

Morphological aspects of Australian kinship terminology
Harold Koch

This paper discusses the possible categories for which kinterms can be specified—in particular person of possessor/propositus ('my', 'your', his/her'), sets of kin (especially dyads and kin groups), and gender, and the various formal means of marking these properties—suffixation, reduplication, etc. It will explore the etymological sources of the formal markers where these are known. It will also discuss the formal structure of kin lexemes, including the use of reduplication, compounding, phrasal structure (kinterm + modifier like 'big sister'), and the absorption of erstwhile affixes—including discussion of the etymological analysis of terms no longer synchronically analyzable. The paper aims to present a first attempt to describe a typology of the morphology of the Australian (or at least Pama-Nyungan) kin nominals.