

# Contents

1	<b>Introduction and acknowledgements</b>	9
2	<b>Structuring level of a collective memory</b>	15
2.1	Social function of a structure pattern	16
2.2	Contents of cultural knowledge	19
2.3	Changeability of the structure pattern	22
2.4	Storing and passing on of the structure pattern	26
2.5	Summary - cultural knowledge and structure pattern	29
3	<b>Sources for a theory</b>	31
3.1	<b>Landscape</b>	31
3.1.1	Asmat, countryside and people	32
3.1.2	Borders, geographical and mental	34
3.2	<b>Myth in social and cultural anthropology</b>	36
3.2.1	Saunat-song	39
3.2.1.1	Context of the song presentation	39
3.2.1.2	Linguistic situation of the Asmat	40
3.2.1.3	Text structure	44
3.2.1.4	Summaries	46
3.2.1.5	Transcriptions of the Saunat song	47
3.2.1.6	Translations of the Saunat song	51
3.2.1.7	Conclusions from dealing with the text	54
3.2.1.8	Comparison of song texts	58
3.2.1.9	Multilayered dimensions of the mythic text	88
3.2.2	Saunat-myth	89
3.2.2.1	Saunat, myth or myths	90
3.2.2.2	Interview in Nanai	95
3.2.2.3	Interview in Basim	96
3.2.2.4	Placing of the Saunat-myth in the life of the Asmat	110
3.2.3	Structural analysis of the Saunat-song	111
3.2.3.1	Method of the structural analysis	112
3.2.3.2	Application of the method	112
3.2.3.2.1	Levels of the Saunat-story	114
3.2.3.2.1.1	Geographical aspect	114
3.2.3.2.1.2	Economical aspect	120
3.2.3.2.1.3	Sociological aspect	124
3.2.3.2.1.4	Cosmological aspect	131
3.2.3.2.2	Interwoven aspects	135
3.2.3.3	Summary – structural analysis Saunat	138

3.2.4	Context and function of the myth . . . . .	140
3.2.4.1	Context of the Saunat-myth . . . . .	142
3.2.4.2	Mythological context . . . . .	145
3.2.4.2.1	Spirits as animals in myths . . . . .	147
3.2.4.2.2	Humans as animals in myths . . . . .	150
3.2.4.2.3	Underworld in myths . . . . .	154
3.2.4.2.4	Upper world in myths . . . . .	156
3.2.4.2.5	Night in myths . . . . .	160
3.2.4.2.6	Myths – summary . . . . .	162
3.2.5	Music with the Asmat . . . . .	163
3.2.5.1	Synchronization . . . . .	164
3.2.5.2	Social balance . . . . .	167
3.2.5.2.1	Social balance referring to the stratification . . . . .	167
3.2.5.2.2	Integrating the whole community . . . . .	171
3.2.5.2.3	Passing on the social system to the youngsters . . . . .	173
3.2.5.2.4	Emotional integration . . . . .	174
3.2.5.3	Traditional songs – musical structure . . . . .	175
3.2.5.3.1	Textual paradigm . . . . .	175
3.2.5.3.2	Rhythm . . . . .	177
3.2.5.3.3	Rhythm Saunat-song . . . . .	178
3.2.5.4	Asmat music – summary . . . . .	182
3.3	<b>Social fields</b> . . . . .	183
3.3.1	Position . . . . .	185
3.3.2	Marriage . . . . .	189
3.3.3	Economy . . . . .	191
3.3.4	Warfare . . . . .	194
3.3.5	Cosmology . . . . .	199
3.3.5.1	Time . . . . .	201
3.3.5.2	Ancestors . . . . .	213
3.3.5.3	Dugout canoe . . . . .	214
3.3.5.4	Cosmological concept and social structure . . . . .	220
4	<b>Conclusion of the theory of a mental structure</b> . . . . .	223
4.1	Reconstruction of a mental structure with the Asmat . . . . .	223
4.2	Theory of a mental structure . . . . .	226
4.3	Divers structure patterns . . . . .	230
5	<b>References</b> . . . . .	233
5.1	Bibliography . . . . .	233
5.2	Reference-books . . . . .	239
5.3	Unpublished research material . . . . .	240
6	<b>Illustrations</b> . . . . .	241
7	<b>Index</b> . . . . .	243