

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 :