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Anthropology 102

Quiz #7
Ch. 10 – Kinship, Family and Marriage

1. What is the primary function of marriage?

Generate alliances between families (for business, politics, etc.)

2. What rights can marriage afford?

Rights of sexual access, inheritance to/from the spouse and to/from the children. Visitation in hospitals...

3. T/F Marriage is a cultural universal.

T

4. T/F Not all cultures have a wedding ceremony.

T – some just knock heads together and declare marriage!

5. T/F Marriage confers exclusive sexual access of husbands to their wives and wives to their husbands.

F – swingers and people in open marriages to not consider exclusive sexual access a prerequisite of marriage

6. T/F The nuclear family (husband, wife and their dependent children) is a cultural universal.

F – many cultures practice polygamy..and others have single-parent and gay marriage

7. What do you consider to be desirable qualities for a mate?

Attractiveness? Financial Responsibility? Good Parent? Fertile? Sexual Virgin? Sexually Experienced?

8. T/F Humans largely marry for love.

F – for family ties (alliances) or money/resources....

9. T/F Romantic love is relatively rare amongst human cultures.

F – Over 85% of cultures recognize romantic love (the attraction phase of the romantic relationship)

10. Bride wealth (price) primarily works to:

a. compensate the bride's family for the loss of her service and companionship b. insure the fertility of the bride c. maintain an alliance between the two groups d. help continue a descent group e. none of these

A

11. How is bride wealth different from bride service?

Bride wealth is a gift of resources (e.g. cattle or pigs) while bride service refers to a period of work to be served to the bride's family to compensate them for her eventual loss of service to them.

12. Contrast the benefits of endogamy vs. those of exogamy.

Endogamy refers to marrying within the subculture/culture/religion /tribe while exogamy refers to marrying outside. Endogamy – ones partner shares the same background Exogamy – expands the gene pool/family ties and partner can feel more mysterious

13. T/F The incest taboo leads to exogamy.

T – must marry outside!

14. T/F First cousin marriage is legal in the state of California.

T – actually common practice in the Middle East, too

15. Under what conditions have brother-sister marriages been practiced?

Ancient Hawai'i ; Royal Families in Europe – to keep wealth, prestige and power in the family

16. Why don't closely related people typically marry each other?

They grew up together and know each other too well; don't consider the person they saw wearing diapers as an infant to be sexy as an adult.

17. How is levirate practiced in polygynous societies?

When a husband dies his brother who may already have one (or more) wives will marry his brother's widowed wife or wives to keep resources and children in the patrilineal family.

18. T/F Sororate continues marriages alliances between two groups after the death of the wife.

T – female equivalent of levirate

19. One man married to two sisters at the same time is a case of:

a. the levirate b. the sororate c. fraternal polyandry d. sororal polygyny e. anticipatory levirate

D

20. T/F Serial monogamy is prohibited by law in most states of the United States.

F- a very common mating practice where humans have one mate/partner at a time

21. T/F People pretty much want the same things in marriage whether it is in India, Africa, or America.

F – Americans often say they marry for love, while Africans marry to satisfy practices like the levirate/sororate or to gain the resources of a successful polygynous family, while Indians consider caste, astrology and personality in arranging the marriages of their children.

22. American nuclear family organization has been explained in terms of:

a. an industrial economy b. geographic mobility c. an absence of permanent ties to land d. the sale of labor for cash e. all of these

E

23. What is a matrifocal household?

Mother-centered household..men may come and go, but don't live there permanently

24. Name four different postmarital residence patterns.

Patrilocal – husband's kin

Matrilocal – wife's kin

Ambilocal – either husband's or wife's kin

Neolocal – new independent household

Avunculocal – the husband's mother's brother's household

25. Which residence pattern is the most common amongst traditional societies?

Patrilocal

26. T/F Single mother households are relatively rare and restricted to industrialized societies like the United States.

F – found all over the world

27. T/F Divorce is found only in industrial societies

F

28. T/F Children are most troubled by their parents divorcing when they've been witness to little or no conflict between their parents.

