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BASIC MATERIALS IN WARNDARANG:  
GRAMMAR, TEXTS AND DICTIONARY

by

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*for Lindsay Joshua*





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### List of Abbreviations

(Note: Some abbreviations occur fully capitalised in the texts, with first letter only capitalised in the grammar and dictionary.)

|      |                                             |
|------|---------------------------------------------|
| Abl  | Ablative                                    |
| Abs  | Absolutive                                  |
| Act  | Actual                                      |
| Adj  | Adjective, adjectival                       |
| Adv  | Adverb                                      |
| All  | Allative                                    |
| Art  | Article                                     |
| Aux  | Auxiliary                                   |
| AuxC | Auxiliary (Continuous aspect)               |
| AuxP | Auxiliary (Punctual aspect)                 |
| Ben  | Benefactive                                 |
| Br   | Brother                                     |
| C    | Continuous; Consonant                       |
| Cen  | Centripetal                                 |
| Ch   | Child                                       |
| Conj | Conjunction                                 |
| Corr | Correlated with (synonym in other language) |
| Da   | Daughter                                    |
| Dem  | Demonstrative                               |
| Dir  | Directional                                 |
| Du   | Dual                                        |
| Ex   | Exclusive                                   |

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| F          | Feminine                  |
| Fa         | Father                    |
| Fe         | Feminine                  |
| Fut        | Future                    |
| Hu         | Husband                   |
| Imper      | Imperative                |
| In         | Inclusive                 |
| Indef      | Indefinite                |
| Infl       | Inflectable               |
| Inst       | Instrumental              |
| Int        | Interjection              |
| Intr       | Intransitive              |
| Irr        | Irrealis                  |
| Loc        | Locative                  |
| M          | Masculine                 |
| Ma         | Masculine                 |
| MaSg, etc. | See Ma and Sg, etc.       |
| Mo         | Mother                    |
| N          | Noun; (unspecified) Nasal |
| NC         | Noun-Class                |
| Neg        | Negative                  |
| Nom        | Nominaliser               |
| Nungg      | Nunggubuyu (language)     |
| P          | Punctual                  |
| Pa         | Past                      |
| Part       | Particle                  |
| Pauc       | Paucal                    |
| Pers       | Person                    |
| Pl         | Plural                    |
| pl.n.      | place name                |
| Pos        | Positive                  |

|       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| Poss  | Possessive            |
| Pot   | Potential             |
| Prf   | Prefix                |
| Pro   | Pronoun               |
| Pun   | Punctual              |
| Pur   | Purposive             |
| R     | River                 |
| Rdp   | Reduplication         |
| Recip | Reciprocal            |
| Refl  | Reflexive             |
| Sg    | Singular              |
| Si    | Sister                |
| So    | Son                   |
| Syn   | Synonym               |
| Tr    | Transitive            |
| V     | Verb; Vowel           |
| Warnd | Warndarang (language) |
| Wi    | Wife                  |

## Other Symbols:

|            |                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| ∅          | zero; untranslatable morpheme         |
| +          | boundary after main verb              |
| -          | morpheme-boundary                     |
| #          | word-boundary                         |
| 1, 2, 3... | pronominal persons; verb-class number |
| :::        | stylistic lengthening of a vowel      |



# WARNDARANG GRAMMAR

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. The Setting

The Warndarang language (waŋɖaraŋ with retroflexed ŋɖ and flap r) was the northernmost member of the Mara-Alawic family, which included Yugul as well as Mara and Alawa. This family occupied a continuous area ranging from the Gulf of Carpentaria coast just north of the Rose River to a point between the mouth of the Limmen Bight River and Borroloola, and stretching inland to include the areas around Ngukurr (Roper River settlement) and Hodgson Downs. Yugul is now extinct but is said to have been similar to Mara. A rough sketch of the area in question is shown as Map 1.

The last proficient speaker of Warndarang was Isaac Joshua of Ngukurr, with whom I worked in 1973 and early 1974. He belonged to a clan centred at the place maŋajara, and which controlled the area around the Phelp River, a northward-flowing tributary of the Roper River. This clan, whose members have the surname Joshua, were called marawalwal.

A small clan called nuŋgayiŋbalaŋ in Nunggubuyu owned the area around the mouth of the Rose River, including the site of Numbulwar Mission. They are said to have originally spoken Warndarang and Ngandi, but present-day members speak Nunggubuyu and Mara. The clan called nuŋgumajbar in Nunggubuyu, based at wumajbar billabong, also spoke Warndarang and Ngandi originally. The nuŋgaŋulgu clan to the north of the nuŋgayiŋbalaŋ is said to have spoken primarily Warndarang. (The nuŋgumajbar and nuŋgaŋulgu are sometimes lumped together as 'nuŋgumajbar' by Aborigines as well as researchers.)

An important clan called numamuɖiɖl in Nunggubuyu consists of two subclans. The subclan based at wuyagiba, a beach area just north of the Roper River mouth, probably spoke Warndarang primarily although

some descendants claim that Nunggubuyu has always been their language. The other subclan, centred at amaḷibil north of the Rose River and well inland, spoke Ngandi.

Another clan belonging to the same semimoiety (mambali) as the numamuḷiḷi is centred at wanmaḷi, which is somewhere near maḷajara between the Roper and Rose rivers. This clan definitely spoke Warndarang.

Around the mouth of the Roper River and southward along the coast to the Towns River is the territory of the clan called wuḷiḷiguḷiḷi. This clan probably spoke Warndarang but also knew Mara well.\*

The Mara language, which is still spoken by around twenty or thirty persons, and on which I have undertaken fieldwork, was spoken along much of the Limmen Bight River. The Yugul were divided into two groups by Isaac, the yugul proper in the area around Ngukurr, and the yugulmaḷgi in the billabong country south of Ngukurr. Alawa country is inland, west of Mara and south of Yugul, including the Hodgson Downs area.

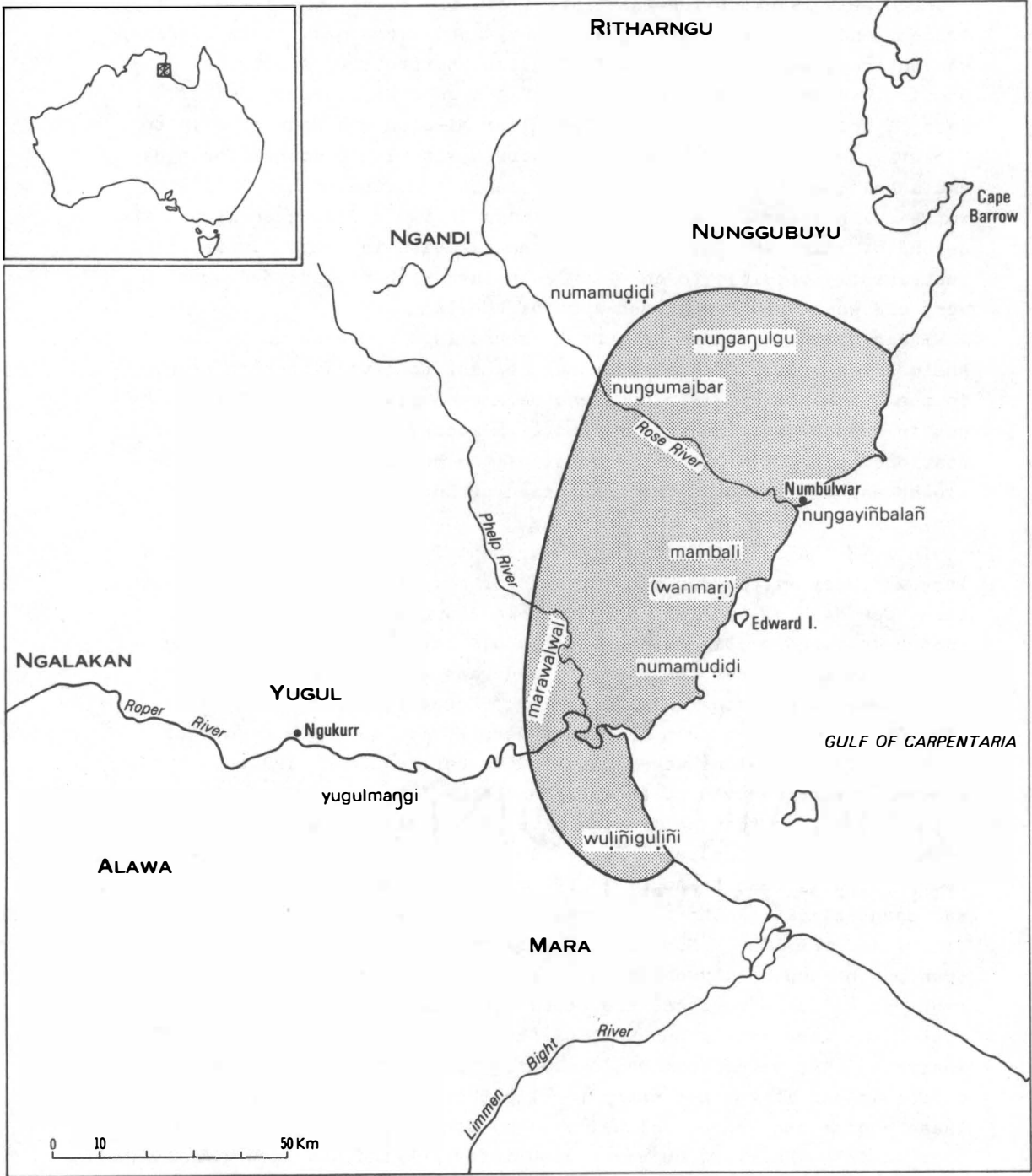
The term (ḷa-)ḷuḷguḷaḷur was obtained from Isaac as a general designation for the Warndarang and Yugul and perhaps other nearby groups in the Roper River area. It is translated *fish hunters* by Aboriginals speaking English, but etymologically the term contains gentilic ḷuN- and the noun wu-ḷaḷur *corroboree* and hence really means *corroboree people*.

The term waḷḷaraḷ was used by Warndarang people as a designation for their language and for themselves as a language group. The term (ḷa-)wuyarawaia is also recorded as a designation for the Warndarang language. The Warndarang and their language are called waḷḷaraḷ by all surrounding language groups to the best of my knowledge.

The social classification of the Warndarang appears to have been essentially identical to that of the Mara. Like the Mara, the Warndarang classified persons into four named patrilineal semimoieties (mambali, muruḷun, wuḷal, guyal-wuyai), which were significant especially in ritual contexts. There was a weak tendency to associate mambali and muruḷun together as one unnamed moiety, and wuḷal and guyal as another. Thus an old man of the mambali clan at wanmaḷi, named Johnnie (ḷaḷuru), explained to me that he was capable of singing, and was permitted to sing, muruḷun as well as mambali songs because these two semimoieties were 'company' (i.e. closely affiliated), but could not help me with wuḷal or guyal songs. My principal informant, Isaac, was guyal.

The Nunggubuyu, to the north, have named moieties and (more-or-less) unnamed semimoieties, but their basic social organisation is similar to that of the Warndarang.

\*See note at end of Chapter One, p. 7.



## 1.2. Fieldwork

From July 1973 until August 1976 I did fieldwork in eastern Arnhem Land, concentrating on Nunggubuyu and Ritharngu. This research was entirely supported by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. Hearing that there was only one good Warndarang speaker left, I interrupted my work at Numbulwar Mission and went briefly to Ngukurr toward the end of 1973. I worked with Isaac Joshua for a day and a half, mostly getting names of plants and fish. In 1974 I worked with Isaac for about fifteen days in two separate sessions, the second of which was terminated by Isaac's death in July. It was subsequently possible to check a few points with Elizabeth Joshua, a very old woman who remembered some of the language.

Isaac Joshua was born somewhere around 1904 and grew up in the Phelp River region. As a young man he went to live with Mara people in the Limmen Bight River area and became as proficient in Mara as he was in Warndarang. He then worked as a stockman at a succession of stations to the south and southeast of the Roper River. In his old age he was in demand in the area as an authority on Aboriginal ceremonies.

In 1973 and 1974 the situation was that Isaac had used his native language very little for twenty years or so. Particularly in the first few days of my fieldwork, this led to his giving me some incorrect paradigmatic material or to his failing to remember some forms. In most cases these errors and gaps were later remedied in the course of checking and rechecking. However, Isaac could not remember some of the more difficult verb forms, so these remain as gaps. A few Mara-isms were noted in the earliest material collected, and were later removed at Isaac's request.

Somewhat less than half of my time with Isaac was spent recording, transcribing, and analysing texts, as well as going over texts which had previously been transcribed by Capell and Sharpe. The remainder was spent eliciting short utterances such as flora-fauna terms, verb forms, and the like. Nominal and pronominal morphology was basically transparent and easily obtained by elicitation, except that kin terms required a little patience and double-checking. The demonstrative system was more tricky but most of the nuances emerged from textual analysis. The verbal system, including pronominal prefixes, was difficult and it was necessary to elicit persistently in this area; Isaac became annoyed occasionally at my double-checking 'over and over again'. However, he was a good informant and his good command of English and its creole varieties, as well as Nunggubuyu and other

Aboriginal languages, was of invaluable help. The contact language was mainly English, except that some vocabulary domains (especially flora-fauna) were sometimes best investigated with Nunggubuyu cues. On good days our work together totalled five hours or so in two separate sessions.

Flora vocabulary was elicited principally by collecting specimens from Numbulwar and Ngukurr, both in or near Warndarang country; these were identified by botanists in Darwin and Canberra. Fauna vocabulary was elicited mainly by showing Isaac pictures or photos of species known to occur in the area. This procedure was far from being infallible, but it was the only way to operate in a short time, and I had done enough work on Nunggubuyu flora-fauna vocabulary to enable me to avoid excessive misidentifications (for example, I knew that certain pictures of birds could be confusing, but ambiguity could be resolved by supplying verbal information about habitat, size, etc.). The usual handbooks such as Munro's *The Fishes of New Guinea* (for marine fish), Lake's *Freshwater Rivers and Fishes of Australia*, Cogger's *Australian Reptiles in Color*, and so forth, were used. Although the accuracy of species identifications for Warndarang is less than in the other dictionaries I am preparing, the great majority are certainly accurate in terms of 1974 taxonomy (but readers should note that taxonomic revisions are constantly changing nomenclature).

Readers interested in library research on this language will find my typewritten field notes, lodged at the Institute, fairly intelligible, and can also listen to tapes collected by myself and Dr Sharpe, which are lodged and catalogued at the Institute.

### 1.3. Previous Research

Warndarang materials collected by previous fieldworkers, Dr Capell and Dr Margaret Sharpe (née Cunningham), are mostly unpublished. Dr Capell published two transcribed and translated texts (1960) and a few notes on the grammar (1942). His raw field notes were made available to me by A.I.A.S., but were of little use since they are very raw indeed and difficult for another researcher to decipher. I did, however, go through the two texts in Capell (1960) with Isaac and obtained a revised transcription and analysis, cf. Heath (1974a). Isaac told me that the principal informant used by Dr Capell was his brother Joshua Joshua, who died many years ago.

In 1965 Dr Sharpe worked on Alawa at Ngukurr, and on the side spent three days with Isaac working on Warndarang. She recorded several

short texts and obtained tentative transcriptions and phrase-by-phrase translations in Roper River Pidgin. Although I was unable to go over these texts with Isaac before he died, I did listen to the tapes and revised Dr Sharpe's transcription as well as producing word-by-word glosses. This was possible since most of the material in these texts was relatively easy and repetitive; cf. Heath (1974b).

I wish to thank both Dr Capell and Dr Sharpe for permission to use their unpublished materials and for cooperating with me in other ways. The combination of the materials collected by the three of us has resulted in a much richer textual corpus than any one of us obtained. My texts are mostly of the swashbuckling variety; Dr Capell's are traditional dreamtime narratives; and Dr Sharpe's are mostly melancholy reflections on the passing of the language.

