

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: **Dieri. Alternate names: Diyari. Australian language family**
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): **dif**
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): **Currently located at 139° E and 28°20' S. The Dieri live in the Cooper River/Creek region east of Lake Eyre.**
- 1.4 Brief history: **Previously a British Colony. Hunter-gathering people**
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: **German Lutherans spoke to the Dieri first in 1850. They became literate and were taught German and English, which lead to the extinction of the Dieri language.**
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): **Wide open grasslands. Great for crops and grazing livestock. Average rainfall of 20 inches per year.**
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: **Now extinct but at peak, 230 members of tribe. Four surrounding tribes understood the language; all together the population was around 2030 people.**

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): **Diet almost completely vegetable based: seeds, roots, nuts, ardo (hard seed)**
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: **Animals scarce, but when available, rats, snakes and other reptiles, and occasionally an emu, which was a favorite amongst tribe**
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns? **Spears, boomerang, two-handed boomerang,**
- 2.4 Food storage: Not recorded
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: **Men only hunters, women stayed at home**
- 2.6 Land tenure: **Everything shared with the tribe, but hunting grounds are inherited to sons by their fathers**
- 2.7 Ceramics: Not recorded
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: Unknown
- 2.9 Food taboos: **When eating family members at the funeral ceremony: A father is to never eat their offspring and children aren't to eat their father. Everyone else in the family is allowed to eat each other.**
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? Not recorded

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): Not recorded
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): Not recorded

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): Not recorded
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): **Female very young, Men much older and according to Korn the difference could be more than 30 years.**
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): Not recorded
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): Not recorded
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): **Females very young and men much older**
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: **Divorce rare, men just marry other women**
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: **Exact percent not recorded, but many men practiced polygynous but there was a shift toward the end of the Dieri towards monogamy**
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: **Bartered various goods.**
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: **patrilineal totemistic**
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: **Infanticide very common in this group. If children are born with deformities they're killed on the spot "for the good of the tribe"**
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: Not recorded
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): **Yes. Exogamous groups formed in order to prevent intermarriages within one promiscuous group, which they see as evil because of MooraMoora lore.**
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized? Not recorded
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows") Not recorded
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)? Not recorded
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: Not recorded
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin) **marriage is preferred with the mother's mother's brother's daughter's daughter. Direct cross cousin marriages unacceptable. Sister exchange**
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? **No but men do**
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: Not recorded
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? **Since many men have multiple wives, children are thought to have multiple mothers, so the other wives would raise them.**
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: Not recorded
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: **No**
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older): Not recorded
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? **Lore tells the people that intimacy, marriages, etc. with in immediate family is evil**

- 4.24 Joking relationships? **Have no problem lying to each other and outsiders, they actually enjoy lying to one another and use these lies as entertainment**
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: **Matrilineal for classes, clans and names**
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules **No direct cousin marriages. Lore tells the tribe not to intermarriage is seen as evil**
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? **Yes**
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? **Council meets and discusses names**
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) **Within the tribe is preferred but outsiders were married into tribe as well**
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? **Yes. Mothers of the children arrange along with their brothers**
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: Not recorded

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: Not recorded
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: Not recorded
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: **Never natural deaths, death is always blamed on someone from an enemy tribe, performing a death charm on the deceased. That person is then hunted by the rest of the tribe**
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): **Four surrounding tribes whom understand the language and who are usually treacherous towards each other. Occasionally friendly.**
- 4.18 Cannibalism? **YES. Eat parts of the flesh of enemies after the kill. At funerals, the immediate family eats the deceased, in order to “never forget” them.**

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: **Now 0 because they are extinct but before it was 230.**
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): **stay in tribe for most part. Men participating in ceremonial events are occasionally made to leave the tribe and explore surrounding areas for months**
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): **Chief (native of influence), council of older men to make important decisions for the tribe such as making of rain, marriage, circumcision. Women serve as ambassadors during disputes between tribes. Class system based on lore, families are given a class relating to which animal they are thought to have been created from by MooraMoora.**
- 5.4 Post marital residence: **Not recorded, but if two brothers marry two sisters, they all live together in their own house.**
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): **Yes, defined territory. Active defense from surrounding tribes, very aggressive towards protecting territory**
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Not recorded
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: Not recorded
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Not recorded
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): **Men's houses used for ceremonies, especially during the coming of age**
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Not recorded
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: **Clans and moieties present**
- 5.12 Trade: Life **revolves around bartering. No one kept one possession for very long**
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? **Different clans are more important and influential.**

