Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer
• “In The Nuer I described the form of segmentation in political and descent groups and I attempted to show the principles which underlie it. I also gave a short account of the age-set system; but I omitted all but the briefest references to marriage, family and kinship because I believe that political structure presents problems which are better inquired into apart from social relations of a different kind.” (Evans-Pritchard, Edward E. 1960 (1951): Kinship and Marriage Among the Nuer, Oxford : University Press, S. V.)

• "Nuer do not generally speak of lineages till four or five generations back in patrilineal ascent, and I think also that there are good technical reasons for following Nuer usage in this matter and for not speaking of lineages before at least the third generation is reached." (Evans-Pritchard, E.E.: Kinship and marriage among the Nuer. S.7)


• “On the other hand, in any large village or camp there is represented an agnatic lineage of one or other order and into the growth of this lineage are grafted, through the tracing of descent through females, branches which are regarded in certain situations and in a certain sense as part of it and in other situations and in a different sense as not part of it.” (Evans-Pritchard, E.E.: Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer. Oxford 1960. S. 23)

• “Consequently the different local communities of a whole tribe could be presented on a single genealogical chart. Given unlimited time and patience, the entire population of Nuerland could be so presented.” (EVANS- PRITCHARD, Edward E. (1951): Kinship and marriage among the Nuer. Oxford: OUP, Seite: 29)

• “Nuer consider that if relationship can be traced between a man and a woman through either father or mother, however many female links there may be, up to six generations, though the number of generations is not absolutely fixed, marriage should not take place between them.” (E. E. Evans-Pritchard: Kinship and marriage among the Nuer. Oxford, University Press, 1960, p. 31.)

• “This separation of the lineage from community life and its merging into it again is very largely brought about by the rules of exogamy which exclude marriage within the clan, thus giving that group distinctness, while compelling its lineages, by marrying outside the clan, to become multiple links in the network of kinship relations the strands of which form the texture of community life.” (Evans-Pritchard, Edward E.: Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951, S. 47)

• “After he is married a man settles down to care of herds and gardens, and goes less and less to dances, and ceases to take much interest in girls. I was told that should he wish to have an affair with a girl his wife would have no objection and would probably help him in it. Women, on the other hand, once they are married, ought not to have relations with men other than their husbands.” (Evans-Pritchard, E. E.: The Nuer. and Marriage among the Nuer 1951, S. 57)

• “It is not till a child has been born that the husband is accepted by his wife’s people as one of themselves. He is then the father of their daughter’s child and through the child has a kind of kinship with them.” (Evans-Pritchard, Edward Evan 1990 (1951): Kinship and marriage among the Nuer.)

Clarendon Press. Oxford. S. 72,She comes to her husband’s home not as a wife but as a mother whose breasts have suckled a child of their lineage.” (Evans-Pritchard, Edward E. – 1951: Kinship and marriage among the Nuer. OUP Oxford. S.74.)

• “Nuer can be very generous in this matter, and if a son-in-law is respectful and industrious they will not break the union because he takes a long time to pay the final cows, for marriage is not simply handing over a girl in exchange for cattle but is the creation of a series of new social relationships which, once formed, are not easily or lightly severed, especially when the union is completed by the birth of a child.” (Evans-Pritchard, Sir Edward Evan. 1951. Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer. Oxford: University Press.S84)

• “The bridegroom’s family are impoverished, sometimes to the point of privation, though their kinsmen and affines will help them if they reach this point; while in the bride’s home the milk-gourds and butter-gourds are full.” (Edward E. Evans-Pritchard (1951): Kinship and marriage among the Nuer. Oxford: OUP. S. 89)

• “[... ] Cattle stand for a wife and are therefore the most important thing in a Nuer’s life, because a wife means to him his own home and that he becomes a link in the lineage by fathering a son. (…) They lose cattle, but the wife will bear them daughter at whose marriages the cattle will return, and sons who will herd them.” (Edward E. Evans-Pritchard (Hg.): „Kinship and Marriage Among the Nuer“. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951) S. 90)


• “When a woman is married she is transferred from one lineage to another. (Evans-Pritchard, Edward Evan 1990 (1951): Kinship and marriage among the Nuer.) Clarendon Press. Oxford. S. 97)


• “Hence it follows that agnatic decent is, by kind of paradox, traced through the mother [...].” (Evans-Pritchard, Edward E. – 1951: Kinship and marriage among the Nuer. OUP Oxford, S. 122.)

• “It is the fertility of the womb which a lineage receives by payment of bridewealth.” (S.122)

• “The values and the whole conception of the lineage are reflected in it [the polygamous family].” (Evans-Pritchard, Sir Edward Evan. 1951. Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer. Oxford: University Press. S.140)

• “… But although Nuer are constantly asserting the solidarity of the polygamous family, it is as evident to themselves as it is to the observer that things are often different.” (Edward E. Evans-Pritchard (Hg.): „Kinship and Marriage Among the Nuer“. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951) S. 142)

• “The flux, movements and comings and goings, we noted in our survey of local communities is here again evident in domestic life; and here again beneath the apparent confusion in personal relations we perceive how in the lineage system the dynamic process is slowed down and stabilized into structure.” (Evans-Pritchard, Edward E. 1960 (1951): Kinship and Marriage Among the Nuer, Oxford : University Press, S. 151.)

• “It is the privilege of a maternal uncle’s wife to swear abusively at her husband’s sister’s son.” (Pritchard Evans, Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer, 1951, S. 165)