One of my texts, describing a massacre which took place around Hodgson Downs before the turn of the century, will be published in a volume of texts on the subject of Aboriginal-European contact to be edited by Peter Sutton and Luise Hercus and published by A.I.A.S.; cf. Heath (forthcoming -a).

#### 1.4. Methodology

I have tried to write this grammar as far as possible in simple prose, without larding it with transformational algebra. This is due to several factors: the nature of the language itself, the writer's predilections, and the fact that in some instances the data are insufficient to support rigorous formalisations.

The language is already virtually dead, so I have not oriented the grammar toward practical uses such as those to which some of my other publications on viable languages will be applied.

The principal goal which I have had in mind in writing this volume has been contributing some basic descriptive material which will be useful in the long-term comparative study of languages in the south-eastern Arnhem Land area. I believe that this study will prove to be very interesting for theory, since evidence is accumulating pointing to very substantial diffusion of linguistic material across genetic family boundaries in this region. Some things which are not supposed to be transferable have in fact been transferred from one language to another, e.g. from Nunggubuyu to Warndarang or from Ritharngu to Ngandi. I am thinking particularly about grammatical morphemes like case suffixes, noun-class prefixes, verbalising suffixes, and the like (Heath 1978), as well as massive diffusion of vocabulary.

Obviously, for such a study to achieve worthwhile results it is absolutely essential that we get reliable information on every language in the relevant region. Since Warndarang was in immediate danger of becoming extinct when I arrived in Arnhem Land, I am particularly relieved that fieldwork on it was possible.

Although this volume has many defects and gaps, which are quite apparent to the writer, I feel that it will provide sufficient information to make it useful in a broad areal study, and also in the study of the history of the Mara-Alawic family. With respect to the latter, I am especially happy that reasonably detailed information was obtained concerning the forms and meaning of inflectable verbs (including auxiliaries). I believe that this aspect of morphology has been relatively immune from areal borrowings, and so constitutes the most useful basis for applying standard, non-areal historical linguistic techniques and for ultimately determining the genetic position of Warndarang within the Mara-Alawic group.

\* Note: Elizabeth (see 1.1 below) belonged to another clan, of wuḍal semimoietry, located between the Rose and Roper rivers. I do not know the exact location of its territory and I am not certain that it was entirely Warndarang-speaking.

## CHAPTER TWO

### PHONOLOGY

#### 2.1. Consonantal Phonemes

The consonants of Warndarang are listed in Table 2-1.

There are no stop oppositions of the fortis/lenis type found in languages to the north and west (e.g. Ngandi and reconstructed Proto-Nunggubuyu). Occasional reduplications like *gunduggundug crooked* are best considered as containing clusters such as *gg* rather than a fortis stop *k*.

In the case of lamino-alveolar *j*, however, it should be mentioned that there is a fairly common cluster *dj* which in some ways patterns as the fortis form of *j*. This sound occurs, for example, in *mudju river coolibah*.

Simple stops are most often phonetically voiced and lenis except in syllable-final position, where they are normally voiceless. However, the uncommon interdental stop *ɟ* is always fortis and voiceless. Most or all words with this sound are loanwords from Nunggubuyu or another northern language, as in *ɾaɟar dugong harpoon*.

Table 2-1

|            | Bi-<br>labials | Inter-<br>dentals | Apico-<br>alveolars | Retro-<br>flexed | Lamino-<br>alveolars | Velars |
|------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Stops      | b              | ɟ                 | d                   | ɖ                | j                    | g      |
| Nasals     | m              |                   | n                   | ɳ                | ɲ                    | ŋ      |
| Laterals   |                |                   | l                   | ɭ                |                      |        |
| R-Sounds   |                |                   | r                   | ɾ                |                      |        |
| Semivowels |                |                   |                     |                  | y                    | w      |



A reasonable case could be made for taking homorganic nasal-stop sequences like *nd* and *ng* as unit phonemes. The evidence is not quite as cogent as in Alawa, where word-initial nasal-stop sequences are found (Sharpe 1972:16).

In Warndarang, such combinations normally cannot occur on the surface, but there are many noun stems which begin with them, e.g. (wu-)ndula *leg*. When the noun-class prefix is omitted the nasal is usually not pronounced, so we get *dula*. If the question whether *nd* and other such combinations are phonemic units is decided on the basis of distributional patterning (as it should be), we are then faced with the problem of choosing our reference point - underlying representations (where /ndula/ is possible), or surface forms.

My feeling is that *nd* and similar sounds are somewhere between ordinary clusters and obvious unit phonemes, so little light is shed by forcing a decision between the unit and cluster analyses. The fact that *nd* and similar sounds occur initially in many noun stems sets them apart from other clusters; the only other clusters which occur stem-initially are *ng* in interrogative stems like *-nga what?* and *dñ-nñ* in the demonstrative stem *-dñaya~-nñaya*. In rules determining permissible triple clusters, *nd* and similar combinations also tend to differ from ordinary clusters. However, *nd* and the like cannot occur syllable-finally, whereas all productive unit phonemes can (*ŋ* cannot, but this is a rare and marginal phoneme).

Phonemic glottal stops abound in languages to the north and west such as Ngandi and Ngalkbon, and probably Ngalakan. However, they are absent from Nunggubuyu, Mara, and languages to the south. In Warndarang, I heard phonetic glottal stops fairly often, but I am aware of no clear evidence that these sounds are phonemic. Words ending in vowels, when pronounced in isolation, often optionally add a phonetic glottal stop at the end, but this is unstable and disappears in non-prepausal position. By contrast, those Ngandi words which have final glottal stops show them clearly in all sentential positions.

The other position where phonetic glottal stops occur in Warndarang is between two consonants. The two are apparently always sonorants (liquids, semivowels, nasals), and by far the most common case is where the first consonant is a liquid and the second is a nasal. An example is *miṛmiṛya yesterday*, which was usually heard as *miṛʔmiṛya*. This phenomenon was also noted over the + boundary (cf. 6.1), as in *wuṛ+ŋa-gaṇi* (frequently heard as *wuṛʔ+ŋa-gaṇi*) *I put it down*. My conclusion was that the glottal stops in Warndarang are nonphonemic.

Alveolar *r* is a flap; retroflexed *ɾ* is a glide like American *r*.

The sequence *ly* occurs in only a few words. On the basis of both articulation and distributional patterning I regard this as a cluster rather than as a unit phoneme parallel to *ñ*.

In general, apico-alveolar and retroflexed consonants are not distinguished word- or stem-initially, or after consonants. Apical consonants which do occur word- or stem-initially are normally heard as retroflexed where it is possible to observe the distinction (i.e., after a word ending in a vowel), and stems like *ɟirwu* to *dive in* reduplicate as *ɟirwu-ɟirwu*, where the retroflexion is more easily heard in the second occurrence of the stem. However, initial *nd* contrasts with *ŋɟ* in noun stems (these are clearly distinct when a noun-class prefix like *wu-* is present). There is also one noun beginning in *d* as opposed to the many with initial *ɟ*. This is *daga sister*, as in *ŋi-daga-ñu his sister* and *(ŋa-nu) daga your sister*. Since a stem-shape *-ndaga* is also found (cf. 3.9) we may regard this initial *d* as representing *\*nd* at least etymologically, so that alongside the *nd/ŋɟ* initial opposition there are no clear traces of an opposition *d/ɟ*.

Regardless of whether there is a phonemic opposition between *d* and *ɟ*, *n* and *ŋ*, and *l* and *ɭ* in initial position, I will transcribe these sounds phonetically (hence *ŋ* and *ɭ* instead of *n* and *l*, and *ɟ* except in *daga*). After consonants, where I could hear no apicoalveolar/retroflexed opposition, I will use the apicoalveolar symbols (hence *guɭday* instead of *\*guɭɟay*, etc.) except in the cluster *ŋɟ* and in cases where we know from other forms that the second consonant is retroflexed (as in reduplicated *ɟabur-ɟabur*).

Boundaries: # is a word- (or clause-) boundary, over which regular phonological rules do not apply. The symbol + is used for the special boundary between a main verb and the following inflected auxiliary. The symbol - is used for other word-internal morpheme-boundaries. There is no clear direct phonological realisation of such boundaries, but + and - both permit various phonological rules to apply across them. For example, rule P-3 applies only at the + boundary, while P-9 applies only at the - boundary (cf. below).

For the symbol *N* in Gentilic *ŋuN-*, cf. 3.12.

## 2.2. Vocalic Phonemes

The basic vowels are *a*, *i*, *u*. In addition to these, Mara has two or three instances of *e*, and in a more exhaustive Warndarang lexicon one or two of these same lexical items might have turned up with *e*.

The common interjection yo::: (usually with some stylistic lengthening) *yes, good!* is the only example of o-quality. This interjection, with a variant yowey!, is found in many Aboriginal languages and in Pidgin English in the area.

Mara tends to phonetically lengthen vowels in open initial syllables in bisyllabic words (e.g. *ɖuŋal spear* becomes phonetic *ɖu:ŋal*), but no such process occurs in Warndarang.

Despite the apparent absence, or at least extreme rarity, of e and o phonemes, the three basic vowels (a, i, u) do not show any particular tendency toward wide allophonic range. In normal, moderately careful speech I did not notice any of these basic vowel phonemes showing allophones such as [o, ɔ, e, ɛ]. The vowel a is usually a back vowel, like the first vowel of English *father*; I did not notice an allophone [æ] as a regular feature in any environment.

### 2.3. Distributional Restrictions

I will describe only the main patterns here. There are no word- or stem-initial clusters except as described in 2.14.

Word- and stem-final clusters are of the type AB, where A is a nonnasal sonorant (liquid or semivowel) and B is a velar or lamino-alveolar stop or nasal. Examples: (ɾa-)wajaɭg *mud*; jaɭg *to stab*; jawj *to surround*; (ɾa-)mur̃mur̃ *bubbles*. The only other apparent stem-final clusters result from Stop-Insertion P-3 (cf. 2.6), e.g. *ɳimb+u-ŋa-gaya I will make a camp* from /*ɳim+u-ŋa-gaya*/. However, here it is questionable whether the inserted b is to the left or right of the + boundary.

Medial triple clusters are uncommon. Liquids can be followed by homorganic nasal-stop clusters: (ŋi-)ŋulŋgun *bee sp.*; buɾŋgur *dirty water*. Another type shows a syllable-final cluster beginning the following syllables: (ɾa-)guɭgmin *heavy*. This type also occurs in frozen reduplications like (ɾa-)guralgguralg *koel bird* and (ɾa-)ŋirgŋirg *cockatoo*; note also (ɾa-)mur̃mur̃ mentioned above.

Medial double clusters are of many types, though not all possible combinations are attested. (The cluster nj counts as homorganic, since there is no distinction, to my knowledge, between nj and ñj, and the clusters which do occur are here transcribed as nj.) Geminate clusters do not normally occur, except in a handful of frozen reduplications like garaggarag *darther (duck sp.)*. Some clusters of nonhomorganic stops are attested: jaɖbin *fish trap*; bugbana *swamp pheasant*; ɖiliyagɖiliyag *wedge-tailed eagle*; ɾaŋajba *fat*.

Homorganic nasal-stop clusters are very common medially. Non-homorganic nasal-stop clusters of some types can also be found: ya|iṅga *uncircumcised*. Some examples of nasal-nasal clusters: miṅṅaṅa *sleep (n.)*; biṅmiri *tree sp.*; ḍiṅmanjar *kingfisher*. An occasional stop-nasal cluster turns up: wudṅuy *two*; ṅagṅag *white-breasted sea eagle*.

Clusters beginning with liquids are common: galṅi *until*; ṅalbum *to dawn*; muraṅbu *crab*. However, liquids are not normally found as the second members of clusters.

There are a few instances of word-initial vowels, chiefly in adverbs. Examples: arga|i *west* and its derivatives; ablative prefix an(a)- used with cardinal direction terms, as in ana-wuṅmi *from the north*. The common noun-class prefix ṅa- has an occasional variant a-; the latter variant was used rarely by Isaac but regularly by Elizabeth. The third person intransitive pronominal prefixes and some third person on third person transitive prefixes begin with a; e.g. third singular intransitive a-. However, at an underlying level it may be necessary to posit a representation /wa-/, and so on for the other third person forms, for morphophonemic reasons. The /w/ hardens to surface g after a stop or nasal and disappears otherwise.

The Potential prefix added to verbs appears to have a base-form /u-/, but when word-initial this is normally pronounced wu- and cannot be distinguished from underlying /wu-/. Therefore we can say that u can occur word-initially in underlying representations but not on the surface. Similar comments could be made about i, since at certain intermediate points in the derivation of inflected verb stems beginning with /i/ and preceded only by third singular /wa-/ there is a word-initial /i/ which later becomes yi.

On the surface, a is the only word-initial vowel permitted.

#### 2.4. Stop-Lenition

Warndarang does not have the elaborate alternations of stops and nonstops found in Nunggubuyu, but there are some examples of the following alternations: g/w, b/w, j/y. In most such instances the stop is historically and synchronically primary.

The alternations b/w and j/y occur in certain reduplications where the second occurrence of the stem-initial b or j is intervocalic: jaṅi-yaṅi from jaṅi *to do continuously* (cf. noun -njaṅi *many*); -biyi-wiyima from -biyima, a reciprocal auxiliary verb. The rule can be given as follows:



Examples: jaj+ga-ja *he chased him* and gal+a-ja *he speared him* with /Wa-/ 3SG → 3SG; ɾaŋ+gara-gaŋi *they killed him* and gi+tara-gaŋi *they took him* with /Wara-/ 3PL → 3SG. The formula A+B here means a transitive pronominal prefix (cf. 4.4) indicating A as subject and B as object.

It would be entirely possible to do away with the morphophoneme /W/ and instead formulate a rule inserting g in this position; the prefixes would then have an underlying form like /a-/, /ara-/, etc.

## 2.6. Stop-Insertion

The Potential prefix, which precedes pronominal prefixes attached to inflected verbs or auxiliaries, often shows up on the surface as wu- but is here assigned a base-form /u-/. The form u- is found on the surface when preceded by a main verb ending in a stop, as in ɳad+u-ŋa-ɾa *I will run*. After liquids and semivowels we get either wu- or u-, so that gal+u-ŋa-ɾa and gal+wu-ŋa-ɾa are both possible for *I will grow*. After vowels, or in the absence of a preceding main verb, the prefix was usually heard as wu-, as in wu-ŋa-ɾara *I will go*.

Stop-Insertion applies when /u-/ is preceded by a stem ending in a nasal. A stop is inserted, agreeing with the point of articulation of the nasal except that g (not j) is inserted after ñ. The rule can be written like this:

$$P-3 \quad \emptyset \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} b \\ d \\ \text{ɖ} \\ g \end{bmatrix} // \begin{bmatrix} m \\ n \\ \eta \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \tilde{n} \\ \eta \end{array} \right\} \end{bmatrix} \quad \_ + u-$$

Examples: ñimb+u-ŋa-gaya *I will make a camp*; ɖiwand+u-ŋa-biñu *I will cook it*; ɖuŋɖ+u-mayiñu *he will get up*; ɾaŋg+u-ŋa-giñu *I will kill him*; wuñg+u-∅-naŋima *it (the sun) will shine*. The main verbs here are ñim, ɖiwan, ɖuŋ, ɾaŋ, and wuñ.

## 2.7. Hardening of /y/ to j

Hardening, as I use the term, is the opposite of stop-lenition. The only clear examples in Warndarang involve the verbal prefixes ya- and yu- (6.4, 6.7), whose initial semivowel is optionally converted into j after a stop or nasal: gu-ɾaŋ+ju-lu-gayimari *they are not fighting* from base-form /gu-ɾaŋ+yu-Wala-gayimari/.

Contrast unhardened *yu-* in *gu-gi+yu-∅-yaŋi* *he did not go*.

P-4     $y + j // \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Stop} \\ \text{Nasal} \end{array} \right\} + \_$

The rule applies only across the + boundary, between a main verb and the following auxiliary. It does not apply across the - boundary (other word-internal morpheme-boundaries), and therefore cannot apply to Locative *-yaŋa* (3.6).

