

**Kinship in Western Uttar Pradesh:
A Re-interpretation of Sylvia Vatuk's
Model of North Indian Kinship**

Christian Strilmpell

*Institute of Ethnology, Free University of Berlin, Drosselweg 1-3, 14195 Berlin, Germany
Fax: 0049 83852382, E-mail: rwe55@hotmail.com*

KEYWORDS Kinship Terminology. Gift-exchange. Affinity

ABSTRACT This paper is based upon the researcher's M.A. thesis. The task of the thesis was to analyse different models of kinship in northern India in a comparative way. The researcher analysed the models of structural approaches by Dumont and Vatuk, the componential and reflectionist analysis by Scheffler and Turner, the approaches of cultural anthropology by Fruzzetti and Östör as well as Inden and Nicholas and the functionalist model by Tambiah. After the analysis of these different models, the researcher offered his own hypothesis concerning the kinship system of northern India on the basis of Vatuk's data on kinship in western Uttar Pradesh. In contrast to Vatuk and Dumont he came to the conclusion that affinity has a diachronic dimension not just on the analytical level of institutionalized acts and forms of behavior, but as well on the level of kinship terminology. For the sake of brevity he will restrict himself in this paper to the debate between Dumont and Vatuk and his own hypothesis.