T – children who witness much conflict between their parents are relieved to see them divorce; those who don't may be quite surprised and troubled

29. When the Roman Catholic Church in the 4th c. A.D. prohibited close marriages, discouraged adoption, and condemned polygyny, concubinage, divorce and remarriage:

a. it was reinforcing beliefs expressed in the Old Testament b. it strengthened consanguineal ties
c. it facilitated the transfer of property to the Church d. all of the above e. a and b

C – These bans prevented families from generating sons who might inherit their wealth, thus ceding upwards of 40% of family resources to the church. The Roman Catholic church became the largest land holder in all of Europe

30. Should gay marriage be legal for the entire U.S.?

Now legal in 14 states...banned in 35. Should this change??

Kinship

1. T/F The smaller the society, the more important kinship is in social organization.

T – major way in which power is shared and resources are distributed

2. What kinship pattern do we practice in the U.S.?

Bilateral – we recognize both sides of the family

3. Kinship, particularly among the middle-class in the U.S. is:

a. matrilineal b. bilateral c. patrilineal d. collateral e. nonexistent

B

4. Kinship terminology is an important topic to anthropologists because:

a. it is one of the fastest changing aspects of culture b. it reflects rights and obligations important in social groups c. it demonstrates that all societies can think in logical and linear ways d. it is one of the few areas of culture in which comparison is impossible

e. **a and b**

B

5. T/F Theories of descent vary from culture to culture.

T

6. T/F Moieties divide societies into halves; a person belongs to one moiety or the other. Each person "marries out" of their moiety.

T like exogamous descent groups

7. T/F Marriage creates affinal kin: birth creates consanguineal kin.

T (consanguineal..w/ blood)

8. T/F There are cultures that believe that semen does not play a role in procreation.

T – conception caused by a fertility goddess...

9. What is **partible paternity**?

Belief that because it takes multiple washings of semen to create a fetus/baby, when different men have intercourse with an expectant woman, her child will reflect the qualities of each of these men and thus they will all be responsible “fathers” for the child.

10. T/F **Clans** are sets of kin who believe they are descended from a common ancestor.

T

11. Since in many societies **cross-cousins** are considered potential spouses, while **parallel cousins** are considered “siblings” (and therefore are not potential spouses or sexual partners), this reveals that:

a. the incest taboo is based on the instinctive avoidance of marriage with close kin b. the incest taboo is based on cultural rather than biological factors c. non-Western societies cannot enforce incest taboos in a regular fashion because the paternity of children is often in doubt d. parallel cousins are genealogically (and genetically) closer than cross-cousins e. all of these

B

12. T/F **Kindred** refers to one’s relatives on both sides of their family.

T

13. What is an example of a **unilineal** kinship system?

Patrilineal and Matrilineal kinship systems...tracking descent from just one side of the family

14. T/F Matrilineality is found only in matriarchies.

F

15. In unilineal kinship systems, by virtue of the line of descent:

a. some very close biological relatives are excluded from ones kin group
b. all close relatives are included in ones kin group c. all individuals who reside together are considered kin d. marriages are extremely stable e. apical ancestors are revered

A – ignores the other side of the family

16. T/F Fictive kin designations are rare amongst most world cultures.

F – quite common!

17. The family in which children grow up is called their:

a. family of orientation b. family of procreation c. nuclear family d. **a and c** e. **b and c**

A (not everyone grows up in a nuclear family)

18. T/F Grouping people by age is unusual amongst societies around the world.

F – referred to as age sets

19. Do you belong to a voluntary association? Are these forms of social organization common amongst the people you know?

(e.g. meetups, church groups, sports teams, political organizations, social clubs etc.)

20. Name five family forms found in America today.

Nuclear Families, Extended Families, Gay Marriage, Single-Parent Families, Mormon Polygamous Families

Kinship Exercise:

1. If you won a large sum of money in the lottery who would you share it with?
2. If your car breaks down, who would you call?
3. Who would you call to post bail?
4. Who (if anyone) would you share movie popcorn with?
5. Who (if anyone) would you allow to sample food off of your plate?
6. Who would you share very personal secrets with?
7. If you lost your home, where would you stay?
8. If you needed to borrow money who would you ask?
9. Who would you give \$100 (or more) without expecting it returned?
10. If you wanted a massage, who would you ask?
11. Who (if anyone) would you allow to discipline your children?
12. Who (if anyone) knows your e-mail password?
13. Who would you allow access to your Facebook page or Twitter account?

