

Summaries

Extended and nuclear households: their development in A Spanish mountain area between 1950 and 1970

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It is a common observation that modern societies are mainly composed of small nuclear households consisting of one or two parents and their unmarried children. Many authors judge this situation to be the final phase of an unilinear evolution from a preindustrial situation characterized by a predominance of large extended households, containing not only parents and children — including married ones — but also resident kin and/or servants. Research findings indicate that this judgement needs large revisions.

The article reports the results of an investigation in a contemporaneous preindustrial community: the *municipio* of Quiroga in Spanish Galicia. Patterns of settlement in the *municipio*, together with local differences in relief and in the quality of infrastructure, result in strong differences in the possibilities to maintain easy contact with the world outside. Differences between zones of isolation that were constructed reflect the degree of penetration of the modern urban pattern of culture.

As to patterns of co-residency it can be said that the '*famille souche*', the stem family, is the cultural norm. The secular decline in mortality has long since removed the main barrier to a large-scale realization of this norm.

The following observations were made.

a — In 1950 the households in this highly traditional peasant community consisted for 84 % of nuclear or one-person households;

b — Between 1950 and 1970 the number of extended households *increased*. In 1950 the ratio nuclear/extended was 4.5 : 1, in 1970 this ratio is 1.9 : 1!

c — The increase in extended households is greatest in the area where modernization is strongest;

d — There is no clear relation between type of household and social status of its head (Table 4);

e — Extended families have become larger, and also more heterogeneous.

The developments observed can partly be explained by the effects of strong outmigration from this area. This is especially the case with the changes in composition of the extended households. This does not apply, however, to the increase in their frequency of occurrence which is strongest in the area of least migration.

The explanation of this phenomenon is sought in the labour needs of the households in this area. The emergence of a worker-peasant structure among the agricultural population of Zone I and difficulties to hire labour by those engaged in service occupations (shopkeepers, artisans) might go far to explain the increasing number of family households here.

Toward Linguistic Competence

by Dell Hymes

The dominant trend in modern linguistics has developed through attention to a single function of language on the basis of an abstracted homogeneous form, cut off from concrete life. It is in need of the kind of critique that Marx directed at Feuerbach; it refuses to see the constitutive role of social relationships. Although many linguists are radical, or at least liberal, in their social views, their scientific commitments make impossible integration of knowledge of language with knowledge of social life, let alone work to transform them. Linguistic theory celebrates the equality in principle of all forms of language, while dismissing as superficial, or a later task, the inequalities due to cultural traditions and social relations, in the capacities of actual languages and users of language. It should be no surprise that the 'speaker-hearer' imagined in dominant theory resembles the worker free to sell his or her labor, and the consumer free to select according to his or her wants, of another branch of liberal science; or that linguistic theory that claims to deal with 'pragmatics', 'conversation', and the like, projects as universal foundations of communication principles that express an American middleclass conversation between friendly equals. Remedies for this situation are outlined.