

***DISCLAIMER: All of the information I was able to find about my tribe was written in French with no English translation. I was able to translate it using Google Translate and my friend who is in 4th semester French, but mistakes are very likely. I apologize if any of the information is missing or incorrect, but I did the best I can under the circumstances provided.**

1. Description

1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: **Sakata, Bantu language family**

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): **skt**

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): **3° S, 19° E**

1.4 Brief history: **The Sakata live on the western side of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Their first encounters with westerners were French Baptist Missionaries in the late nineteenth/ early twentieth century. Since then, their only contact with any foreigners at all has been French and Belgian traders and imperialists. Before this, little is known about the Sakata, as they have no creation myth or documented history.**

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: **Were visited by French Baptist missionaries before the 1960s.**

1.6 Ecology (natural environment): **Located in the middle of Subsaharan Africa, it is located in the Democratic Republic of Congo and receives the highest precipitation rate of the planet, upwards of 2000 mm per year. The territory of the Sakata surrounds Lake Mai-Ndombe**

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: **No more than 75,000 total, all located in the Bandudu province. They are split up into smaller tribes inside the province.**

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): **The main crops are manioc (cassava), maize, squash, and beans.**

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: **The villagers raise chickens, ducks, goats, sheep and cows. They fish in Lake Mai-Ndombe for fish and collect other bushmeat.**

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: **Bows and arrows primarily used for hunting, also hunters and warriors are equipped with a knife.**

2.4 Food storage: **Not listed**

2.5 Sexual division of production: **Men are the hunters and workers, women tend to the farms and**

2.6 Land tenure: **Most villagers use the slash-and-burn technique to clear the forest and then farm on cleared land.**

2.7 Ceramics: **Traded for Clay pottery, but they themselves make woven baskets primarily.**

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: **Not specified**

2.9 Food taboos: **There are many different food taboos among the Sakata, the book said there were too many to name them all, but listed Python as a major one, which could be most severely punished.**

2.10 Canoes/watercraft? **Canoes are used to travel on Lake Mai-Ndombe and fish.**

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): **Men; 149 cm (4'11")** The Sakata are classified as "pygmy people", a group who's average height for adult males does not exceed 4'11". The average height for women is 142 cm (4'8")

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): **Men: 52 kg (115 lbs.) Women: 44kg (98 lbs)**

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f): **Not listed, presume adolescence**

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): **Not listed**

4.3 Completed family size (m and f): **Average between 6-10 kids per family**

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): **Not listed.**

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): **After first menstruation for women, men was not specified, but they are normally much older than their brides.**

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: **Not specified, but divorce is permitted after being approved by the clan's leader.**

- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: **Neither are permitted, but adultery is common and not at all taboo.**
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: **If the woman is of consenting age and willing, no dowry is required. An older man can purchase a young girl from her parents and be promised to her when she comes of age, or a standard dowry can be used.**
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: **Passed on to the oldest female offspring**
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: **Not specified**
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: **not found**
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): **Some marriages are used to settle conflicts between tribes, but this is not common.**
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized? **No “other fathers” are recognized, however, women are notoriously promiscuous so there are many different possibilities for fathers, but only husbands are recognized as the legitimate father.**
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”) **The mother is at fault if there are any birth defects with the baby**
- 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: **Women are required to consent for sex, rape is not tolerated. A man is allowed to request a divorce and return the bride to her family if she will not consummate the marriage, but rape is strictly forbidden.**
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): **Not specified**
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? **Women are allowed to engage in sexual relationships before marriage. There is almost no aversion to premarital pregnancy, sometimes it is even desired.**
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: **N/A**
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? **The children will be raised by the mother’s family**
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: **There are about 5 males for every 3 females.**
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: **none**
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older) :**Yes, women are promiscuous and adultery is common, but there seems to be no rules in place for ensuring who the real father is.**
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? **none**
- 4.24 Joking relationships? **none**
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: **matrilineal**
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: **none**
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? **Yes, overseen by the village chief**
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? **The parents chose the name, often the name of grandparent or deceased relative. The family name is changed after the wife marries.**
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) **Most marriages occur within the community, when a marriage occurs outside of the tribe, it is used as a reconciliation method between warring tribes.**
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? **The couple chose their own spouses, but often they are advised by their parents. A formal contract is made up**
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: **Most females have some free will as far as marriage goes, so conflict is limited. If conflict does arise, the parents will determine the match based on the dowry.**

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: **Not found**
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: **Not found**
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: **Implied conflicts with neighboring tribes, but no specifications were provided. Only real mention was marrying two children from warring tribes to form a reconciliatory bond.**

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): **Not found**

4.18 Cannibalism? **Not found**

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: **4000**

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): **Not mobile**

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): **Chief leads the village, some sort of hierarchy within, unspecified.**

5.4 Post marital residence: **Matrilocal residence**

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): **A defined boundary to the north is Lake Mai-Ndombe**

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): **Not Found**

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: **N/A**

5.8 Village and house organization: **Villagers live in huts, of varying material based on their proximity to the lake or rivers.**

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): **No such evidence presented.**

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? **N/A**

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: **Not Specified**

5.12 Trade: **The items most traded for are ropes, mats, baskets, raffia fabrics, clay pottery, salt, beer, sugar cane, palm oil and colored dye.**

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? **There is definitely a social hierarchy referenced within the book, but I could find a detailed description of all aspects of it. The only thing I can say for sure is the chief is the leader of the village.**

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR: **Not Found**

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): **Medicine is given through a Shaman or with doctor, who uses herbs and calls the spirits to cure maladies.**

6.2 Stimulants: **None**

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): **Pregnant women wash in *ipupu* water because they believe it will lead to strong offspring.**

6.4 Other rituals:

6.5 Myths (Creation): **The Sakata do not have any creation myths. When asked where they originated from, the will tell you that they do not know.**

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): **Not specified**

6.7 Sex differences in RCR: **Not Found**

6.8 Missionary effect: **Many Baptist missionaries were encountered; yet the Sakata still remain independent of Christianity.**

6.9 RCR revival: **Didn't really occur, since the Baptist missionaries were never really influential.**

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: **After a wife dies, the husband refrains from eating any food that was given to both.**

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? **No, it is considered an honor to name a child after a deceased relative.**

6.12 Is there teknonymy? **No**

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.) **Not specified, but believe in magic.**

7. Adornment- No information provided

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: **No effect**

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system: **Not specified**

8.2 Sororate, levirate: **Not Found**

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

There was a chart, but Google Translate was no help in deciphering it. It appears there are no special kinship types, but I could be mistaken.

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. Bylin, Eric. *Basakata; Le Peuple Du Pays De L'entre-fleuves Lukenie-Kasai*. [Uppsala], 1966. Print.
2. <http://www.ethnologue.com>