

On the Kinship and Marriage  
in  
Korean Tanggol

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This paper is concerned with the kinship and marriage in action-groups of priest and priestess, called Tanggol, performing ritual service for the people of village along the eastern seashore of South Korea. The materials of the study come from my own participating observation of 2 years field-work, 1971 and 1972. It can be said that Tanggol has not been studied before in sociological or anthropological perspectives. It seems to me that it was very difficult to study because their community is rather closed from others.

The name Tanggol, though used among themselves sometimes, is regarded by a man of religious relationship with village as a term of derision and disrepute. Until recently and even today, Tanggol have been despised, placed at the bottom of Korean society as one of the lowest in the social stratification. Tanggol have some caste-like characteristics, being an endogamous and occupational group but without religious sanction and structural scheme.

The paper mainly concerns with, firstly, how to inherit an office in connection with a rule of descent and marriage. Secondly I tried to find out an exogamous rule in the conditioned minority. Exogamy is regarded as an ideal pattern, but it often can not be kept in practice. They should not marry with patrilineal and matrilineal kinsmen. At the same time they have maintained some

bilateral tendency of kinship.

Thirdly I analyzed social function of concubines among Tanggol. The concubinage also is not preferred, but permitted for the means to make their occupation more successful. It may be related with a role of women in performing rituals, which gives specific importance for Tanggol women.