## 2.8. Other Consonant-Cluster Rules

The cluster /rɾ/ occasionally occurs across morpheme boundaries in underlying representations, since some dual pronominal prefixes end in *r* and some inflectable verbs and auxiliaries begin in *ɾ*. When this cluster occurs it undergoes this rule:

P-5     $\text{ɾ} + \emptyset // \text{r} \_$

Examples: *wu-ñir-a we(DuEx) will go* from base-form /u-ñir(i)-ɾa/.

Often when a stop is followed by a nasal across a morpheme boundary the stop is nasalised; this is usually optional.

P-6     $\text{Stop} + \text{Nasal} // \_ - \text{Nasal}$

Examples: *gi+an-mayi they(Du) went* from base-form /gi+ad-mayi/.

There are other instances of the assimilation or contraction of consonant clusters. The limitations of the data do not permit a complete treatment.

In *na-nad*, reduplicated from *nad to run*, the base-form is /nad-nad/. First we have /nan-nad/ by P-6, then contraction of /nɳ/ to surface *n*.

Another contraction is seen in reduplicated *du-dub* from *dub to throw*, which has a base-form /dub-dub/.

Geminate clusters are generally simplified across - or + boundaries, especially in the case of geminate stops. Example: *mulg+a-ba he went to sleep* from underlying /mulg+wa-ba/ via intermediate /mulg+ga-ba/.

## 2.9. Vowel-Shifting

A final /a/ or /i/ in a pronominal prefix in the verb complex is conditionally shifted to surface *u* by the following rule:

P-7     $V + u // \left[ \begin{array}{c} \dots V \dots V \dots \\ \text{Prefixes} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{Prefixes} \end{array} \right] \_$

That is, when the final /a/ or /i/ is preceded by at least two vowels (i.e. two syllables) at the level where P-7 applies, the /a/ or /i/ becomes u.

For example, contrast *ala-ɾara they(Pl) went* from /Wala-ɾara/, where the final /a/ of /Wala-/ does not shift, with *ya-lu-ɾara they(Pl) came* and *wu-lu-ɾara they(Pl) will come*. The latter two consist of /Wala-ɾara/ preceded by Centripetal /ya-/ and Potential /u-/, respectively. Since /ya-Wala-ɾara/ and /u-Wala-ɾara/ both show two vowels preceding the final /a/ of /Wala-/, this vowel shifts to u. Note that P-7 must precede the rules which contract /uWa/ to u and /yaWa/ to ya.

Several pronominal prefixes are trisyllabic and so always show final u instead of a or i, e.g. *ñililu- 2Sg/3Sg+1PlEx*. Here it is possible to put the u in the underlying representation and so it is not necessary to have such forms undergo P-7.

The pronominal prefixes *ɲala- 1PlIn; 1PlIn+3Sg* and *ɲara- 2Sg/3Sg+1Sg* are exceptions to P-7 and do not shift their final vowel even when a prefix like /ya-/ or /u-/ is preposed to them:  
*gal+u-ɲara-jaɲa you(Sg)/he will spear me.*

## 2.10 y-Deletion

In certain prefix combinations it appears necessary to set up a rule deleting /y/. For example, *gu-gi+ya-∅-ru-gi They did not bring it* can be derived from intermediate /gu-gi+ya-u-ru-gi/, where /-u-/ here is not the Potential suffix (which cannot cooccur with Negative *gu-*) but rather a reduced form of Third Person Negative /-yu-/. Another example is *gi+ya-ru-ga Bring it!(Pl addressee)*, which should have a base form /gi-ya-yuru-ga/, with 2Pl+3Sg prefix *Curu-* taking its imperative form /yuru-/. If we convert this into /gi-ya-uru-ga/ by deleting the /y/, the correct surface form can be generated by the vowel-cluster contraction rule to be described below.

Both examples involve Centripetal *ya-* just before the /y/ which is deleted. Presumably we are dealing with some sort of haplology to avoid too many /y/'s, but it would appear that the deletion rule is isolated and morphophonemic rather than a productive phonological rule. We state it as P-8.

$$P-8 \quad y \rightarrow \emptyset // \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{ya} - \quad \dots \\ \text{Prefixes} \quad \text{Prefixes} \end{array} \right]$$



## 2.11. Vowel-Cluster Contraction

There are several instances where two or three underlying vowels come together and must be contracted into a single vowel. This situation arises frequently in verb complexes.

If the final vowel is /i/ the contracted vowel is i, as in *gu-gur+η-idi* *I did not steal it* from /*gu-gur+ηa-idi*/.

In geminate clusters the surface vowel quality is, of course, the same as that of the underlying vowels: *ηab+ja-∅-ra* *It came up* from /*ηab+ya-Wa-ra*/ via /*ηab+ya-a-ra*/.

The other underlying clusters which arise are /ua/ and /au/. The former cluster turns up when Potential /u-/ or Third Person Negative /yu-/ precedes third person pronominal prefixes beginning in /Wa/; the /W/ drops out here and /ua/ becomes surface u. An example: *wu-∅-ra* *He will go* from /*u-Wa-ra*/.

The cluster /au/ becomes a in *gi+ya-ru-ga* *Bring it!* (Pl addressee) from /*gi+ya-uru-ga*/, with /-uru-/ from /-yuru-/ by P-9.

We may formulate the rule tentatively as P-9:

|     |          |   |       |
|-----|----------|---|-------|
| P-9 | $V_1V_1$ | → | $V_1$ |
|     | $Vi$     | → | i     |
|     | ua       | → | u     |
|     | au       | → | a     |

A triple cluster occurs in *gu-gur+y-∅-ida* from /*gu-gur+yu-Wa-ida*/ *He will not steal it*. When the /W/ is deleted we get a cluster /uai/. The correct output i can be generated by applying P-9 twice, starting either with /ua/ or with /ai/ and then reducing the intermediate form /ui/ to i.

The contraction rule does not operate over the + boundary between main verbs and the following morphemes in verb complexes: *wari+wu-ηa-ra* *I will go back* from /*wari+u-ηa-ra*/; *wari+a-ra* *He is going back* from /*wari+Wa-ra*/ . Therefore surface sequences *a+a*, *i+a*, and *u+a* are found. In the first of these there is a hiatus (though no glottal stop or other sharp boundary-marker), with two syllabic prominences. In the second case, I am not certain whether phonetic contrasts with *i+ya* could be directly observed; since the sequence \**u+wa* does not happen to occur there is no way to tell whether it would be phonetically identical to *u+a*.

## 2.12. Semivowel-Insertion

Examples have already been given showing the insertion of initial epenthetic w before Potential /u-/ when this morpheme is word-initial or follows a main verb ending in a vowel or liquid (in the latter case the w is optional). Since there are no other instances of word-initial or stem-initial /u/, this can be considered a regular phonological rule rather than a special morphophonemic one.

Furthermore, auxiliary stems beginning in /i/ receive a parallel epenthetic semivowel y when they become word-initial or follow main verbs ending in vowels, semivowels, or liquids. This happens when a pronominal prefix /Wa-/ 3Sg is phonologically eliminated by the deletion of /W/ in P-2 and by the absorption of /a/ by the stem-final /i/ in P-9. Examples:  $\emptyset$ -yiḍaṅa *he defecated* from /Wa-iḍaṅa/;  $\lambda$ aw+ $\emptyset$ -yiṅa *he crossed it* from / $\lambda$ aw+Wa-iṅa/.

We may formulate the rule like this:

$$P-10 \quad \emptyset \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} w \\ y \end{bmatrix} // \left\{ \begin{array}{c} V \\ \text{Liquid} \\ \text{Semivowel} \\ \# \end{array} \right\} + \left. \right\} - \begin{bmatrix} u \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

Whenever the sequence /Wa-i.../ occurs after a main verb ending in a stop or nasal, the /W/ becomes g by P-2. Therefore the epenthetic y created by P-10 will never undergo hardening to j by P-4, since P-10 will never introduce a /y/ following a stop or nasal.

## 2.13. Reduplication

There are three reduplication patterns, all initial:

- a. bisyllabic: CVCV-
- b. monosyllabic: CV-
- c. full

Inflectable verbs normally take the bisyllabic reduplication. There may be lenition of a stem-initial stop in its intervocalic occurrence. Examples: wu-ṅala-gaya-gaya *We will keep taking it*; ala-biyi-wiyima *They were all fighting*.

There are two examples of the monosyllabic type with inflectable verbs: ṅara-wi-wini *They (always) give it to me*; wu-ru-ga-gayama *They will hear it*.

The inflectable verb can be reduplicated only if there is no preceding main verb. If there is a main verb, the latter is what gets

reduplicated. In this event the reduplication is the full type: *waꞑ-waꞑ+ŋa-wiŋɖima I saw him frequently; ɲiŋɖal-ɲiŋɖal+a-gaya He transported them.* This type is quite common.

Reduplication in verb complexes usually indicates repetition, distribution, or continuity of action. The inflected verb is therefore normally in the Continuous form in those tenses which distinguish Continuous from Punctual. However, a handful of Punctual reduplications are attested, perhaps with intensive or multiple connotations.

About two dozen noun stems are attested in bisyllabic reduplications indicating multiple plurality. Most of these are human status terms: *wulu-muna-munaŋa-ñu white people* (stem -munaŋa-); *wulu-jawu-yawulba-ñu old people*; *wulu-ɾiɖa-ɾiɖarŋu(-ñu) Ritharngu people* (a tribe name). This type of reduplication is very rare with adjectival nouns and nonhuman nouns; about the only examples which come to mind are -*njaꞑi-njaꞑi many* (simplex -*njaꞑi*) and *wu-!u!ga-!u!ga islands* (simplex -!u!ga-).

This reduplicative type should be distinguished from the many frozen, lexicalised reduplicated noun stems like *marañmarañ grass sp.* and *gunduggundug crooked*. In the frozen type the reduplication does not specifically indicate plurality, and the unreduplicated simplex does not occur.

When a compounding element is preposed to an uninflected main verb, only the latter is reduplicated: *gu!a-ŋaw to lie down*, reduplication *gu!a-ŋaw-ŋaw*. The composite inflectable stem -*maljuꞑa* (-*mal-juꞑa*) *to be sitting* reduplicates to -*mal-maljuꞑa*.

The reduplication of -*mama*, the Past Actual Continuous/Future Positive Continuous of the inflectable verb stem -*ma-*, is irregular. In this form the second -*ma-* is a Continuous affix found also with other verb stems, and is not a reduplicated segment. We would expect the reduplication of -*mama* to be \*-*mama-mama* or \*-*ma-mama*, but neither occurs. As it turns out, the only form which can be reduplicated is *a-mama* with 3Sg pronominal prefix *a-*. The reduplication is formed by chopping off the final syllable and repeating the entire verb form: *a-ma-a-ma*. This has four syllabic prominences.

#### 2.14. Nasal-Deletion

In ordinary speech, noun stems beginning with *mb*, *nd*, *ɲɖ*, *ŋg*, or *ɲj* lose their nasal when no prefixes are present to 'protect' them. Hence *wu-ndula* and prefixless *dula leg*.

## P-11 Nasal + Ø // # \_\_ C

This rule also applies to /ngaŋu/ *east*, with an initial non-homorganic cluster. The usual form is gaŋu, but the adverb wu-niñi *there* combines with it to form a frozen sequence wu-niñi-ngaŋu. Taking the base-form as /ngaŋu/, we derive gaŋu by allowing P-11 to apply.

Interrogative stems like -nga beginning with ng, and demonstrative -dñaya--nñaya, always have prefixes and so are unaffected by P-11.

Verb stems normally do not begin with clusters. However, certain derivatives of gaŋ *to dance* suggest an original by-form \*ngaŋ. Although the form with Negative gu- is gu-gaŋ (e.g. gu-gaŋ+ŋa-mamari *I am not dancing*) without nasal, note the reduplicated form gaŋ-ngaŋ, and see 10.4 for another piece of evidence.

An exception to P-11 is the reduplicated verb stem mbir-mbir *to make a nest*, found in one of Capell's texts and confirmed by my research. This is clearly an archaic word, found only in a traditional narrative.

Aside from /ngaŋ/ and mbir-mbir, I know of no verb stems which require an initial nasal-stop cluster at any phonological level. Historically, the reason why such clusters have survived only in nouns (and in demonstratives and other forms which take nominal prefixes) is probably that such stems usually have prefixes protecting the initial cluster from simplification by P-14. Verb stems, on the other hand, are infrequently found with prefixes. Therefore even if a verb stem had a form with initial \*nj or \*ŋɔ̄ in an earlier stage of Warndarang, the nasal would have appeared on the surface (after P-11) only in a minority of instances, and so might easily have been lost altogether by reanalysis of the most common surface form as representing the underlying form. Only the archaic word mbir-mbir, and the stem /ngaŋ/ (whose reduplication is frequent) have retained traces of an original nasal.

In this connection note the contrast of adjectival noun njaŋi *many*, reduplication njaŋi-njaŋi (subject to P-11 if prefixless) to the etymologically identical verb stem jaŋi *to do many times*, reduplication jaŋi-yaŋi (with Lenition). Similarly, note noun (wu-)njiriba *nose*, contrasting with the compounding element jiri- *nose*, used chiefly in verbal constructions. The loss of final -ba in compounding forms is paralleled by (wu-)ŋaralba *eye*, compounding form ŋaral-.

Two nouns take different forms depending on which of two alternative nominal prefixes is used. *Semen* is wu-ṅguṛa or ṛa-guṛa. *Reddish black water lily fruit* is wu-jagiri or ma-njagiri. Neither noun is attested without prefixes.

## CHAPTER THREE

### NOMINAL MORPHOLOGY

#### 3.1. Nouns and Adjectives

Nouns and adjectives make up a single form class hereafter referred to simply as 'nouns'. However, it is possible to make a distinction between those nouns which can take intransitive pronominal prefixes when functioning as predicates (e.g. *jawulba old man* in *ŋa-jawulba I am an old man*) and those which cannot take such prefixes. In general, nouns denoting human status and most nouns of adjectival type (i.e. indicating qualities) do take such prefixes. However, kin terms do not. For many nouns my data do not permit a decision as to whether they can take these prefixes.

#### 3.2. Noun-class Prefixes

Although nouns can occur without prefixes, especially in citation forms, they usually take one of a set of noun-class (NC) prefixes. The principal exceptions are kinship terms with first or second person possessor, and nouns functioning as predicates and hence taking intransitive pronominal prefixes.

Human nouns take one of the following NC prefixes:

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| ŋa-   | masculine singular (MSg) |
| ŋi-   | feminine singular (FSg)  |
| yiri- | dual (Du)                |
| yili- | paucal (Pauc)            |
| wulu- | plural (Pl)              |
| ra-   | indefinite (Indef)       |

As is suggested by the labels, the categories are based on actual gender and number. Pl wulu- can be used for any number greater than two, and therefore overlaps with Pauc yili-, which indicates a number between three and around five. The Pauc is treated like the Pl for purposes of agreement with pronominal elements in the verb: Du yiri-waṛiyi ara-ṛara *They went*; Pauc yili-waṛiyi ala-ṛara; Pl wulu-waṛiyi ala-ṛara. Note the use of ara- in the Du, and of aia- in the Pauc and Pl.

Indef. ṛa- is really a nonhuman NC prefix (cf. below), used here in a special sense. It is indefinite as to gender or number, and can therefore be optionally used in place of any of the human prefixes when number and gender are unknown, contextually clear, or are not considered significant by the speaker. A human noun with ṛa- is treated as singular for purposes of agreement: ṛa-waṛiyi a-ṛara *The Aborigine(s) went*.

Du yiri- infrequently reduces to yir- before stems beginning in consonants: yiri-wuybi or yir-wuybi *the two women*. The unreduced form seems to be preferred in careful speech.

