1. Description
1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family:
   Tswana or Setswana; Zone S > Sotho language region > Niger-Congo language family > Bantu language
1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com):
   S.30
1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):
   (25.5, 25.9)
1.4 Brief history:
   - Described by early Germanic anthropologist, H. Liechtenstein, in 1806
     *Not published until 1930
   - Mistaken for the Xhosta dialect of Tswana
     *Maybe be considered to cover the Northern and Southern Sotho region
   - Linguistic study primarily attributed to British missionary Robert Moffat in 1826
     *Published two of the first pieces of English literature translated in Tswana
     ~Including the Bechuana Catechism and later the bible
   - Missionary James Archibald publishes the first manual of Tswana grammar in 1933
     *Also modeled on the Xhota dialect
   - First Grammar of Tswana distinguishing Tswana as a language separate from Xhosta published by French missionary
     E. Casalis in 1841
     *However Casalis later amends his claims in 1882
   - Solomon Plaatje, South African born linguist and intellectual, is the becomes the first to write and publish extensively in Tswana

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:
   - Language studies of Tswana primarily done by French and English Missionaries
   - One of the largest and most affected victims of the South African Apartheid
   - Tswana is one of the few actual Bantustans
   - Spoken by all eight major tribes of Botswana
     *Formerly the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland until Botswana independence in 1966
     - Nineteenth century tensions existed between the indigenous Tswana and the neighboring Ndebele and Boer tribes
       - 1885 Great Britain accepts the request made by Tswana chiefs: Kahama III, Bathoen, and Sebele, and places present day Botswana under British Protection.
       - South Africa was formed out of Botswana in 1910 and became a British colony
         * 1948 saw the inception of Apartheid in South Africa
       - South Africa formally withdrew from the British common wealth in 1961
       - Large tracks of South Africa and Botswana are still under tribal rule

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):
   - River Delta, Desert, Grasslands, and Savannah
1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density
   - Spoken by all eight major tribes in Botswana
     *(79%)
   - Overall population: 2,065,398
   - Average House Size: 4.2
   - Population density: 3.42

2. Economy
2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):
   - Maize
2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:
- Livestock

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?
   - Modern weapons
     * Illicit arms market

2.4 Food storage:
   - Urban: Modern food storage methods
   - Tribal: Baskets and traditional dry storage methods

2.5 Sexual division of production:
   - Historically patriarchal
   - Woman: homemakers and caregivers
     * Recently woman have begun entering the work force as midwives and teachers

2.6 Land tenure:
   - Four pillar system
     * Labor
     * Land
     * Capital
     * Entrepreneurship
   - Leading cause of land tenure unrest is economic instability
   - Land tenure of Botswana is directly related to the level of agricultural sustainability

2.7 Ceramics:
   - Two branches in the Botswana ceramic tradition
     * Household/ Daily use
     * Ceremonial/ Ritualistic
   - Key identifying characteristics
     * Red orange coloration
     * Cord markings and etching on rim sherds
     * Typically restricted hyperboloids

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
   - Inter-tribal cultural and economic very common
   - Inter-tribal marriage also popular

2.9 Food taboos:
   - Gender/ reproductive food taboos
     * rarely observed

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?
   - Long shallow hardwood canoes
     * Tradition of fishing culture along the rivers and deltas

3. Anthropometry
3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):
   - M: 143cm F: 136cm

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):
   - M: approx. 23kg F: approx. 22kg

4. Life History, mating, marriage
4.1 Age at menarche (f):
   - 12 years

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):
   - F: 18 years M: 19 years

4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
   - 4.11 members

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
   - open
     - Although there is a traditional period of several month spousal separations following a birth