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: **The Dieri spent a large amount of time on their many ceremonies. Many of their ceremonies aren't even described by James Woods because he claims that they are just far too obscene and disgusting.**
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): **The only form medicine is their charms, curses and magic. If someone falls ill it's said to be due to a curse. A member of the family is to take a human bone to the river and says their own chant in order to make their family member better. Many diseases plagued the Dieri people such as smallpox which they believed to be different form of magic. They did had a doctor-like figure known as the Koonkie who supposedly has seen the devil before and that's why he was given the power to heal everyone. Rubbed ashes into open wounds**
- 6.2 Stimulants:
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): **With any death, long sticks were buried in the ground, separate of the body to represent the person who passed. The dead were eaten by their relatives to ensure their memory remains with their family. At puberty, or when “hair appears” on a boy's face he was circumcised by a group of elder men, but the entire village is involved in the brutal ceremony.**
- 6.4 Other rituals: **Ages 8-12 the front two upper teeth were knocked out with stones and large pieces of Acacia wood. The children weren't even allowed to wince or they'd be seen as weak.**
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): **“MooraMoora (good spirit) made a small number of black lizards, and being pleased with them, he promised they should have power over all creeping things. The MooraMoora then divided their feet into fingers and toes, and placing his forefinger in the centre of the face created a nose, and so in like manner afterward eyes, mouth and ears. The spirit then placed one in a standing position, of which it could not retain, where upon the Deity cut off the tail, and the lizard walked erect.” (James Woods).**
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): **In ceremonies, there was singing and dancing**
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: **women weren't key parts to any ceremonies**

- 6.8 Missionary effect: **German Lutherans spoke to the Dieri first in 1850. These missions decreased some of the ceremonial events, the treachery of the tribe and the reliance on lore.**
- 6.9 RCR revival: **No**
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: **Spirit lives on with family if the flesh is eaten**
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? **The dead person's name was to only be said on the day of death, after that, never said**
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? **No**
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) **Believed in the Good spirit, MooraMoora, who was said to have made everything in this world. The people followed by his example in how to live life. For example, the ritual of knocking out the young children's teeth comes from the story of MooraMoora knocking out his own children's teeth. Believed in magic and that it caused many events in life and death.**

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: **Smear bodies with white clay during warfare in order to distinguish each other from the enemy**
- 7.2 Piercings: **Boys and girls, age 5-10 got their noses pierced by an old member of the tribe with a sharpened piece of wood called a Cooyamurra, and a quill was then placed in the hole.**
- 7.3 Haircut: **The hair of the entire tribe was cut in order to make a belt for the man involved in the circumcision ceremony known as a Yinka**
- 7.4 Scarification: **Select young men were tattooed in an effort to bring a good hunting and crop season**
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): **Plaited, white, band called a charpoo was worn in warfare**
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: **After murdering a man, people would adorn weapons with pieces of fat from the enemy body and attach feathers to it**
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: **women didn't participate usually in most ceremonies so they don't dress up**
- 7.8 Missionary effect: **Not recorded**
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: **Not recorded**

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: **Not recorded**
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate: **Sororate practiced, but rare**
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): **Not recorded**

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

- **If a man accidentally killed another in a fight, the murderer suffered by having his elder brother killed. If the man doesn't have an elder brother, his father takes the place. If he had no male older relatives, the murderer was sentenced to death himself. He wasn't allowed to know when he will be killed or defend himself.**
- **If a member of the tribe who is of influence dies suddenly, a secret council is formed where they decided which other member of the tribe used a charm to kill him and then kill the accused**
- **If a child got hurt accidentally, every member of his family got beaten over the head with a stick or boomerang until they bled onto their faces. This was supposed to ease the pain of the child.**
- **The Dieri have many dogs. They treat the dogs like actual children.**
- **Marriages involving significantly older men with very young girls are greatly respected amongst the tribe.**

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