For nonhuman nouns we have the following class prefixes:

ṇa-  
 ṇi-  
 (ṛ) a-  
 wu-  
 ma-  
 yiri- Du

The Du prefix is often used with nonhuman nouns, but wulu- is never used with them in my data, and yili- is not attested with them either. In forms other than the Du, a given noun usually takes one of the other five NC prefixes shown, the choice depending on the noun.

ṇa- is rare with nonhuman nouns, and seems to occur chiefly with place names. An example is ṇa-ṇarambili, a place name whose stem is also found in (ṛa-)ṇarambili *centipede*. Aside from place names, only one or two other examples of nonhuman ṇa- are found, and these were not carefully checked: ṇa-yirididi *tree sp.*

ṇi- is somewhat more common than ṇa- with nonhuman nouns. It occurs with a fair number of fauna terms, e.g. ṇi-buruṇandiṅ *tortoise sp.*, ṇi-ḍarabu *water goanna*. Explicitly female kangaroo terms take ṇi-: ṇi-gaṇḍalburu *female red plains kangaroo*. ṇi- is clearly identical to the FSg prefix ṇi- used with human nouns, but not all nonhuman nouns which take it are explicitly female.

Presumably  $\eta a-$  with nonhuman nouns is similarly related to MSg  $\eta a-$ , though in this case there is little semantic evidence to support the correlation.

The three most important nonhuman NC prefixes are  $(r)a-$ ,  $wu-$ , and  $ma-$ . The distribution of the three is not reducible to a simple semantic principle, so far as I can determine, though there is some tendency for names of large animals to take  $(r)a-$ , names of plants with edible underground portions to take  $ma-$ , and for names of trees to take  $wu-$ .  $wu-$  is also treated as the neuter class, and is used in demonstrative adverbs of place (and time).

In addition to the fact that there are dozens of exceptions to the above statements, there are a fair number of nonhuman nouns which actually fluctuate from one NC to another. For example, *wambal freshwater mussel* can take either  $(r)a-$ ,  $wu-$ , or  $\eta i-$ , while *ngumir tree sp.* can take  $(r)a-$  or  $wu-$ . The most common pattern is to have  $(r)a-$  alternating with one or two other prefixes, often  $wu-$ .

It would be nice if we could say that  $(r)a-$  gave an indefinite nuance here as in human nouns. However, the available evidence does not point clearly in this direction, and I have to conclude that there is no consistent semantic difference between one prefix and another with nonhuman nouns. If it were simply a question of indefiniteness, we would expect that most or all nouns with  $wu-$  or  $ma-$  could replace these with  $(r)a-$ , but in fact we find many stems which occur only with  $wu-$ , others only with  $ma-$ , and others only with  $(r)a-$ , in addition to those which show alternations. This is partly, but not entirely, due to the small size of the corpus; the full range of prefixes was carefully elicited for about twenty nouns, with the result that the above-mentioned types were distinguished.

Aside from the use of  $\eta i-$  with female kangaroo terms, Warndarang rarely uses  $\eta a-$  or  $\eta i-$  as gender-specified prefixes with names of animals. On one occasion I elicited  $\eta a-$  and  $\eta i-$  with *yulmunji shark sp.* as gender-specified prefixes instead of  $(r)a-$  or  $wu-$ , but this elicitation may have been artificial and this use of  $\eta a-$  or  $\eta i-$  was not observed anywhere else in the data.

The prefix  $(r)a-$  usually took the form  $\dot{r}a-$  in material obtained from Isaac. There were a handful of examples of  $a-$  in his speech. However, Elizabeth used  $a-$  regularly. Hereafter this prefix will be cited as  $\dot{r}a-$ .

In a few cases there appears to be fluctuation between two analyses of a given noun, with an initial syllable either taken as part of the stem (so that another NC prefix can be added) or taken as a NC prefix.



The clearest example is *stone*, which is *ma-|igar* or (*ra-*)*ma|igar*. The prefixless form \**∅-|igar* is unattested and probably was avoided. Depending on the analysis, a modifying adjectival noun could take *ma-* or *ra-* in agreement. Apparently *manuga*, a synonym of *ma|igar*, showed a similar fluctuation of forms. Another example is *ma-gamba* (perhaps also unattested \**ra-gamba*) and *wu-ṛagamba pearl shell*. Possibly *a-maḍuṇal spear*, occurring once in a text, is a similar case; *ma-ḍuṇal spear* is common.

The omission of NC prefixes from nouns in sentences (as opposed to citation forms given by informants in the course of lexical elicitation) is uncommon, though we find it occasionally in the data. Especially toward the end of the fieldwork, as Isaac's recollection of the language improved, he became increasingly reluctant to offer or even accept prefixless forms of noun stems beginning in (underlying) nasal-stop clusters, e.g. (*wu-*)*ndula leg*. In the early stages he would offer such forms as *dula*, showing loss of the nasal by P-11, but toward the end he rejected them.

### 3.3. The Absolute Suffix

A suffix which I will call Absolute is added to nouns in sentences (usually not in citation forms) when they are not followed by overt case suffixes or are followed by Locative *-yaṇa*. The Absolute is obligatory before *-yaṇa* and is common in the Nominative. There is little semantic difference between nouns with the Absolute and the same nouns without it, except that as just noted suffixless forms tend to occur in citation and suffixed forms in sentences. Absolute (or Absolute) is not a case category.

The allomorphs of the suffix depend on the final segment of the stem, as follows:

|     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| -yu | after i             |
| -ñu | after u, a, y       |
| -u  | after liquids, y    |
| -gu | after nasals, stops |

Examples: *wu-bunji-yu honey*; *wu-ndaway-ñu* or *wu-ndaway-u words*; *wu-jambagu-ñu tobacco*; *wu-yulba-ñu tree, stick*; *wu-ṛadbur-u camp*; *ra-wariman-gu stone spear*; *ma-yimbiḍ-gu cypress*; *ra-jama|ag-u* (with geminate-simplification from /*ra-jama|ag-gu*/) *tapsticks*.

### 3.4. Special Features of Place Names

Some place names avoid both class prefixes and the Absolutive suffix. The latter is not used even with Locative *-yaṅa*, which for other nouns requires the Absolutive: *gunjiḷan-yaṅa in Queensland*. An Allative example: *Roper-ñiyi to Roper (River)*.

For examples of native place names, cf. *miṛiyilmi Phelp River* twice in Text 1; in the second occurrence (Text 1.5 it occurs without affixes although it is in apposition to the noun *wu-ṛadbur-u country*, showing the class prefix and the Absolutive suffix.

The Locative suffix *-yaṅa* is usually omitted with place names, though the example *gunjiḷan-yaṅa in Queensland* just given above, and which occurred in a text not published in this volume, shows that this is not an absolute prohibition.

### 3.5. The Diminutive

There is a diminutive suffix *-gaña-*, but it is not common. The example I have is *wu-balba-gaña-∅* (with Nominative *-∅*) *small river*, which occurs in Capell's goanna text.

### 3.6. Case Suffixes

The following case-marking suffixes together make up the Warndarang case system:

|              |                                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <i>-∅</i>    | Nominative (often follows the Absolutive) |
| <i>-wala</i> | Ablative                                  |
| <i>-miri</i> | Instrumental                              |
| <i>-ñiyi</i> | Allative                                  |
| <i>-ni</i>   | Purposive                                 |
| <i>-yaṅa</i> | Locative (follows the Absolutive)         |

Examples: *wu-yulba-∅ tree*, more often Absolutive *wu-yulba-ñu-∅* in sentences; *wu-yulba-wala from the tree*; *ma-ḍuṅal-miri by means of spears*; *wu-yulba-ñiyi to the tree*; *ṛa-waluṅma-ni for python sp.*; *wu-wiji-yu-yaṅa in the grass* (with Absolutive *-yu-*).

I transcribed *-ñiyi* as *-ñi* at the beginning of the fieldwork. I later heard the suffix clearly as *-ñiyi* in two or three examples, then went back and retranscribed the previous examples accordingly. However, the Directional suffix with cardinal-direction stems was consistently heard as *-ñi* (e.g. *wuñmi-ñi northward*).

### 3.7. Uses of the Cases

The Ablative means 'from', usually in the spatial sense, but can also have the temporal sense 'after', especially with demonstrative stems, as in *wu-nñaya-wala after that* (5.5). More intensive research might have revealed a sense 'because of'.

Instrumental *-miri* is rarely used; I know of three instances in the corpus. An example:

jalg+a-ja      ma-ḍuḡal-miri  
*he stabbed it by means of a spear*

There are several exactly analogous examples where *-miri* is omitted.

The Purposive is similarly rather uncommon. An example:

yaja+wu-ḡa-buḡa ḡa-waluḡma-ni  
*I will hunt it for python*  
*I will hunt for pythons.*

Here *-ni* has been added to the direct object NP, emphasising that *python* is the goal of the activity. However, there are other similar examples with the same verb where *-ni* is not used.

The Locative is used in a static locational sense, but can also be used as a sort of Directional suffix, and the borderline between it and the Allative is hazy. It is possible that the Locative should be translated 'in, on, at' or 'into, onto' while the Allative is translatable as 'to, toward', but the available material does not clearly point to this semantic distinction.

With demonstratives, Allative *-ñiyi* is not used, so Locative *-yaḡa* takes on explicitly Directional senses, especially since the static locational sense is expressed by demonstratives in the Nominative (zero-case) form.

For nouns and pronouns, the Nominative is used regularly for subjects of intransitive and transitive clauses, for direct objects, for indirect objects, and for other syntactic functions aside from those covered by the nonzero cases as described above. The Nominative is optionally, and often, used where the Instrumental or Purposive would be appropriate.

The basic genitive construction consists of the possessor NP in Nominative case, juxtaposed to the possessed NP which is followed by a pronominal possessive postposition (unless it is a kin term and therefore already has a possessive affix). An example:

wu-yilba-Ø a-gi ɾa-waɖabir  
*hole its the goanna*  
*The goanna's hole.*

From this discussion it might appear that Warndarang has a 'weakly-developed' case system with fewer oppositions than are found in most languages. This narrow view results from focussing exclusively on the morphology of independent nouns and pronouns, and by consequently overlooking the role played by verb complexes in maintaining case distinctions. Transitive verb complexes distinguish subject from object (e.g. 1SG → 3Sg is distinct from 3Sg → 1Sg). The role function of the object is further specified as direct object, indirect object, comitative object, or the like by means of alternations of auxiliary verbs (cf. 7.8, 7.23, 7.34) along with the use of the Benefactive prefix *ma-*. Therefore if we define 'case system' as the system of contrasts among semantic and grammatical role functions expressed by the combination of case suffixes, auxiliary verbs, and the Benefactive prefix, we find that the Warndarang system is more elaborate than that of English, for example.

### 3.8. Articles

The elements which I here call 'articles' are very significant in Warndarang nominal and clausal syntax. These elements consist of a stem *-nu* preceded by a set of noun-class prefixes somewhat different from that found before nouns. The forms are:

#### Human:

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| ɲa-nu   | MSg |
| ŋa-nu   | FSg |
| wuru-nu | Du  |
| wulu-nu | Pl  |

#### Nonhuman:

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| ɲa-nu       |    |
| ŋa-nu       |    |
| ɾa-nu, a-nu |    |
| wu-nu       |    |
| ma-nu       |    |
| wuru-nu     | Du |

Note *ɲa-* instead of *ɲi-*, *wuru-* instead of *yiri-*, and *wulu-* instead of *yili-* and *wulu-*. There is no Pauc form distinct from Pl *wulu-nu*, which covers all numbers three or greater.

There is a tendency to retroflex the *n* of the stem, particularly after *na-* but sometimes also after *wuru-* and *wulu-*. Hence *na-nu* or *na-ŋu*, etc.

Sometimes in fairly rapid speech articles are contracted, e.g. *na na-ŋiya this* (MSg) from *na-nu na-ŋiya*.

The principal uses of the articles are in conjunction with kin terms (which have at most a defective system of noun-class prefixes, so the addition of articles helps express number and gender), in certain combinations involving demonstrative stems, and in the case of *wu-nu* with a number of temporal and locative adverbs. This *wu-nu* is also extremely important as a subordinating element in relative clauses, focus constructions, and so forth. See (10.2, 10.3).

Aside from these more or less specialised uses, articles can be used with ordinary nouns: *wulu-nu wulu-yugulmanggi-yu Yugulmanggi people*. An example with a personal name: *na-nu ɿindi*. However, articles are not common before nouns other than kin terms.

### 3.9. Kin Terms

The regular paradigm of kin terms is exemplified by the forms of *-baba- father*.

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>na-baba</i>    | <i>my/our father</i>    |
| <i>∅-baba</i>     | <i>your father</i>      |
| <i>na-baba-ŋu</i> | <i>his/their father</i> |

Here we have a first person possessive prefix *na-*, and a similar second person element *∅-*. The third person forms contain the Absolutive suffix, here in a specialised use. The prefix *na-* is a noun class prefix agreeing with *-baba-* rather than with the possessor.

The forms for *-bujin- wife* are:

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>na-bujin</i>    | <i>my/our wife</i>    |
| <i>∅-bujin</i>     | <i>your wife</i>      |
| <i>ni-bujin-gu</i> | <i>his/their wife</i> |

The only difference is that the FSg prefix *ni-* is used in the third person forms instead of the MSg *na-* found in *na-baba-ŋu*.

Neither the first nor second person forms may take the Absolutive suffix. Another deficiency is that the first and second person forms indicate neither the number nor the gender of the kin term. The gender is not always predictable from the semantics of the stem since many kin terms can refer to either male or female relatives. For

example,  $\emptyset$ -bujin can mean *your husband* as well as *your wife*, and there is a form  $\eta$ a-bujin-gu *her husband*. As for the third person forms, the data unfortunately do not indicate whether the noun can be directly pluralised by replacing  $\eta$ a- or  $\eta$ i- with a nonsingular prefix like yiri-, yili-, or wulu-. It is not clear, for example, whether a form like \*wulu-baba- $\eta$ u is the correct way to say *his fathers* (i.e. *his Fa and FaBr's*).

At any rate, first and second person forms (except first person vocatives) generally take a preceding article showing the gender and number of the kin term: wulu-nu  $\eta$ a-baba *my/our fathers*(Pl);  $\eta$ a-nu  $\eta$ a-baba *my/our father*; etc. Articles are also common with third person forms, but not quite as common as with the others:  $\eta$ a-baba- $\eta$ u or  $\eta$ a-nu  $\eta$ a-baba- $\eta$ u *his/their father*.

To further specify the person and number of the possessor, a possessive postposition can be added. For example, by adding a-gi *his* to  $\eta$ a-baba- $\eta$ u *his/their father* we can eliminate the reading *their father* with Du or Pl possessor and settle on *his father*. Similarly,  $\eta$ a-nu  $\eta$ a-baba *my/our father* can be specified for number of possessor, as well as for inclusive/exclusive in the nonsingular, by adding an appropriate postposition.

Some kin terms show suppletion depending on the possessor. *Mother*, for example, is -yibi for first person, -bibi or -gara for second person, and -gara- for third. The forms are therefore  $\eta$ a-yibi,  $\emptyset$ -bibi or  $\emptyset$ -gara, and  $\eta$ i-gara- $\eta$ u. The remaining suppletive examples show one stem in the first person (1) forms, the second stem in the second and third (2/3) forms; there may or may not be a shared root. Glosses (except for *Hu*) are for male EGO.

| 1                | 2/3            | Gloss                       |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| -ni- $\eta$ aga  | - $\eta$ aga-  | <i>younger Br</i>           |
| - $\eta$ ali     | -daga-         | <i>elder Si</i>             |
| -ndaga           | -daga-         | <i>younger Si</i>           |
| -nija            | -jama-         | <i>child (of man), BrCh</i> |
| -ni-wal $\eta$ a | -wal $\eta$ a- | <i>child of Si, SiCh</i>    |
| -li $\eta$ ali   | -bujin-        | <i>Hu (= MoFaSiDaSo)</i>    |

Among the nonsuppletive terms are the four terms applied to the second ascending generation: -mu $\eta$ i- *FaFa*; -mimi- *FaMo*; -bijaja *MoFa*; -gaga- *MoMo*. Others are -wayi- *elder Br*; -gumu- *MoBr*; -wuru $\eta$ - *WiMo*. -bujin (see display above) is nonsuppletive in the sense *Wi* (= *MoMoBrDaDa*).