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):
   - M&F: 22-25 years

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:
4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:
- unrecorded
  - still uncommon prior to 20th century
4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:
- Goats and or sheep
  - number of animals left solely to the discretion of the groom’s family
4.9 Inheritance patterns:
- Patriarchal
4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:
- frequent daily interactions are common, conflict is not
4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
  - Large amounts of discrimination
  - hate crimes
  - laws encouraging societal exclusion
4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):
  - Historically widely accepted
4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized?
  - Mono-paternal
    - Uncles are, however, revered and play ceremonial parts through their nieces and nephews lives
4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”)
  - Mono-maternal
4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
  - No
4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape
  - About 24% of women in the Southern Tswana language region report abuse or rape
  - levels for the rest of the Tswana langue region are reflective of these.
4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
  - favors the marriage of a man to his mother’s sister’s daughter, and less often a father’s sister’s daughter.
4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
  - While woman maintain a large level of autonomy outside of the home and within, there are still no sexual freedoms provided them. Even courtship and marriage are out of their hands.
4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
  - none
4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
  - female relatives
4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
  - 0.93 males per female.
4.22 Evidence for couvades
  - information unavailable
4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
  - information unavailable
4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?
  - elder worship
  - no instances of avoidance, outside of banishment
4.24 Joking relationships?
  - No instances could be found
4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations
  - patrilineal, matrilineal, double-descent, or bilaterally organized.
4.26 Incest avoidance rules
  - Tswanian culture allows for uncle/niece and cousin marriages.
4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?
Tswana marriage ceremonies are typically elaborate and include symbolic delegations and gift exchange.

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
- no instances recorded outside of marriage and modern applications.

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)
- There does not seem to be a preference towards either.
- Marriage outside of the community is not uncommon or taboo

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?
- Historically most marriages were arranged
- Most modern Tswana marriages are no longer arranged.

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:
- No major evidence.

**Warfare/homicide**

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:
- 16.99 deaths/1000 populations (est July 2009)

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:
- records not available

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:
- records not available

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):
- multiple reports of peaceful trading relationships with outlier tribes

4.18 Cannibalism?
- Only evidence of cannibalism in Tswana culture, is as victims of unfriendly cannibalistic tribes.

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

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:
- est. 20,000

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):
- The majority of Tswana groups are semi-nomadic or semi-sedentary

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):
- Historically familial succession
- Modern Tswana governments are elected through indirect election.

5.4 Post marital residence:
- Patrilocal

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):
- no clear definition, leading cause of disputes
- historically tribal militia defended groups
- during British occupation some tribes received Royal Army assistance
- present day a semi-modern army is used

5.6 Social interaction divisions? (age and sex):
- No modern divisions
- Historically men and woman were typically socially separated

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:
- No records available

5.8 Village and house organization:
- Villages are organized into wards
- Each “family” has a hut/house

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens’ houses):
- no records available

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?
- Animal skin sleeping mats

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:
- Largely based on ward membership and familial groupings

5.12 Trade:
- Largely trade based economy
Historically friendly trade relations with other tribes.

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?
- basic ruling class hierarchy
  - ruling family = aristocrats

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)
6.0 Time allocation to RCR:
- Modern Tswana culture allocates little or no time to RCR

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):
- priests and priestess

6.2 Stimulants:
- no records found

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):
- Bogwera
  - adolescent boys
  - includes circumcision
  - teaches tribal customs and survival skills
- Bojale
  - adolescent girls
  - teaches adult domestic responsibilities
  - teaches acceptable sexual conduct after marriage
  - records indicate these are no longer practiced
- Funeral ceremonies are the most common and most elaborate

6.4 Other rituals:
- agro centric ceremonies

6.5 Myths (Creation):
- reports of not having a creation myth
- Other reports include the Myth of an early ancestor rising out of the earth followed by cattle and other creatures.

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):
- traditional learning games
- music and art are typically either religious or a keeper of historic records

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- none reported

6.8 Missionary effect:
- following the arrival of missionaries, Christian elements were added to the religion

6.9 RCR revival:
- no traditional religion revivals reported

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:
- most common beliefs conform to modern Christian teachings

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- none recorded

6.12 Is there teknonymy?
- No record available

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)
- Tswana religion is a mix of Animism, ancestor worship, and Christianity
- modern religions are predominately Christian or Islamic

7. Adornment
7.1 Body paint:
- used to represent spirits and animals

7.2 Piercings:
- somewhat common, though no religious or cultural rationales can be found

7.3 Haircut:
- short, cropped hair cut
7.4 Scarification:
   - few examples present

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):
   - Bright Colorful geometric patterns used is typically in ceremonial dress
   - feathers are highly sought after

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:
   - no specific documentation was found

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:
   - only subtle differences

7.8 Missionary effect:
   - Europeans saw the Tswana as savage and naked

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:
   - no documentation found

8. Kinship systems
8.1 Sibling classification system:
   - siblings are given rank through gender and then senority.

8.2 Sororate, levirate:
   - decreased to almost non-existent

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):
   - Cross cousins and Cross siblings

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

Works Cited


