

Authentic Listening

KINSHIP & MARRIAGE LECTURES

IV Rules of Marriage

What is marriage?

Can we have a universal definition of marriage?

<http://www.alanmacfarlane.com/kin/audiovisual.html>

(12 minutes)

While listening to the first part of the lecture, answer the following questions.

1. What is marriage according to the sign on the wall in the Cambridge Register Office¹?
2. How does this definition differ from the one suggested by anthropologists²?
3. Why is this definition controversial?
4. What examples of marriages are given which contradict the 'universal' definition of marriage? Give 4 examples.
a) _____ c) _____
b) _____ d) _____
5. What are the two 'bundle of rights' mentioned in the lecture?
6. Why would in some cultures adultery be considered an infringement of rights, or a theft?
7. What does the lecturer mean when he talks of different allocation of rights, specifically in two societies, the *Dhoni* and the *Yoruba*?

Why is *Dhoni* referred to as a *patrilineal* society?

What is the distribution of rights in the *Yoruba* society?

¹ General Register Office, in England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and other Commonwealth nations, is the government agency responsible for civil registration - the recording of vital records such as births, deaths, and marriages.

² Anthropologists examine, analyse, report on, and compare different cultures and how they grow, develop, and interact.

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8. *Edmund Leach* offered a list of ten rights associated with marriage. Which ones are **NOT** mentioned in the lecture?
- 1). To establish the legal father of a woman's children.
 - 2). To establish the legal mother of a man's children.
 - 3). To give the husband a monopoly in the wife's sexuality.
 - 4). To give the wife a monopoly in the husband's sexuality.
 - 5). To give the husband partial or monopolistic rights to the wife's domestic and other labour services.
 - 6). To give the wife partial or monopolistic rights to the husband's labour services.
 - 7). To give the husband partial or total rights over property belonging or potentially accruing to the wife.
 - 8). To give the wife partial or total rights over property belonging or potentially accruing to the husband.
 - 9). To establish a joint fund of property – a partnership – for the benefit of the children of the marriage.
 - 10). To establish a socially significant 'relationship of affinity' between the husband and his wife's brothers.
9. Looking back to the beginning of the lecture, why, according to Leach, is there no universal definition of marriage?
10. Write a one-paragraph summary of the lecture.