Two terms are attested only in first person forms: *ḡa-nalḡija my DaSo* (from Dr Sharpe's notes); *ḡa-wiḡi my FaSi*.

In the suppletive forms, note the occurrence of a prefix *-ni-* in the first person forms for two stems; with prefix *ḡa-* we end up with *ḡa-ni-ḡaga* and *ḡa-ni-walḡa*. Perhaps *-nija* is likewise really *-ni-ja*, in which case *-ja* can be taken as a reduction of *-jama*. The forms *-ndaga* and *-daga-* are probably etymologically identical, and *-ḡaga-* may also be related.

The forms for *WiBr* are entirely anomalous. They are: *ḡa-nu milga-ḡa-bani my/our WiBr*; *ḡa-nu milga-ḡi-bani your WiBr*; (*ḡa-nu milga-bin his/their WiBr*). These look more like auxiliary verb constructions than like nouns; *ḡa-* and *ḡi-* are the regular 1Sg → 3Sg and 2Sg → 3Sg transitive pronominal prefixes, and *-bani* is the present tense of the auxiliary *-ba-*. This puts *milga* structurally in the position of a main verb, though since it is not elsewhere attested we cannot determine its original meaning. The third person form is even more anomalous since there is no trace of the expected pronominal prefix *a-* 3Sg → 3Sg, and since *-bin* is not a form of the auxiliary *-ba-*.

It goes without saying that the glosses given here for the kinship categories are oversimplified, and it is quite possible that there were other terms which I did not elicit. I did not attempt to interpret the semantic structure of the kin-term system but rather tried only to get a reasonable idea of morphological peculiarities and to record instances of suppletion. It is possible that one or two of the glosses are inaccurate.\*\*

### 3.10. Vocatives

There are few clear examples of vocative nouns in my data. Vocatives typically consist of a vocative pronoun (4.3) plus an optional noun or NP specifying the addressee in situations where there are several persons in the vicinity. However, there are one or two attested vocatives without pronouns.

In the context of Aboriginal culture in this region, kin terms are the most appropriate vocative nouns, and the vocatives attested in my data are of this type. The vocative of (*my*) *father* is *ḡa-baba*, showing the first person possessive prefix *ḡa-*, since to omit this prefix would lead to confusion with *∅-baba your father*. The chief difference between vocative and nonvocative *my father* is that the latter usually has an article (*ḡa-nu ḡa-baba*) while the former does

\*\* See note at end of Chapter Three, p. 33.

not. There are, of course, no vocatives meaning *your father!* or *his father!*. Vocatives of personal names were probably uncommon in Warndarang in traditional times.

Certain other nouns referring to age, sex, and/or social status can also be used as vocatives, e.g. *jawulba! old man!*. Noun-class prefixes and the Absolutive suffix are omitted in vocatives.

### 3.11. Quantifiers

In addition to the number distinctions expressed by nominal prefixes (3.2), the numerical value of a noun can be indicated by juxtaposing a quantifier in the form of an adjective.

Several numerals are attested, including *wanḡiñ one*, *wudḡuy* or (less often) *mudḡuy two*, and *muluḡuy a few* (usually three to five). These occur with the appropriate prefixes, such as *yiri-* in *yiri-wudḡuy*, *yili-* in *yili-muluḡuy*, and *ḡa-* (human MSg) in *ḡa-wanḡiñ*. Other prefixes are also possible with *wanḡiñ*.

*Three* is *wudḡuy ḡa-gayi* (literally *two another*) in one of Capell's texts. *Five* is *ḡa-wanḡiñ ḡa-murji* (*one hand*). *Ten* is *ḡa-wanḡiñ ḡa-murji*, *baḡa ḡa-gayi ḡa-murji* (*one hand, then another hand*) in one of my texts. The term *ḡa-murji hand* is common only in numerals; the usual word for *hand* is *wu-maba*.

The only number adverb attested is *wurwanḡij once*. This appears to be a frozen combination of an element *wur-* and a stem *-wanḡij* related to *wanḡiñ one*. However, the contrast of final *ñ* and *j* was consistently made in *wanḡiñ* vs. *wurwanḡij* by my informant.

### 3.12. Gentilic ḡuN-

The Nunggubuyu language has a common Gentilic prefix *ḡuN-*, used mainly in names of clans, language groups, and so forth (not all such terms have it). A similar prefix occurs in Enindhilyagwa on Groote Eylandt and is used in most clan names there. The first syllable of Nunggubuyu and the second of Enindhilyagwa are examples.

Warndarang allows initial *ḡ* but not *n*, so Nunggubuyu terms like *num-buḡindi people of wuḡindi (place name)* are pronounced with initial retroflexed consonant (*ḡumbuḡindi*). The Gentilic prefix is used in several clan names, especially along the northern border of Warndarang where it meets Nunggubuyu and Ngandi: *ḡuḡ-gumajbar people of wumajbar (billabong)*, *ḡu-ma-muḡiḡi people of scrub wattle country*, etc. It is not certain whether these are to be taken as etymologically Warndarang rather than Nunggubuyu constructions. However, there is one example



which seems Warndarang:  $\eta\eta\text{-gu-}\downarrow\text{a}\eta\text{ur}$ , usually translated as *fish hunters* but literally *corroboree people* (cf.  $\text{wu-}\downarrow\text{a}\eta\text{ur}$  *corroboree*). This is used as a general term for various clans (Warndarang and Yugul) whose territory was around the Roper River, some distance from Nunggubuyu country.

Nevertheless, the phonology of  $\eta\text{uN-}$  is what we would expect in Nunggubuyu rather than Warndarang. In Nunggubuyu, final N (an unspecified nasal, behaving basically like  $\eta$ ) assimilates to the point of articulation of the following consonant or gets deleted (before nasals and some liquids). If followed by  $w$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\text{r}$ , or  $\downarrow$  it (like any nasal or stop in Nunggubuyu) hardens this to  $g$  or  $b$ ,  $j$ ,  $\text{d}$ , and  $\text{d}$ , respectively. This nasal-assimilation process and the hardening of nonstops to stops are not regular in Warndarang, but note that in  $\eta\eta\text{-gu-}\downarrow\text{a}\eta\text{ur}$  the  $w$  of  $-\text{wu-}$  has been hardened to  $g$ , and the preceding nasal  $\eta$  could be taken as having assimilated in point of articulation to this  $g$ . Note that the same happens in  $\eta\eta\text{-gumajbar}$ , while in  $\eta\text{u-}\text{ma-}\mu\text{d}\downarrow\text{i}\text{d}\downarrow\text{i}$  the final nasal of the Gentilic prefix has been deleted.

I hesitate to set up special Warndarang phonological rules for these isolated forms, since it is quite possible that Warndarang examples of  $\eta\text{uN-}$  have been directly borrowed from Nunggubuyu and since the Warndarang examples are very few in number.

\*\* Note: Warner (1933) includes a rough list of 'Wanderung' kin terms. From his data it appears that  $-\text{ni-wal}\eta\text{a}$  also means *FaMoBrCh* (including *WiFa*), and that  $-\text{bijaja}$  also means *first cross-cousin* and *man's DaCh*. He also gives 'An-ni-ram-in' for *MoMoBrCh* (= *WiMo* and *WiMoBr*), but this is not in my data. He gives *ba\eta\eta\eta* for *FaSi* instead of my  $-\text{wi}\eta\text{i}$  (*ba\eta\eta\eta* is a Mara word in my data).

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRONOUNS AND PRONOMINAL AFFIXES

#### 4.1. Independent Pronouns

Independent nominative pronouns are displayed in Table 4-1 along with the corresponding possessive postpositions.

The latter consist of a prefix identical to an intransitive pronominal prefix (4.4) followed by Possessive *-gi*. 1Sg *ɣini* is irregular. These postpositions follow the possessed noun: *wu-ɣadbur-u ɣini my camp*. In this example *-ɣadbur-* *camp* takes the Absolutive suffix *-u*.

There are some difficulties in analysing the independent pronouns, since some of the elements are obscure and the combinations are rather frozen. For example, *ɣiɣa* and *ɣiɣa* are structurally opaque, and *ɣala* is also perhaps best taken as an unsegmentable unit synchronically. In the other nonsingular forms we may segment initials *ni-* 1Du/PlEx, *ɣu-* 2Du/Pl, and *yi-* or *wu-* 3DuPl. Du *-rayi* may perhaps be segmented into Du *-ra-* and a stem-forming final *-yi*, or alternatively into Du *-r-* and final *-ayi*. Pl *-dbur* is best analysed as Pl *-d-* and final *-bur*. *-layi* in 3Pl *wulayi* is Pl *-la-* (or *-l-*) and stem-forming final *-yi* (or *-ayi*). Nonplural third person forms like *ɣiwa* and *ɣiwa* consist of the regular class prefix plus *-iwa*, with vowel-contractions as in P-9.

When nonzero case suffixes are added there is no change in the form of the independent pronominal stem. Thus *ɣiɣa-yaɣa to me*, with Locative *-yaɣa* in its Directional sense. Note that since pronouns cannot take the Absolutive suffix, the usual requirement that *-yaɣa* follow the Absolutive is waived here.

The independent pronoun *ɣala We(PlIn)* is attested in reduplicated form: *ɣala-ɣalay*. There seems to be no important difference in meaning between *ɣala* and *ɣala-ɣalay*, and other pronouns do not show this

Table 4-1

## Pronouns

|         |          | Independent<br>(Nominative) | Possessive |
|---------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
|         | 1Sg      | ŋiŋa                        | ŋini       |
|         | 1DuEx    | ñirayi                      | ñirgi      |
|         | 1PlEx    | ñidbur                      | ñidigi     |
|         | 1DuIn    | ñaña                        | ñagi       |
|         | 1PlIn    | ŋala                        | ŋalagi     |
|         | 2Sg      | ñiñu                        | ñigi       |
|         | 2Du      | ŋurayi                      | ŋurgi      |
|         | 2Pl      | ŋudbur                      | ŋudugi     |
| (human) | 3MSg     | ŋiwa                        | agi        |
|         | 3FSg     | ŋiwa                        | agi        |
|         | 3Du      | { yirayi<br>wurayi          | argi       |
|         | 3Pl      | wulayi                      | alagi      |
|         | Nonhuman | ŋiwa                        | agi        |
|         | "        | ŋiwa                        | agi        |
|         | "        | ɾiwa                        | agi        |
|         | "        | wiwa                        | agi        |
|         | "        | miwa                        | agi        |
|         | " Du     | { yirayi<br>wurayi          | argi       |

reduplication. The final *y* may be an inorganic element, and is perhaps related to the final *y* of *ɲudjuguñay* and *ɲuduguñay* (4.3). The latter two forms are vocatives, and the attested examples of *ɲala-ɲalay* could perhaps also be taken as vocatives or at least as interjections.

#### 4.2 Forms in *-ñi*, *-ñi-baɲa*

Nominative pronouns, in addition to their simple forms (4.1), have extended forms with *-ñi* or *-ñi-baɲa* added to the pronominal stem. The latter may take a different form from that shown in the simple nominative.

The attested forms with *-ñi* are *ɲiɲa-ñi* *me too* and *ɲura-ñi* *as for you*(Du). In both instances the pronoun is contrasted with something else which has just been mentioned. These occur in Capell's goanna text.

An example with *-ñi-baɲa* also shows up in this text: *ñi-ñi-baɲa ñiñu*, *gi+Ø-mayi* *as for you, go...* Here the extended 2Sg pronoun *ñi-ñi-baɲa*, based on a reduced stem *ñi-*, is juxtaposed to the ordinary pronoun *ñiñu*.

Other forms in my data from Isaac are: *ɲa-ñi-baɲa* *as for him*; *wula-ñi-baɲa* *as for them*; and *ɲudbur-ñi-baɲa* *as for you*(Pl).

An effort was made to elicit further forms from Elizabeth following Isaac's death. This resulted in the following forms: *wura-ñi-baɲa* *as for them*(Du); *ɲala-ñi-baɲa* *as for us*(PlIn); *ɲura-ñi-baɲa* *as for you*(Du); and the rather irregular *ɲadba-ñi-baɲa* *as for her*. In addition, Elizabeth insisted that the correct form for *as for us*(DuIn) is *wuru-ñi-baɲa*, with a stem *wuru-* thoroughly different from the usual 1DuIn stems *ñaña*, *ña-*, etc.

Translations like *my turn* instead of *as for me*, and so forth, are sometimes appropriate.

From these data we can at least get an idea of the structure of pronominal stems before *-ñi* and *-ñi-baɲa*. Du stems ending in *rayi* in the simple nominative lose the *yi*, as in *ɲura-ñi* vs. simple *ɲurayi* *you*(Du). Similarly 3Pl *wula-ñi-baɲa* vs. simple *wulayi*. 1Sg *ɲiɲa* and 1PlIn *ɲala* are unchanged before *-ñi* and *-ñi-baɲa*, as is 2Pl *ɲudbur* (hence presumably also 1PlEx *ñidbur*). 2Sg *ñiñu* shortens to *ñi-* in *ñi-ñi-baɲa* avoiding \**ñiñu-ñi-baɲa* with three consecutive syllables beginning with *ñ*. 3MSg *ɲa-ñi-baɲa* shows the regular form of the noun-class prefix *ɲa-*, but 3FSg *ɲadba-ñi-baɲa* is anomalous. I was unable to elicit forms with nonhuman classes.

These forms in *-ñi* and *-ñi-baṅa* appear to represent a distinct type from quasi-demonstrative forms with *-ñi same* (5.8). The latter appear to occur only with noun-class prefixes (i.e. not with first or second person stems), do not have an extension with *-baṅa*, have clearly different meanings, and differ formally at least in the 3Fsg form (*ṅa-ñi*) from the forms discussed here.

#### 4.3. Vocative Pronouns

The following special vocative forms are attested for nonsingular second person addressee:

*ṅudjuguñay*      *Hey you!(Du)*

*ṅuduguñay*      *Hey you!(Pl)*

These forms appear to contain prefixes related to those found as intransitive prefixes with verbs (4.4, 4.5). In the Pl form, *ṅudu-* matches the 2Pl prefix *Cudu-* (one realisation of which is *ṅudu-*, cf. 4.5), while the Du form has *ṅudju-*, irregularly related to 2Du intransitive prefix *Cud-* (*ṅud-*).

For Sg addressee, the usual interjection for *Hey!* is *ṅamaṛ*, which has no obvious relation to any (other) pronominal form.

#### 4.4. Pronominal Prefixes

The intransitive prefixes are shown in Table 4-2, the transitive ones in Tables 4-3 through 4-7.

By P-2, the morphophoneme /w/ becomes *g* following a stop or nasal at the end of a main verb (i.e. in the environments *Stop+\_\_* and *Nasal+\_\_* with + boundary, not - boundary), and is deleted otherwise.

Examples of 1DuIn and 1DuIn + 3Sg allomorphs *ñā-* and *ñāñ-*:  
*wu-ñā-ṛara* *We(DuIn) will go*; *gal+u-ñā-jiñu* *We(DuIn) will spear him*;  
*ḡil+u-ñāñ-idaṅa* *We(DuIn) will hold it*. The only cases where *ñā(ñ)-* can be followed by a vowel are combinations with following inflected verb stems beginning with *i*. Were it not for the existence of the allomorph *ñāñ-*, in such combinations *ñā-* would be indistinguishable from 2Sg *ñi-* following phonological rules.

