

## 1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: **Bunun people, speak the Bunun language, Austronesian Language family.**  
**Alternative names: Bubukun, Bunan, Bunti, Bunum, Vonun, Vunun, Vunung**
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): **bnn**
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): **Live in mountain areas of central Taiwan, between 23° and 24° N and at about 120°30' E**
- 1.4 Brief history: **Lived on the Puli plain in the eighteenth century, and then were forced to move to current location by Han Chinese immigrants and Plains Aborigines. Most Bunun regard Yu-shan (highest point) as their ancestral homeland.**
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: **Throughout WWII, the Japanese government had a lot of influence on the Bunun people**
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): **Mountainous, climate is subtropical with lots of rainfall and typhoons are frequent**
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: **There were 18,113 Bunun reported in a 1932 census. Average settlement size is about 111 people.**

## 2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): **Maize, millet seeds and sweet potatoes were grown prior to WWII, after the war, the Japanese influenced the cultivation of rice.**
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: **Pigs, goat, deer are hunted, ate certain types of insects**
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: **Spears, bow and arrows, later on guns**
- 2.4 Food storage: **Not recorded**
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: **Men do hard labor like clearing land and harvesting crops while women do the domestic duties and some planting. Women and children gather food while men hunt**
- 2.6 Land tenure: **Land classified into three categories: hunting land, planting land, and housing land. Each type was controlled, respectively by the patrician, household, and settlement. Overlap would occur when the same lot of land could be controlled by different social units for their separate functions**
- 2.7 Ceramics: **Pots, plates, jewelry**
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: **If one does not headhunt, one may not be allowed to eat the meat and wine that the tribe collects. Other than that, meat is given to families, one piece for each member of the family.**
- 2.9 Food taboos: **Hands are not to touch the inside of cooking pots**
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? **Yes, canoes**

## 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): **Not recorded**
- 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): **Not recorded**
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: **Not recorded**
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: **Strict monogamy practiced**
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: **No. However the respect of the mother of the bride is huge, they pay with respect**
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: **property of the domestic unit inherited by its members according to past contribution to the domestic unit, without taking consideration of kin relations or statuses. So, domestic-unit property could be inherited by nonpatrilineal members**
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: **Not recorded**
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: **Not recorded**
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): **endogamy**
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized? **One father**
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows") **Just receptacle that gives children their bodies**
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)? **Fathers supposedly give offspring their spirit (hanido) and the children only get their body from their mother**
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: **Not recorded**
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): **Cross cousin preferred to continue lineage**
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? **No, everyone lives strictly monogamously**
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: **No**
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? **Grandparents**
- 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): **Older men to younger women frequent**

- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? **Some marriages prohibited: marriage within the same gavian, with the mother's patrician member, with people whose mothers were from one's mother's patrician**
- 4.24 Joking relationships? **Yes**
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: **Patrilineal**
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: **Some marriages prohibited: marriage within the same gavian, with the mother's patrician member, with people whose mothers were from one's mother's patrician**
- 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? **Names don't change, lineage continues**
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) **Preferred within settlement, but sometimes that's not possible, so then outside the settlement becomes far more appropriate**
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? **Marriages arranged by parents, give children somewhat of a choice in future spouse**
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: **With settlements of only 111 people, along with prohibitions on allowed types of marriages, there are slim pickings for who can marry who.**

#### **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: Not recorded
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): **Headhunted neighbors**
- 4.18 Cannibalism? **No**

#### **5. Socio-Political organization and interaction**

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) **group size: average size about 111**
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): **Aside from very early on when moved to find fertile land, don't move around much**
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): **Complicated clan system; Status classes based on merit; military leader and public shaman**
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Not recorded
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): **Very territorial**
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Not recorded
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: **Friendships of course and joking relationships**
- 5.8 Village and house organization: **Large houses for families. Most houses created by digging into hillside and covering with stone to make a multilevel home. Roofs made of bark, reeds and whatever was accessible**
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): **tree houses overlooking Millet fields**
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? **Sleep in beds, made from woven plants and "haul" which is a type of blanket**
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: **Clans with lineage**
- 5.12 Trade: **Traded with Japanese for rice**
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? **Yes arrange marriages in order to elevate social status**

#### **6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)**

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: **Moderate**
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): **Shamans performed ceremonies to help cure sickness**
- 6.2 Stimulants: **Seasons, life cycles, head hunting**
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): **Bunun have two types of rituals: life-cycle rituals and calendrical rituals**
- 6.4 Other rituals: **Rituals performed to thank the celestial bodies (sky, stars and moon) for relief of natural disasters. Baptism-like ceremony performed right after birth to protect child from evil, Introduction of new baby into the village where the babies are given jewelry. While headhunting the people play music and dance and celebrate. Tooth extraction of the incisors for boys and girls at ages 15-16 shows adulthood**
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): **A person's spirits (hanidos) are said to be derived from the father and a person's body derived from the mother.**
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): **Children play games in the village for fun. Music is often played/sang**
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: **Women don't participate unless with newborn babies**
- 6.8 Missionary effect: **Christianity changed many traditional beliefs. Now, the rituals are no longer practiced. Bodies are all buried at the entrance of the settlement and the *maiason*, mentioned below is seen as Heaven**
- 6.9 RCR revival: Not recorded
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: **Violent deaths are seen as bad deaths and in this case the body is buried immediately on the spot. Natural deaths from illness/old age are seen as good and the family will bury the body in the house. If the deceased was important in the society the body is buried near the door of the house in order to protect the family. Violent deaths are seen as to have been caused by the hanidos. Hanidos of humans are said to remain after the person's death to either protect the family or haunt them. Hanidos of important dead people are said to go to *maiason*, where the great ancestors live forever**
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? **No**
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? **No**

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) **All the religious beliefs are based on the concept of "hanido". This is described as the spirit of any animate creature or inanimate natural object. The hanido anything has its own special innate power. Humans have two hanidos whereas animals and objects only have one. A good hanido sits on the right shoulder and a bad one on the left. These spirits are said to make and influence decisions.**

## **7. Adornment**

7.1 Body paint: **Certain ceremonies require face paint**

7.2 Piercings: Not recorded

7.3 Haircut: Not recorded

7.4 Scarification: **No, but tooth extraction was performed.**

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): **Wore goat leather as a baby, deerskin as got older**

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: **During baptism-like ceremony, baby wears a root on the head; girls are given necklaces at other ceremonies after birth to introduce the new child to the village**

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: **girls wear dresses, boys wear vests**

7.8 Missionary effect: **started the clothing idea for everyone, before no one for clothes**

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: **Not recorded**

## **8. Kinship systems**

8.1 Sibling classification system: Not recorded

8.2 Sororate, levirate: Not recorded

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):**

**1. Oldest son always named after a relative**

**2. Made tree houses so that people could look over and protect the millet seeds fields**

**3. The Bunun are said to be the fiercest Headhunters of all of Taiwan**

**4. If any taboos are broken it will supposedly cause sickness, bad fortune or even death!**

**5. Anyone can perform a religious ceremony in the Bunun culture. It is not requires for them to be a shaman or priest.**

**6. It was considered beautiful to have missing incisors.**

**7. Bury the umbilical cord in front of house, to make the house a sacred place.**

**8. Weaving was very important to the society, especially to the women because that was one of their main jobs**

**9. Wife exchanges with neighbors were executed in order to keep the peace in between head hunting**

**10. The people drank a lot of wine and smoked a lot and were often intoxicated**

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