(Exercise establishes the ways in which we express kinship type relationships and obligations in contemporary America, particularly where we depend on institutions to function as “family”)

Arranging A Marriage in India

1. Why do some cultures prefer arranged marriages?

Because parents can be more level-headed regarding assessing what qualities in a mate would lead to a successful marriage and alliance between families.

2. What are the characteristics of cultures that prefer love marriages?

Practice Neo-local residence, value “falling in love” prior to marriage, live in nuclear families, believe that “love conquers all.”

- 3 T/F In an arranged marriage in India a woman is judged as a prospective daughter-in-law as much as a prospective bride.

T – she would become a vital member in her new family; needs to fit in..

4. T/F In India urban well-educated young people do not allow their parents to arrange their marriages.

F – more are doing so, but traditionally they trust that their parents would make better decisions for them

5. T/F Indian parents often force their children into marriages with partners they find objectionable.

F – the child has the last say...one young man met 50 prospective brides and turned them all down!

6. T/F In India romantic love is not considered to be of much importance in a happy marriage.

T – but the belief is that a couple would fall in love after the marriage...

7. What is a “love match?”

Where the nuptial couple fall in love prior to deciding to marry

8. Why might a young Indian bride be willing to marry a boy she barely knows?

Because she trusts her parents’ judgment and the practice of arranged marriage

9. T/F When Indian parents look for a possible match, issues such as physical appearance have little importance.

F – parents do care what their grandchildren will look like

10. Young people in India allow their parents to arrange their marriages because:

- a. it's a time worn tradition
- b. they are ill equipped to deal with the stress of dating
- c. they believe their parents know more about making such choices
- d. they don't trust the durability of a "love match"
- e. they would not want to compete amongst one another for the best catches

A, B, C, D, E

11. How does dowry differ from brideprice?

Dowry is a gift from the bride's family to the new couple, while brideprice is a gift from the husband's family to the bride's family

12. T/F Dowry gifts are no longer legal in India.

T – but they still happen

13. What conditions set the stage for the practice of dowry-killings in India?

Expensive dowry gifts would be received and then the husband's family would arrange for an "accidental" death of the bride so that their son could marry a new wife and receive yet more dowry gifts

14. What considerations do Indian parents make in arranging marriages?

- a. compatible family background (caste/class/style)
- b. education – career potential
- c. sex appeal
- d. wealth – resources
- e. social contacts

ABDE – they wouldn't be able to assess sex appeal

15. T/F In that arranged marriages are so common in India it has resulted in young Indian women becoming shy and hesitant in social interactions.

F – they retain confidence in that they don't suffer rejections that occur in love-marriage style dating

16. The prevalence of arranged marriages in India has resulted in.

- a. higher divorce rates than in the U.S.
- b. divorce rates similar to those in the U.S.
- c. many young Indians traveling outside their country to make their own marriage arrangements
- d. much lower divorce rates than in the U.S.

D

17. T/F The divorce rate for Indians in arranged marriages is very low.

T

18. Why might a girl coming from a family with many sisters not be considered a good catch?

Because she would not come with much dowry in that the family's wealth would have to be divided by many

19. What factors might cause Indian parents to take many years to locate a proper match for their son/daughter?

They are considering many factors including caste, personality, astrology, the style of the other family, resources, career, reputation and appearance

20. What factors are causing the arranged marriage system to change?

Activities of Bollywood Stars who engage in love marriages—imported TV shows like Sex in the City and Bay Watch where American's actively participate in romantic dating.

21. What classes of Indians would be most likely to engage in love marriages?

Well educated with independent resources (re: the wife) and very poor with no resources for the dowry.

22. What might be the social economic consequences of the breakdown of the arranged marriage system?

Out of wedlock births, increase in divorce rates, celebration of love in marriage