Although I do not have complete information on the other allomorphic alternations in Table 4-2, the following comments may be helpful. The *d/r* alternation in the 3Du seems to be phonetically conditioned, with *r* generally used before stops and *ṛ* and before vowels, *d* before nasals (it may assimilate and end up as *n*). In the 2Du form, the form with *d* seems to be usual even before stops and vowels. The extended

form *Curi-* is only recorded in *ɲuri-ngaŋa* *What are you two?* in Capell's goanna text. Note that the stem begins with a cluster. In the 1DuEx the forms with *r* are usual: *ɲir-* and *ɲiri-*. Perhaps *ɲiri-* should be taken as the basic form and *ɲir-* a reduction, parallel to occasional reductions of Du nominal prefix *yiri-* to *yir-* (3.2). The form *ɲid-* is uncommon.

Examples of 2Sg and 2Sg + 3Sg *ɲi-* vs. imperative forms with *ɸ-*:  
*wu-ɲi-ɾara* *You(Sg) will go*; *ɸaɸ+ɲi-jaŋa* *You(Sg) cooked it*; *ɸaj+ɸ-mindi*  
*Sit down(Sg addressee)*; *ɸaɸ+ɸ-jaŋu* *Cook it!(Sg addressee)*. For more details see 7.37.

Isaac had trouble producing some of the more difficult transitive combinations, particularly 3rd + 2nd and 2nd + 3rd forms where one or both categories are nonsingular. Although paradigm-eliciting interview sessions produced poor results at first, reasonably complete and reliable forms were obtained by studying texts and other spontaneously produced forms, by re-checking doubtful forms on two or three different days, and by using some of Capell's paradigmatic data as cues to be explained by the informant. In this way some inconsistencies and contradictions which appeared in the first paradigm-eliciting sessions were gradually cleared up. However, satisfactory forms for 3Du/Pl + 2Du/Pl were not obtained from Isaac. According to Elizabeth, the 3Du/Pl + 2Sg form *ɲuru-* (which she sometimes pronounced as *yuru-*) was also used in the 3Du/Pl + 2Du/Pl sense, but under the circumstances it is best to be cautious on this point.

1PlIn + 3Du *ɲalarŋu-* is somewhat problematic. In other combinations involving two liquids one finds assimilation so that both show up as *l* or both as *r*. Isaac had trouble with the liquids in this form and was unable to pronounce it easily. When I pronounced it with all possible variations in liquids the form given was the one which Isaac approved.

The 3Pl category is restricted to human referents, as with 3Pl independent pronouns and with the Pl noun-class prefix *wulu-*. The 3Du category, however, can apply to nonhuman as well as human referents, again agreeing with independent pronouns and noun-class prefixes.

#### 4.5. The Initials of Second Person Prefixes

*C* is a cover symbol which should be replaced by *ɸ*, *y* or *ŋ* depending on the morphological context. With an occasional exception, the data point to the following as being the correct distribution of the three initials:

- ɸ* after Potential /u-/
- y* in the Imperative
- ŋ* elsewhere

Table 4-2

## Intransitive Pronominal Prefixes

|       |                                           |
|-------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1Sg   | ŋa-                                       |
| 1DuEx | ñir(i)-, occasionally ñid-                |
| 1PlEx | ñidi-                                     |
| 1DuIn | ña- before C, ñañ- before V               |
| 1PlIn | ŋala-                                     |
| 2Sg   | ñi- (Ø- in imperatives)                   |
| 2Du   | Cud-, extended form Curi- (for C cf. 4.5) |
| 2Pl   | Cudu-                                     |
| 3Sg   | wa-                                       |
| 3Du   | wad-, war-                                |
| 3Pl   | wala-                                     |

Note: For final d → n cf. 2.8 (P-6); for final a → u cf. 2.9 (P-7).

Table 4-3

Transitive Pronominal Prefixes  
First Person Subject

|                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1Sg → 2Sg/3Sg      | ŋa-                         |
| 1Sg → 2Du/3Du      | ŋarŋu-                      |
| 1Sg → 2Pl/3Pl      | ŋalŋu-                      |
| 1Du/PlEx → 2Sg/3Sg | ñir(i)-                     |
| 1Du/PlEx → 2Du/3Du | ñiriŋu-                     |
| 1Du/PlEx → 2Pl/3Pl | ñilliŋu-                    |
| 1DuIn → 3Sg        | ña- before C, ñañ- before V |
| 1DuIn → 3Du        | ñarŋu-                      |
| 1DuIn → 3Pl        | ñalŋu-                      |
| 1PlIn → 3Sg        | ŋala-                       |
| 1PlIn → 3Du        | ŋalarŋu- (?)                |
| 1PlIn → 3Pl        | ŋalalŋu-                    |

Table 4-4

## Transitive Pronominal Prefixes

## First Person Object

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| 2Sg/3Sg → 1Sg           | ɲara-   |
| 2Du/2Pl/3Du/3Pl → 1Sg   | ɲararu- |
| 2Sg/3Sg → 1DuEx         | ñiriru- |
| 2Du/2Pl/3Du/3Pl → 1DuEx | ñiriru- |
| 2Sg/3Sg → 1PlEx         | ñililu- |
| 2Du/2Pl/3Du/3Pl → 1PlEx | ñililu- |
| 3Sg → 1DuIn             | ñararu- |
| 3Du/Pl → 1DuIn          | ñalalu- |
| 3Sg → 1PlIn             | ɲalalu- |
| 3Du/Pl → 1PlIn          | ɲalalu- |

Table 4-5

## Transitive Pronominal Prefixes

## Third → Third

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| 3Sg → 3Sg    | Wa-    |
| 3Du/Pl → 3Sg | Wara-  |
| 3Sg → 3Du    | Warɲu- |
| 3Du/Pl → 3Du | Warɲu- |
| 3Sg → 3Pl    | Walɲu- |
| 3Du/Pl → 3Pl | Walɲu- |



Table 4-6

## Transitive Pronominal Prefixes

Third → Second

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| 3Sg → 2Sg    | ñi-     |
| 3Du/P1 → 2Sg | ñuru-   |
| 3Sg → 2Du    | ɲururu- |
| 3Du/P1 → 2Du | (?)     |
| 3Sg → 2P1    | ɲululu- |
| 3Du/P1 → 2P1 | (?)     |

Table 4-7

## Transitive Pronominal Prefixes

Second → Third

|              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| 2Sg → 3Sg    | ñi-, except Ø- in imperative |
| 2Du/P1 → 3Sg | Curu- (for C cf. 4.5)        |
| 2Sg → 3Du    | ñurɲu-                       |
| 2Du/P1 → 3Du | Curɲu-                       |
| 2Sg → 3P1    | ñulɲu-                       |
| 2Du/P1 → 3P1 | Culɲu-                       |

In the data which I collected from Isaac I have found eleven examples of  $\emptyset$  in second person prefixes listed in Tables 4-2 and 4-7 with C-. Of these, nine definitely or probably contain Potential /u-/, e.g. wu-d-maljuṛa from /u-ud-maljuṛa/ *You(Du) will stay*. The other two examples are glossed as Past tense forms in my notes, but could really be Future forms (which require Potential /u-/ except in the Negative) and therefore may well contain /u-/.

It should be noted that Curu- 2Du/Pl → 3Sg combines with /u-/ to form u-ru-, which is homophonous to u-ru- from /u-Wara-/ with Wara- 3Du/Pl → 3Sg. There are one or two other instances of surface homophony involving second person forms in C- where the C is realised as  $\emptyset$ .

In the same corpus there are nineteen examples of the initial y, all but two of which are glossed as Imperative or could easily be re-glossed as such. An example is ḡayab+jun-mi *Be quiet!* (Du addressee), base form /ḡayab+yud-mi/. The other two may be errors.

Ten instances of ḡ have been found in this corpus, all clearly or possibly nonImperative, nonPotential forms. Examples: gai+ḡudu-jayi *You(Pl) speared each other*.

#### 4.6. Analysis of Pronominal Prefixes

I will not attempt to analyse each combination, but will make some general comments which will point the way to an understanding of the structures involved.

The intransitive forms are fairly straightforward, and except for the third person element /Wa-/ they are related to the corresponding independent pronouns (4.1). The Du and Pl prefixes contain a Du element -r(V)- or -d-, except for 1DuIn which is usually not treated morphologically as a Du form. The corresponding Pl element is -dV- or -IV-. In -r(V)-, -dV-, and -IV- the vowel V assimilates to that of the preceding syllable.

In all forms with first person subject, the initial element corresponds to the subject rather than the object. Second and third persons are neutralised in the object category in such forms, and there is no overt marker of object person. However, Du or Pl elements corresponding to nonsingular objects do occur, usually -r- for Du and -l- for Pl, and these require a following morpheme -ḡu-. The forms ñiriḡu- and ñiliḡu-, both with 1Du/PlEx subject, look like contractions from prototypes \*ñiriḡu and \*ñiliḡu, the latter analysable as \*/ñiri-l-ḡu-/ with liquid-assimilation.

Similarly, when the object is first person the distinction between second and third person subjects is neutralised. The form *ɣara-* is perhaps best analysed as an accusative form of the 1Sg prefix, with no overt subject-marker. In *ɣararu-* there is a nonsingular element *-ru-* marking number of the subject.

The form *ñililu-* looks fairly regular for nonsingular subject on 1PlEx object, and can be analysed as */ñiri-lu-/* with 1PlEx */ñiri-/* and Pl */-lu-/* indicating subject number, then undergoing liquid-assimilation. This form has also been extended to combinations with singular subjects. Similarly, *ɣalalu-* is a regular form for plural subject but is also used when the subject is singular. The forms with 1DuIn object are a little irregular, but we can take the medial *ra* of *ñararu-* as an accusative element parallel to *ra* in *ɣara-*, and can then take *ñalalu-* as deriving from accusative */ñara-/* plus Pl subject */-lu-/*. The form *ñararu-* can then be interpreted also as */ñara-lu-/*, identical to the form with nonsingular subject as with the other neutralisations like *ɣalalu-/ɣalalu-*, but differing on the surface from the other */ñara-lu-/* by assimilating the */l/* to the */r/* rather than vice-versa.

In the 3 + 3 forms, we again find Du *-r-* and Pl *-l-* marking object number, and again they are followed by *-ɣu-*.

In the 3 + 2 forms, we may perhaps take *ñuru-* as the 2Sg element */ñi-/* followed by Pl subject */-ru-/*, but this would require an unusual vowel-assimilation. The forms *ɣururu-* and *ɣululu-* consist of 2Du *ɣuru-* and 2Pl *ɣulu-*, both differing slightly from the corresponding intransitive forms, followed by an element probably best taken as */-lu-/*, but assimilating to *-ru-* in *ɣururu-*. If *ɣururu-* and *ɣululu-* were the correct forms not only for 3Sg subject (as shown), but also for 3Du and 3Pl subjects, then we can take *ɣururu-* and *ɣululu-* as formally marking nonsingularity of subject, but in fact also used with singular subject, exactly like *ɣalalu-* and other forms with first person objects.

The 2 + 3 forms are fairly straightforward, and show the same *-r-ɣu-* and *-l-ɣu-* for Du and Pl object, respectively, seen in other combinations. The initial element *ñu-* in *ñurɣu-* and *ñulɣu-* is presumably related to the usual 2Sg element *ñi-* and may be another instance of vowel-assimilation.

Aside from situations where we are analysing the structure of these prefixes, the latter will be written hereafter without internal hyphens and treated as units.

Table 4-8 is an alphabetical list of pronominal prefixes; surface allomorphs (after phonological rules) are included with a cross-reference to the base form.

Table 4-8

## Alphabetical List of Pronominal Prefix Allomorphs

|        |                                                                                                              |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| -Ø-    | { a) 2Sg, 2Sg + 3Sg (in positive imperative)<br>b) =Wa- (before or after a vowel)                            |
| a-     | =Wa-                                                                                                         |
| ad-    | =Wad-                                                                                                        |
| al-    | =Wala-                                                                                                       |
| ala-   | =Wala-                                                                                                       |
| alŋ-   | =Walŋu-                                                                                                      |
| alŋu-  | =Walŋu-                                                                                                      |
| an-    | =Wad-                                                                                                        |
| ar-    | =Wara-                                                                                                       |
| ara-   | =Wara-                                                                                                       |
| arŋ-   | =Warŋ-                                                                                                       |
| arŋu-  | =Warŋu-                                                                                                      |
| Cud-   | 2Du                                                                                                          |
| Cudu-  | 2Pl                                                                                                          |
| Culŋu- | 2Du/2Pl + 3Pl                                                                                                |
| Curi-  | 2Du                                                                                                          |
| Curŋu- | 2Du/2Pl + 3Du                                                                                                |
| Curu-  | 2Du/2Pl + 3Sg                                                                                                |
| -d-    | { a) =Wad- (mainly before a nasal)<br>b) =Cud- (before any vowel or consonant)<br>c) =Cudu- (before a vowel) |
| -du-   | =Cudu-                                                                                                       |
| g-     | =Wa-                                                                                                         |
| ga-    | =Wa-                                                                                                         |
| gad-   | =Wad-                                                                                                        |
| gal-   | =Wala-                                                                                                       |
| gala-  | =Wala-                                                                                                       |
| galŋ-  | =Walŋu-                                                                                                      |
| galŋu- | =Walŋu-                                                                                                      |
| gan-   | =Wad-                                                                                                        |
| gar-   | =Wara-                                                                                                       |

Table 4-8 cont.

|         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| gara-   | =Wara-                       |
| garŋ-   | =Warŋu-                      |
| garŋu-  | =Warŋu-                      |
| -l-     | =Wala-                       |
| -lŋ-    | =Walŋu-                      |
| -lŋu-   | { a) =Walŋu-                 |
|         | { b) =Culŋu-                 |
| -lu-    | =Wala-                       |
| -n-     | { a) =Wad-                   |
|         | { b) =Cud-                   |
| ñ-      | =ñi- (not ña-)               |
| ña-     | 1DuIn, 1DuIn + 3Sg           |
| ñalal-  | =ñalalu-                     |
| ñalalu- | 3Du/3Pl + 1DuIn              |
| ñalŋ-   | =ñalŋu-                      |
| ñalŋu-  | 1DuIn + 3Pl                  |
| ñañ-    | 1DuIn, 1DuIn + 3Sg           |
| ñarar-  | =ñararu-                     |
| ñararu- | 3Sg + 1DuIn                  |
| ñarŋ-   | =ñarŋu-                      |
| ñarŋu-  | 1DuIn + 3Du                  |
| ñi-     | 2Sg, 2Sg + 3Sg, 3Sg + 2Sg    |
| ñid-    | { a) 1DuEx                   |
|         | { b) =ñidi-                  |
| ñidi-   | 1PlEx                        |
| ñilil-  | =ñililu-                     |
| ñililu- | 2/3 + 1PlEx                  |
| ñiliŋ-  | =ñiliŋu-                     |
| ñiliŋu- | 1DuEx/1PlEx + 2Pl/3Pl        |
| ñir-    | 1DuEx, 1DuEx/1PlEx + 2Sg/3Sg |
| ñiri-   | 1DuEx, 1DuEx/1PlEx + 2Sg/3Sg |
| ñiriŋ-  | =ñiriŋu-                     |
| ñiriŋu- | 1DuEx/1PlEx + 2Du/3Du        |
| ñirir-  | =ñiriru-                     |
| ñiriru- | 2/3 + 1DuEx                  |
| ñulŋ-   | =ñulŋu-                      |
| ñulŋu-  | 2Sg + 3Pl                    |
| ñur-    | =ñuru-                       |
| ñurŋ-   | =ñurŋu-                      |

Table 4-8 cont.

|          |                         |
|----------|-------------------------|
| ñurqu-   | 2Sg + 3Du               |
| ñuru-    | 3Du/3P1 + 2Sg           |
| ŋ-       | =ŋa-                    |
| ŋa-      | 1Sg, 1Sg + 2Sg/3Sg      |
| ŋal-     | =ŋala-                  |
| ŋala-    | 1P1In, 1P1In + 3Sg      |
| ŋalal-   | =ŋalalu-                |
| ŋalalŋ-  | =ŋalalŋu-               |
| ŋalalŋu- | 1P1In + 3P1             |
| ŋalalu-  | 3 + 1P1In               |
| ŋalarŋ-  | =ŋalarŋu-               |
| ŋalarŋu- | 1P1In + 3Du             |
| ŋalŋ-    | =ŋalŋu-                 |
| ŋalŋu-   | 1Sg + 2P1/3P1           |
| ŋar-     | =ŋara-                  |
| ŋara-    | 2Sg/3Sg + 1Sg           |
| ŋarar-   | =ŋararu-                |
| ŋararu-  | 2Du/2P1/3Du/3P1 + 1Sg   |
| ŋarŋ-    | =ŋarŋu-                 |
| ŋarŋu-   | 1Sg + 2Du/3Du           |
| -ŋaru-   | =ŋara-                  |
| ŋud-     | { a) 2Du<br>b) =ŋudu-   |
| ŋulŋ-    | =ŋulŋu-                 |
| ŋulŋu-   | 2Du/2P1 + 3P1           |
| ŋulul-   | =ŋululu-                |
| ŋululu-  | 3Sg + 2P1               |
| ŋun-     | =ŋud-                   |
| ŋur-     | =ŋuru-                  |
| ŋuri-    | 2Du                     |
| ŋurŋ-    | =ŋurŋu-                 |
| ŋurŋu-   | 2Du/2P1 + 3Du           |
| ŋuru-    | 2Du/2P1 + 3Sg           |
| ŋurur-   | =ŋururu-                |
| ŋururu-  | 3Sg + 2Du               |
| -r-      | { a) =War-<br>b) =Wara- |
| -ri-     | =Curi-                  |

Table 4-8 cont.

