

## **1. Description**

- 1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Amis – also known as Pangtsah or Ami – a language group of Taiwan
- 1.2 Location: East coast of Taiwan (2)
- 1.3 Brief history: Taiwan experienced heavy colonization beginning with Portugal's 'discovery' of the island in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Dutch and Spanish established colonies there in the following century, but the Spanish were pushed out by the Dutch, who were then driven out by Koxinga in 1662. China's first significant contact with the island was in the middle of the 1600s, and by 1875 Taiwan became an official Chinese province. The Amis fought against the Chinese, but were largely unsuccessful. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, China was forced to give Taiwan to the Japanese, who eventually ceded it to the R.O.C. (1; 29-30)
- 1.4 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Values transferred in contact with ethnic Chinese as well as Christians have prompted a move to patrilocalism and patrilinealism. Chinese cultivation methods resulted in rice supplanting millet as a major crop (1; 32). Government initiatives toward industrialization have caused migration to cities and/or changes in agricultural production and a subsequent breakdown of the matrilineal structure (1; 34).
- 1.5 Ecology: Mountains and valleys along a coastal strip (3)

## **2. Economy**

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Originally millet, but then rice after Chinese influence (1; 31)
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Fish – extremely well-known for this (3)
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Bush knives (1; 32)
- 2.4 Food storage:
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Women: cleared weeds, protected farm in the day, Men: built a hut at the center of the farming area, set traps for animals, guarded farm at night. Storage work done by either sex. (1; 32)
- 2.6 Land tenure: Passed through female lineage, but can sell land to outsiders (1; 28-29)
- 2.7 Ceramics:
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos:
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?:

## **3. Anthropometry**

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

## **4. Life History, mating, marriage**

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f):
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: No statistics, but a woman divorced by merely moving a husband's belongings outside their home (3).
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
- 4.8 Arranged marriage, bride purchase/service, dowry:
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: Women inherited property (3)
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): No strict rules, but incest taboo discourages marrying w/i same clan (6)
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: naming is matrilineal (3)
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: Taboo on marrying w/i one's lineage (1; 33)
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?: Children named based on mother (3)
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)

## **Warfare/homicide**

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: Typically fought with Atayal, Puyuma, and Bunun tribes, but recently such disputes have begun to be mediated politically (5; 13).
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

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

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: 200-1,000 (4)
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Clans. Men in charge of political decisions (3).
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Traditionally matrilocal, but recently have become patrilocal
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Men's position based on membership in age group: uninitiated boys, 17-40, and 41-82. Village chief appointed from oldest group, food production work done by younger groups (1; 30).
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Households included the house, garden, and capital, while the village property consisted of communal lands, roads, and fishing places. (1; 31)
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): Had men's houses, but gradually given up (1; 34)
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Matrilineal clan system – decent and possessions passed through females, with the oldest sister taking control of the household (the main social unit). Mothers were the most important people, with their brothers (especially the oldest ones) being the most important men. (1; 30-31)
- 5.12 Trade:
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?: Originally had an age-grade system , but it has recently died out (1; 34)

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

- 6 Time allocation to RCR:
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): The shaman had the power to heal sickness and preserve communal stability (1; 32)
- 6.2 Stimulants:
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Three categories: individual (black magic and hunting), household, and collective. (1; 32)
- 6.4 Other rituals: Main one was Harvest Ritual (1; 32)
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): 'Kawas' – the generic name for spirit entities – were responsible for misfortunes. The head god, Malato, would help men hunting, but not with household rituals. (1; 32)
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Christianity (especially Protestant groups) caused the giving up of some rituals (1; 33-34). Also have changed work patterns: now based on church membership rather than generalized groupings (1; 34). Now most Amis are Christians (1; 35).
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Believed people who were kind and dutiful would go to heaven as an ancestral spirit, but criminals or those who died 'unnaturally' would turn into an earthly spirit and then an animal (1; 33)
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?

## **7. Adornment**

- 7.1 Body paint:
- 7.2 Piercings:
- 7.3 Haircut:
- 7.4 Scarification:
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment:
- 7.8 Missionary effect:
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

## **8. Kinship systems**

- 8.1 Sibling classification system:
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate:

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): Terms defined by age and whether or not a person is biologically related or married in. No differences based on whether relative is maternal/paternal or on speaker's gender. (1; 30)

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

- Have become more integrated (i.e. speaking Mandarin/Taiwanese in addition to Amis) (1; 29)
- Many cultural features dead/dying after years of increased contact with outsiders (1; 36)

**Numbered references**

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