, when this could be deduced from the information in the case studies in combination with the genealogical information on uterine kinship relations.

Individual symbols, unnumbered in the source file, have been numbered in a strictly spatial order from left to right and from top to bottom. As the same individual may be represented several times, numbers of double occurrences are indicated in the DOUBLES field.

Birth dates are given according to the genealogical chart. While childbirth at young age is not exceptional, one birth date (for the woman S, Nr. 83, who would have had her first child at the age of 7) seems to be an error.

In most cases, paternal links are not explicitly indicated, even if husbands are given, which explains the high number of single-mother unions in the dataset

### Dataset Overview

Field	Type	Comment	Source Coding
<b>INDIVIDUALS</b>			
ID	Numeric	Systematic numbering from left to right and top to bottom. Doubles have been eliminated in a second step.	-
NAME	Text	Initials of names.	Given for a minority of individuals. Note that the initials are not exclusive, contrary to information in the book.
GENDER	Char	Gender (H for men, F for women)	Shape of the individual symbols (circles and triangles)
BIRT_DATE	Numeric	The birth year.	The last two numbers of the birth year
GENEALOGY	Numeric	The genealogical chart (1 or 2) on which the individual can be found	Position of the individual symbol
PHRATRY_SHADE	Text	The shading of the symbols according to the matrilineal phratry to which the individual belongs A White B Slash C Black D Dot	Shading of the individual symbols: black, white, dot or slash. Note that the shading does not universally correspond to sib affiliation, contrary to information in the book.
SIB	Text	The sib, according to information on individual affiliation in the main text and the genealogical relations in the chart	-
PHRATRY	Text	The phratry section of the sib, according to the main text	-
DOUBLE	Numeric	Identity numbers of plural occurrences of the same individual	-
CODER	Text	Coder's notes. Concern mainly ambiguities of lines and non-identical homonyms.	

Field	Type	Comment	Source Coding
<b>CASE Relation</b>			
ID	Numeric	The number of the case study	Idem
NAME	Text	The title of the case study	Idem
MOTHER-IN-LAW	Text	The mother(s) in law	Female position(s) linked to male position(s) by slanted double lines
SON-IN-LAW	Text	The son(s) in law.	Male position(s) linked to female position(s) by slanted double lines
#PAGE	Numeric	The page of the case study in the book	-

Field	Type	Comment	Source Coding
<b>SIBLING</b> Relation		Classificatory or half-siblings	Sibling line with a superscript for the type of the relation.
<b>SIBLING</b>	Numeric	The id number of the siblings	Positions linked by sibling lines
<b>#TYPE</b>	Text	The type of the relation:	Same coding, but a barred “~” symbol has been replaced by “#”.
		~F	Same father
		~F#M	Same father, different mother
		~FF	Same paternal grandfather
		~F~MM	Same father, same maternal grandmother
		~M	Same mother
		~M#F	Same mother, different father
		~MM	Same maternal grandmother
		~MM#F	Same maternal grandmother, different father
		~M~F	Same mother, same father
		~PS	Same phratry section