

FURTHER NEW CONCEPTS IN FAMILY SOCIOLOGY

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In a recent article in the *Alpha Kappa Deltan* Bardis introduced several suggestive new concepts in family sociology.¹ However, after surveying these new concepts the present writers were struck by an apparent lack of logical closure in this scheme. Bardis introduced the concept *hypogamy*, defined as "marriage to a person having a lower socio-economic status than your own (sic)."² He contrasted this term with its opposite, *hypergamy*, or marriage to a person of higher socio-economic status. But nowhere did he provide us with a general concept referring to marriage with a spouse of *either* higher or lower socio-economic status. And furthermore the concept of marriage with a person of similar socio-economic status was ignored entirely! It is the purpose of the

1. Panos D. Bardis, "Four New Concepts in Family Sociology," *Alpha Kappa Deltan*, 27 (Winter, 1957), 16.

2. *Ibid.*

present paper to suggest terms which will fill these conceptual vacua.

The logical sets, *endogamy-exogamy* and *homogamy-heterogamy* are already in general use in the literature in family sociology.³ Their meanings are so general that it would be difficult to tie them down to the narrower (but more precise) concepts required here. What is needed is an entirely new set of concepts. We are, therefore, suggesting the following pair:

1. *Isogamy*:⁴ Marriage to a person of similar socio-economic status.
2. *Anisogamy*:⁵ Marriage to a person of dissimilar socio-economic status — either higher or lower.

So much for the specific problem raised by Bardis' paper. However, his contribution also poses broader questions which cannot be ignored. It is clear that a great many conditions of marriage are still not described in words derived from the Greek! Bardis has shown the way; it is up to each of us to do his part. Our preliminary endeavors are listed below:

1. *Macrogamy*:⁶ Marriage to a person taller than oneself.
2. *Microgamy*:⁷ Marriage to a person shorter than oneself.
3. *Lipogamy*:⁸ Marriage to a person fatter than oneself.
4. *Leptogamy*:⁹ Marriage to a person thinner than oneself.
5. *Presbygamy*:¹⁰ Marriage to a person older than oneself.
6. *Neogamy*:¹¹ Marriage to a person younger than oneself.
7. *Deinogamy*:¹² Marriage to a person smarter than oneself.
8. *Morogamy*:¹³ Marriage to a person dumber than oneself.

These are, of course, merely preliminary suggestions, but if each one of us does his part we will soon have a whole lexicon of respectable Greek family terms.¹⁴

3. Cf. Almost any text or book of readings in the family; e.g., Marvin B. Sussman, ed., *Sourcebook in Marriage and the Family*, New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1955.

4. *Iso*: equal and *gamy*: marriage.

5. *An*: not and *iso*: equal and *gamy*: marriage.

6. *Macro*: long and *gamy*: marriage.

7. *Micro*: small and *gamy*: marriage.

8. *Lipo*: fat and *gamy*: marriage.

9. *Lepto*: thin and *gamy*: marriage.

10. *Presby*: old and *gamy*: marriage.

11. *Neo*: new (young) and *gamy*: marriage.

12. *Deino*: intelligent and *gamy*: marriage.

13. *Moro*: unintelligent and *gamy*: marriage.

14. Cf. Malcolm Cowley, "Sociological Habit Patterns in Linguistic Transmogrification," *The Reporter*, 15, September 20, 1956, pp. 41-43.