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| -rŋ-   | { a) =Warŋu-<br>b) =Curŋu- |
| -rŋu-  | { a) =Warŋu-<br>b) =Curŋu- |
| -ru-   | { a) =Wara-<br>b) =Curu-   |
| Wa-    | 3Sg, 3Sg → 3Sg             |
| Wad-   | 3Du                        |
| Wala-  | 3P1                        |
| Walŋu- | 3 + 3P1                    |
| Wara-  | 3Du/3P1 → 3Sg              |
| Warŋu- | 3 → 3Du                    |
| yud-   | { a) 2Du<br>b) =yudu-      |
| yudu-  | 2P1                        |
| yulŋ-  | =yulŋu-                    |
| yulŋu- | 2Du/2P1 → 3P1              |
| yuri-  | 2Du                        |
| yurŋ-  | =yurŋu-                    |
| yurŋu- | 2Du/2P1 → 3Du              |
| yur-   | =yuru-                     |
| yuru-  | 2Du/2P1 → 3Sg              |

## CHAPTER FIVE

### DEMONSTRATIVES AND RELATED FORMS

#### 5.1. Demonstrative Pronouns

The demonstrative system is a difficult one, and in view of the fact that the data contain numerous obscure forms it will only be possible to describe the basic morphological and semantic patterns. We will deal first with demonstrative pronouns, then with adverbs of various kinds based on the same stems. In later sections of this chapter we will discuss some anaphoric and other elements which have some syntactic affinities to demonstratives and to pronouns, and will also describe adverbs of cardinal directions and the like.

The principal types of demonstrative pronouns are as follows, where 'Prf' indicates the position of noun-class prefixes:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Prf-niya      | Proximate    |
| a-Prf-ni      | Immediate    |
| Prf-wa Prf-ni | Near-distant |
| Prf-niñi      | Distant      |
| Prf-nñaya     | Anaphoric    |

The form of the prefixes is the same as their forms with articles (3.8) rather than their forms with nouns, hence FSg  $\eta a-$  instead of  $\eta i-$ , Du wuru- instead of yiri-, etc.

The exception to this is the element Prf-wa in Near-Distant Prf-wa Prf-ni, where the FSg has the form  $\eta i-$ , hence  $\eta i-wa \eta a-ni$ . No Du forms of this combination are attested, but on the basis of  $\eta i-wa \eta a-ni$  it would appear that Prf-wa takes the regular noun-class prefixes used with nouns.

It should be emphasised that Prf-wa is distinct from forms with the nondemonstrative pronominal stem -iwa. In the nonhuman  $\mathring{r}a$ -class, for example, we get demonstrative  $\mathring{r}a-wa \mathring{r}a-ni$  and pronoun  $\mathring{r}-iwa$  from / $\mathring{r}a-iwa$ /.



unattested with Proximate *-niya* (demonstrative pronouns) and *-naya* (adverbs). It is thus typologically similar to the Nunggubuyu suffix *-u*, which is extremely common with Immediate demonstratives but unattested with Proximate or Distant (Nonimmediate) ones.

By comparing the basic stems *-niya*, *-ni*, *-niñi*, *-nñaya* mentioned here with each other and with the stems described in 5.4, it is possible to further analyse some of them. Leaving *-nñaya* aside, we can identify an element *-ni-* in most other stems, leaving us with suffixes *-ya* and *-ñi*. This *-ni-* can be contrasted with *-na-* abstracted from Proximate *-naya* (*-na-ya*), mentioned in 5.4. Since *-na-* is specifically Proximate, while *-ni-* is either general (in demonstrative pronouns) or nonProximate (adverbs), we can think of an original *-na-/-ni-* Proximate/nonProximate opposition, which has been partly obscured by the disappearance of *-na-* from demonstrative pronouns.

The suffix *-ñi* may be related to Ngandi *-ñ*, a suffix which is added to nonProximate *-ni-* to create a combination semantically analogous to Warndarang *-nñaya*. Although there is consequently a discrepancy between the meanings of Warndarang *-ñi* (used in Distant, nonAnaphoric forms) and Ngandi *-ñ* (used in Anaphoric forms), Warndarang elsewhere uses *-ñi* in a sense rather similar to that of the Ngandi morpheme (5.8).

The other segmentable suffix, *-ya*, occurs only in Proximate and certain Near-Distant combinations, and can therefore be assigned a basically Proximate or nonDistant sense. There is no cognate in Ngandi, but possibly this *-ya* is connected with Nunggubuyu Proximate stem *ya:-* and similar Proximate stems in various other Aboriginal languages.

Anaphoric *-nñaya* is not easily segmentable in this fashion.

Hereafter stems like *-niya* and *-niñi* will be transcribed without internal hyphens, as though they were unsegmentable units.

## 5.2. Ablative Demonstrative Pronouns

The Ablative suffix *-wala* can occasionally be added to demonstrative pronouns, as in *ña-wa ña-ni-wala* (*he is*) *that one coming* with Near-Distant Prf-*wa* Prf-*ni-*. Here the Ablative has a special sense, in that it implies that the entity in question is in motion, and in particular that it is headed in a direction bringing it closer to the *here* of the speech act (hence *coming* in the gloss). This use of *-wala* has exact parallels in Nunggubuyu and Ngandi, and the Ablative suffixes are cognate.

Occasionally the *-wa* of *Prf-wa* is elided, especially in rapid or careless speech: *ma ma-ni that one* is an alternative to *ma-wa ma-ni*.

The stem *-nāya* was heard clearly as *-dñaya* on a few occasions, and in view of P-6, by which stops are often nasalised by following nasals, it is likely that *-dñaya* is the older form.

Demonstrative pronouns based on Immediate *a-Prf-ni* and Anaphoric *Prf-nāya* seem to be very rare in my data, though adverbs based on them are common. Therefore the basic system of oppositions in the context of demonstrative pronouns is made up, for practical purposes, of the Proximate, the Near-Distant, and Distant categories.

These pronouns generally, though not always, take preceding articles. These combinations may be used independently, or as modifiers of nouns. Examples with FSG prefixes: *ḡa-nu ḡa-niya this*; *ḡa-nu ḡa-wa ḡa-ni that not far away*; *ḡa-nu ḡa-niñi that some distance away*.

The Immediate category appears to refer particularly to the region around the addressee. One of the few attested examples is *wu-nu a-wu-ni that near you*, with one of the nonhuman class prefixes.

The Anaphoric category indicates a demonstrative category mentioned earlier or otherwise contextually clear; it refers rather than points to a location or object. A rare pronominal example is *ḡa-nāya that (same) one*.

Other unproductive types not listed above also turn up occasionally. A combination *a-Prf-niñi* was found once: *a-wu-niñi that over there*. The gloss is consistent with the label Distant which we have applied to the type *Prf-niñi* without the initial element *a-*.

The combination *Prf-wa Prf-niya* occurs in a sequence translatable *let us abandon this dugong*. The speaker and addressees were together in a canoe, so it may be that this type indicates a region in the immediate vicinity of both speaker and addressee. Note that it is formally intermediate between Proximate *Prf-niya* and Near-Distant *Prf-wa Prf-ni*.

It is rather difficult to assign a specific meaning or function to the element *a-* found in some of these combinations. It has nothing to do with the noun-class prefix (*ḡ*)*a-*, at least synchronically. It seems to occur exclusively, or nearly exclusively, in demonstrative constructions referring to 'middle-distance' regions, i.e. neither closely proximate nor far distant. It is therefore obligatory with the stem *-ni* (Immediate), and with *-niya* in the latter's Near-Distant sense in adverbs (5.4) - but not in its Proximate sense with demonstrative pronouns - is very rare with Distant *-niñi*, and is

In Nunggubuyu the addition of /-ala/ to a demonstrative pronoun can imply either that the entity is in motion toward the *here* of the speech act, or that someone in the *here* region is heading or will soon head toward it (i.e. there is or will soon be some kind of motion reducing the distance between the entity and at least one person presently in the *here* region). There are no clear instances of the second sense in the Warndarang data, though perhaps some instances could have been elicited. In general, the use of the Ablative with demonstrative pronouns is less frequent and more restricted semantically in Warndarang than in Nunggubuyu.

The only stems which are reliably attested in Ablative demonstrative pronoun forms are Prf-wa Prf-ni, exemplified above, and the expanded form a-Prf-wa Prf-ni. The latter is attested in the combination a-ṛa-wa ṛa-ni-wala (*they are*) *those ones coming*. Here ṛa- is used in an indefinite sense referring to humans (cf. 3.2). The stem-complex a-Prf-wa Prf-ni is not otherwise attested, though a larger corpus might have turned up some examples of this without suffixes or with other suffixes.

### 5.3. Directional Demonstrative Pronouns

Parallel to Ablative demonstratives in -wala we find forms ending in Locative -yaṇa, which here takes a motional sense. An example is ṇa-niñi-yaṇa a-ṛarani *There he goes*. Note that the sense is not *He is going (in)to that*, as might be expected. The -yaṇa here merely indicates that the object described by the demonstrative stem is in motion. Furthermore, since -wala is used when the motion is directed toward the *here* of the speech act, -yaṇa implies that the motion is in any direction other than toward the speaker.

When -yaṇa follows a demonstrative stem ending in ya, one of the two ya syllables is deleted: ṛa-nñaya-ṇa (not \*ṛa-nñaya-yaṇa) *that one* (Anaphoric) *going along*.

The set of stems which occur with -yaṇa in this sense appears to be the same as the set of stems used in demonstrative adverbs (5.4), which differs in some respects from the set of stems used in simple demonstrative pronouns (5.1). The stems actually attested with -yaṇa in forms which are clearly demonstrative pronouns rather than demonstrative adverbs are: Proximate -naya (e.g. ṇa-naya-ṇa *this one* (FSg) *going along*); Distant -niñi-; Anaphoric -nñaya-. The first of these does not occur in simple demonstrative pronouns (instead we find -niya), while the last is very rare as a simple demonstrative

pronominal stem. All three are common in demonstrative adverbs.

Demonstrative pronouns with *-yaŋa* are analogous in form and meaning to Nunggubuyu demonstratives with suffix *-waj*.

Allative *-ñiyi* does not occur with demonstrative pronouns or adverbs in Warndarang.

#### 5.4. Simple Demonstrative Adverbs

There is no sharp formal difference between demonstrative pronouns and adverbs. Forms which are characteristically used as adverbs (i.e. which normally designate locations or times rather than objects) are described in this and following sections. Adverbs based on demonstrative stems always contain *wu-*, which we may equate with the nonhuman noun-class prefix *wu-*.

The basic set of stems used in various types of demonstrative adverbs are these:

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| <i>wu-naya</i>   | Proximate    |
| <i>wu-niya</i>   | Near-Distant |
| <i>a-wu-niya</i> | Near-Distant |
| <i>a-wu-ni</i>   | Immediate    |
| <i>wu-niñi</i>   | Distant      |
| <i>wu-nñaya</i>  | Anaphoric    |

The most important points to note in comparing this with the set of stems shown in 5.1 are: a new stem *-naya* replaces *-niya* in the Proximate; the Near-Distant type *Prf-wa Prf-ni* is missing, with *-niya* and *a-(wu)-niya* taking over its sense.

The semantic contrasts between *wu-niya*, *a-wu-niya*, and *a-wu-ni* are difficult to pin down and the labels attached to them should be used cautiously. The three do not appear to contrast in all adverbial formations.

Some of these stems are attested in adverbial uses without further affixation. These are: *wu-naya here*; *wu-niya* and *a-wu-niya there*; *wu-niñi there*(Distant); *wu-nñaya there*(Anaphoric).

The latter form is exemplified in this passage:

|                                                                |                       |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>munjitaraba</i>                                             | <i>ɖuɖul</i>          | <i>Hodgson Downs</i> |
| <i>they followed him</i>                                       | <i>all the way to</i> |                      |
| <i>ɖud+gar-iɾayi</i>                                           | <i>wu-nñaya</i>       |                      |
| <i>they found him there</i>                                    |                       |                      |
| <i>They followed him to Hodgson Downs and found him there.</i> |                       |                      |

The reason why *wu-nñaya* was used here instead of another adverb like *wu-niñi* is that it refers back to a location already named ('Hodgson Downs') rather than pointing to a new location. The expression *wu-nñaya bugi* *still at that (same) place*, with *bugi* reinforcing the notion of continuity, is quite common.

Examples of other forms: *wu-niñi yiribala wuḍi+ḡa-murgi* *I put it there inside*; *gu-ḡaj+ḡa-mi wu-nu wu-niya* *I won't sit there*; *a-wu-niya ḡil+ḡ-idanani* *I hold it there*; *wu-naya wu-nu wu-ḡa-maljuḡa* *it is here that we (DuIn) are sitting*. Note that an article can be used with an adverb of this sort, as in *wu-nu wu-niya* in the second of these examples (*wu-nu* in the last example has a different function and is not a modifier of *wu-naya*).

The gloss *there* for *a-wu-niya* is tentative, and in the three clear examples of this form in my data from Isaac the gloss *here* is also plausible. However, in eliciting translations for *here*, *there not far away*, and *there far away*, Isaac gave *wu-naya* for the first and *a-wu-niya* for the second. Therefore the best gloss seems to be *there* (Near-Distant or Immediate). Note that Immediate *a-wu-ni* is not among those stems listed above which can function as locative adverbs without further suffixation.

### 5.5. Ablative Demonstrative Adverbs

The Ablative suffix *-wala* may be added to the simple adverbs listed in 5.4 to form Ablative adverbs. The examples attested are: *wu-naya-wala* *from here*; *wu-niya-wala* *from there*; *a-wu-ni-wala* *from there*; *wu-nñaya-wala* *from there*. The meaning of the stems is as in 5.4. The absence of *\*wu-niñi-wala* from my corpus may be an accidental gap.

These Ablative forms are semantically and syntactically like the English forms given as glosses. They do not show the unusual semantic twists which we have seen in Ablative demonstrative pronouns (5.2). In these adverbial forms, the motion described is from the position indicated by the stem. If we take *wu-naya-wala* literally as *from this (place)*, we can immediately see the difference between this type and that represented by *ḡa-wa ḡa-ni-wala* (5.2), which means *that one coming (from there)* rather than *from that one*.

Ablative adverbs may have temporal as well as locational senses, so that *wu-niya-wala*, *wu-nñaya-wala*, etc., may mean *after that* or *from there*.

There is also an irregular adverb *wudjiwa* (presumably *wu-djiwa*) *after that; from there*.

