

1. Classificatory System

and 2. Descriptive System

Under the classificatory system the various kins are included in one category and all are referred to by the same terms. Thus the term ma:ma: which refers to uncle is a classificatory term. It is used to address,

1. mother's brother

2. father's sister's husband

and 3. sister's husband

Under the descriptive system, one term refers to only one relation. It describes the exact relation of a person towards another. Thus, a term 'father' refers that he is married and having son/daughter.

6.2.1 Characteristics of Kinship Terms

International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences observes that the kinship systems are found to vary in different societies with respect to a number of characteristics. They are as follows :