### 5.6. Directional Demonstrative Adverbs

Directional adverbs based on demonstrative stems show the suffix *-yaŋa*, identical to the Locative suffix used with nouns (3.6) but in a somewhat different sense. As noted in 5.3, when *-yaŋa* is added to a demonstrative stem ending in *ya*, one of the *ya* syllables drops out.

The forms attested are: *wu-naya-ŋa* *to here, in this direction*; *wu-niya-ŋa* *that way, in that direction*; *a-wu-ni-yaŋa* *that way, in that direction*; *wu-niñi-yaŋa* *that way, in that direction* (Distant). It is likely that a larger corpus of materials would have showed some examples of *\*wu-nñaya-ŋa* as well.

Although these forms are morphologically identical to the Directional demonstrative pronouns described in 5.3, there is a major semantic difference. It is possible to consider a form like *wu-niñi-yaŋa* *that way* as literally meaning *to that (place)*. However, in the type described in 5.3 the semantic scope of the Directional morpheme is different; it indicates motion by the referent of the demonstrative stem, not to it.

### 5.7. The Cardinal Directions and Related Forms

There are special Locative, Directional, and Ablative forms for each cardinal direction term:

|              |             |                   |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <i>east</i>  | Locative    | <i>gaŋu</i>       |
|              | Directional | <i>yini-ñi</i>    |
|              | Ablative    | <i>ana-yini</i>   |
| <i>west</i>  | Locative    | <i>arga i</i>     |
|              | Directional | <i>arga i-ñi</i>  |
|              | Ablative    | <i>an-arga i</i>  |
| <i>north</i> | Locative    | <i>guymi</i>      |
|              | Directional | <i>wuñmi-ñi</i>   |
|              | Ablative    | <i>ana-wuñmi</i>  |
| <i>south</i> | Locative    | <i>wagi</i>       |
|              | Directional | <i>wayburi</i>    |
|              | Ablative    | <i>ana-yiwayi</i> |

The form *an-argaḷi* from the west has a base form /ana-argaḷi/; the two /a/'s are contracted by P-9.

The forms show some irregularities and stem-suppletions. We may segment *-ñi* as the Directional suffix in all but the last paradigm. This is clearly distinct from Allative *-ñiyi* used with nouns; when I realised that the latter was bisyllabic I rechecked the cardinal direction forms and verified that *-ñi* here was monosyllabic. The Ablative prefix *ana-* occurs nowhere else in the language.

Locative forms of these adverbs are often preceded by *wu-niñi* there (Distant). With *gaṇu* we get a frozen combination *wu-niñi-ngaṇu* there in the east. See 2.14 for the phonology. The form *wu-niñi-ngaṇa* with different final vowel was also recorded once.

At least some of the Locative adverbs have specialised reduplicated variants which appear to mean something like *far (or farther) to the west* and so forth. The only forms attested are *guyma-guyma far(ther) to the north* (note the vowel change from *guy*mi) and *arg-argaḷi far(ther) to the west*. These forms may have Directional as well as (static) Locative uses.

Other adverbs which should be mentioned here are the following: a) *arwaṛ top; region overhead; region up from the coast*, Ablative *arwaṛ-wala*; b) *yaḷburi downward* (no Ablative attested), cf. *Mara waḷburi* with the same meaning; c) *wanga-ñi in another direction* (gloss approximate).

### 5.8. Some Quasi-demonstrative Stems

There are a number of stems used in forms which are not quite pronouns or demonstrative pronouns but which have similar uses and are fairly important in the texts.

The stem *-ñi same* indicates an anaphoric relationship to a previously mentioned or contextually clear referent. Unlike *-nñaya* (5.1), *-ñi* makes no reference to location. It is frequently juxtaposed to a noun, as in this example:

ṇa-ñi ṇa-jawulba-ñu wu-nu ṇaḷ-ṇaḷ+a-mama  
*same old man kept speaking*  
*It was the same old man who kept speaking.* (Cf. 10.3)

See 4.2 for uses of *-ñi* with pronouns.

In contrast to the preceding we have *-gayi other*:

warj+ga-numi ṇa-gayi ṇa-jawulba-ñu  
*he grabbed it other old man*  
*Another old man grabbed it.*

Both -ñi and -gayi, which are used frequently, take the noun-class prefixes used with articles (3.8), hence FSG ɲa-ñi, ɲa-gayi instead of \*ɲi-ñi, \*ɲi-gayi, etc.

### 5.9. Some Particles used with Adverbs

The neuter article wu-nu is frequently used as a modifier of a following Locative or Directional adverb: wu-nu wu-niñi-yaɲa *that way, to there*; wu-nu wu-naya *here*.

With temporal adverbs, there are three elements which can be juxtaposed to give various nuances: wu-nu, galɲi, and ñiya. The first two precede the adverb, the last follows it.

galɲi indicates that the time referred to by the adverb is subsequent to some reference time, which is usually the present. Therefore jilgñi *tomorrow* usually occurs in the sequence galɲi jilgñi.

wu-nu does not have a very definite temporal sense, but the mere fact that it is incompatible with galɲi means that wu-nu tends to occur with adverbs referring to present or past time: wu-nu ɲala *today*; wu-nu miɾmiɾya *yesterday*.

In some cases the contrast galɲi/wu-nu is not redundant. Thus jilgñi can mean *the following day* as well as *tomorrow*, and in a Past tense context the form wu-nu jilgñi can occur. Similarly, ɲiliɲiliwayi *morning* can occur in the sequences galɲi ɲiliɲiliwayi *tomorrow morning* and wu-nu ɲiliɲiliwayi *this morning; that morning*.

The particle ñiya is uncommon. It is attested three times in my data, always in a Past tense context: miɾmiɾya ñiya *yesterday*; wu-nñaya ñiya gayari *at that time, long ago*; miɾmiɾya ñiya *in the preceding days*.



## CHAPTER SIX

### VERB COMPLEXES AND VERBAL PREFIXES

#### 6.1. The Structure of Verb Complexes

There are simple and auxiliary constructions in what we will call the verb complex. The simple type consists minimally of an inflectable verb stem, a pronominal prefix (4.4), and a suffix or suffix-complex marking tense, mood, and aspect. There may be one or more additional prefixes such as Negative *gu-* and Potential */u-/*. Examples are: *ŋa-wiŋdi-ma-ni* *I go looking for him*, containing *ŋa-* 1Sg → 3Sg, stem *-wiŋdi-*, and Present Continuous *-ma-ni*; *gu-ŋa-wiŋdi-ma-ri* *I am not going looking for him* with Negative *gu-* and a corresponding change in the suffix-complex; *wu-ŋa-wiŋdi-ma-∅* *I will go looking for him* with Potential *wu-* from */u-/* and Nonpresent Continuous Positive *-ma-∅*.

In the auxiliary type the inflectable verb is semantically subordinated to a preceding main verb which indicates the basic verbal idea, though different grammatical nuances are expressed by varying the inflectable verb. The latter will be called the auxiliary (Aux.). Many inflectable verbs can function either as main verbs or as auxiliaries; some can only do one or the other.

The main verb in auxiliary constructions is fused morphologically and phonologically into the verb complex. It precedes some prefixes, such as the pronominal prefixes and Potential */u-/*, but follows others such as Negative *gu-*. I will indicate the boundary between the main verb and the following element with the symbol + rather than with the usual word-internal morpheme boundary -. Both are distinct from the word boundary #, over which morphophonemic rules do not operate.

Treating suffix complexes as a unit for the time being, we have the following order of elements in the verb complex:

- |    |                                          |                       |
|----|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | gu-                                      | Negative              |
| 2. | {<br>-raṅani-<br>-ma-<br>-man-         } | no-one                |
|    |                                          | Benefactive           |
|    |                                          |                       |
| 3. | main verb                                |                       |
| 4. | ya-                                      | Centripetal           |
| 5. | {<br>-yu-<br>/-u-/         }             | Third Person Negative |
|    |                                          | Potential             |
| 6. | pronominal prefix                        |                       |
| 7. | inflectable verb                         |                       |
| 8. | suffix complex                           |                       |

The obligatory elements are 6, 7, and 8.

It is possible that the three elements in 2 could be ordered relative to each other, but since -raṅani- and -man- are each attested only two or three times I have no evidence bearing on this.

Examples showing the ordering relations will be presented in the following sections.

## 6.2. Suffixal Categories

The suffix complex, which will be discussed in detail in the next chapter, indicates Reflexive and Reciprocal notions, and also the following inflectional categories:

- a. PaActPun (past actual punctual)
- b. PaActCon/FutPosCon (past actual continuous, future positive continuous)
- c. PaIrr (past irrealis)
- d. PrAct (present actual)
- e. PrIrr (present irrealis)
- f. FutPosPun (future positive punctual)
- g. FutNeg (future negative)
- h. Imper (imperative)

The two categories in (b) are differentiated by the occurrence of Potential /-u-/ with FutPosCon and its absence with the PaActCon.

Irrealis (Irr) subsumes Negative and Potential; such forms are therefore normally required to occur with either Negative gu- or Potential /-u-/. This generalisation holds for my materials, but in

Sharpe's texts there is one passage (which I do not understand very well) where the PaIrr is used without either of these prefixes, apparently in a Negative sense.

The Actual/Irrealis opposition occurs in the Past and Present tenses. Since Future forms are all treated as either Potential or Negative, instead of Actual/Irrealis we get a Positive/Negative opposition here. The Positive forms require Potential /-u-/.

The form labelled Imperative (Imper) is overtly distinct from the FutNeg only for a few high-frequency inflectable stems. For the others, there is a single form which functions both as FutNeg and Imperative. Furthermore, even with stems which distinguish the two, the FutNeg is used instead of the Imperative form in commands or prohibitions under certain circumstances (7.37).

### 6.3. The Word-class Status of 'Main Verbs'

What I have called 'main verbs' in auxiliary constructions are, at least etymologically, from several different word-classes.

Examples of stems which can function as nouns or main verbs: *warj urine, to urinate*; *jalbij meat, to eat meat*; *ɳari fight, to have a fight*. Adjectival nouns can fairly freely be used as main verbs with the auxiliary -ma-, as in *gabul+a-mi It became cooked*, cf. *gabul cooked* (adjective).

In *gaw+ɳa-mi I shouted*, the main verb represents the shout itself (*gaw!*), and the construction could be taken literally as *I said 'gaw!'*.

In many other instances the original word-class of the main verb is unrecoverable. Many are probably verb-like particles or 'root forms', as found for example in Ngandi and Ritharngu.

Occasionally the main verb is used without auxiliary as an abbreviation of an inflected form. An example is *gu! drink!*, short for *gu!+Ø-jaŋu*, but not all examples are imperative. This corresponds exactly to Ngandi and Ritharngu root forms, but it is very uncommon in Warndarang, very common in the other two. Also, some apparent root forms are merely false starts where the informant cut himself short.

### 6.4. Negative Prefixes

The basic Negative morpheme is the prefix *gu-*. When this is added to a verb complex containing a third person intransitive or third + third transitive pronominal prefix, a special prefix *-yu-* is also added.

Examples: *gu-ɳad+ɳa-mayaŋi I did not run* (Negative - run + 1Sg - Aux); *gu-ɳara-wa He will not give it to me* (Negative - 3Sg + 1Sg - give); *gu-war+yu-ru-giri* from /*gu-war+yu-Wara-giri*/ *They are not*

*singing it* (Negative - *sing* + Third Person Negative - 3Pl → 3Sg - Aux); *gu-yu-∅-gayamari He does not hear it* (Negative - Third Person Negative - 3Sg → 3Sg - *hear*). The verbal suffix complexes used with *gu-* are Irrealis in the Past and Present, and Negative in the Future.

An example of *gu-* with a predicate noun: *gu-ŋa-waŋiyi I am not an Aboriginal* (Negative - 1Sg - *Aboriginal*).

#### 6.5. Benefactive -ma-

The Benefactive prefix indicates that the object-marking pronominal in the pronominal prefix identifies the indirect object rather than the direct object. Verbs like *-wa-* *to give* which always have a semantic indirect object marked by the pronominal prefix do not use the Benefactive prefix. In other words, with an underlying transitive verb the Benefactive is used only if the object-marker would otherwise be interpreted as the direct object; this is not the case with *-wa-* since the object marked by the pronominal prefix is always the indirect object. It is possible that Benefactive *-ma-* can also be used with underlying intransitives (which then would take transitive pronominal prefixes) - this would be the usual pattern for languages of this area - but unfortunately I do not have any examples with an intransitive base. It should be noted that the same effect can be achieved by using an auxiliary like *-wiŋɟi-* or *-igira-* (transitive, with semantic indirect object specified in the pronominal prefix) instead of the usual intransitive auxiliary.

An example of *ma-* is *ma-ŋaŋŋara-gaŋi He killed (it, you, etc.) for me* (Ben - *kill* - 3Sg → 1Sg - Aux); another is *gu-ma-gi+ya-ŋara-gi He did not bring it for me* (Neg - Ben - *take* + Centripetal - 3Sg → 1Sg - Aux).

#### 6.6. -ŋaŋani- and -man-

The prefix *-ŋaŋani-* *no one* occurs three times in the data. It requires the usual Negative affixes (*gu-*, and *-yu-* in the relevant third person forms). Examples: *gu-ŋaŋani-ŋaŋŋara-gi No one hit me* (Neg - *no one* - *hit* + 3Sg → 1Sg - Aux); *gu-ŋaŋani-biŋ+ju-∅-ga* from */gu-ŋaŋani-biŋ+yu-Wa-ga/ No one will finish them off* (Neg - *no one* - *finish off* + 3Neg - 3Sg → 3Sg - Aux). The examples show that *-ŋaŋani-* refers to the subject rather than object in transitive constructions, and the cross-referencing pronominal is 3Sg.

The prefix *-man-* occurs only twice and is rather obscure. In one instance it appears to be Reflexive in sense: *man-garj+ŋ-idaŋani*

*I scratch myself* (Reflex - *scratch* - 1Sg - Aux). However, the usual Reflexive form is produced by adding *-i-* to the inflected verb. In the other example, *-man-* is added to an already intransitive form: *man-bunji+na-mi I have gotten dry*, cf. *bunji+a-mi It has gotten dry*. The contribution of *man-* here is difficult to determine.

I am not sure that *-man-* follows Negative *gu-* since I was unable to elicit these two in combination.

#### 6.7. Centripetal *ya-*

The Centripetal prefix indicates that motion is directed toward the *here* of the speech act. The addition of *ya-* distinguishes *to come* from *to go*, *to bring* from *to take*, etc. Examples: *ya-na-gaya I brought it*, cf. *na-gaya I took it*; see also examples in 2.10.

#### 6.8. Potential /-u-/

The Potential prefix /-u-/ is used in non-Negative verb complexes in any tense. It is obligatory with Future Positive forms (which are invariably treated as Potential in Warndarang). These Future forms may have true Potential senses, so that *wu-na-rara* from /*u-na-rara*/ is translatable *I will go*, *I could go*, etc.

The Past Potential is formed by adding /-u-/ to a Past Irrealis verb form. Examples: *gal+u-na-ji I was just about to spear him* (*but he ran away*), emphasising that at that time the event of spearing was very possible; *nalana wu-nu naba+u-na-mari I nearly died* (literally, *It was imminent that I would die*); *wu-nu yalji wu-yaŋi wulguy, gal+u-rnu-ji If he had gone (wu-yaŋi) earlier, all right - he would have speared them(Du)*. The last example is the regular contrary-to-fact Past conditional construction, with both verbs in the Past Potential.

The Present Potential, usually translatable with *should* is less common. An example: *wu-na-namari I should eat it*. The Past Potential probably also can have this sort of sense (*should have done*), but I do not have any good examples.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### INFLECTABLE VERBS AND THEIR SUFFIXES

#### 7.1. General Comments

Inflectable verb stems, whether functioning as main verbs or auxiliaries, typically distinguish the nine categories shown in 6.2, except that the Past Actual Continuous and Future Positive Continuous are always identical in terms of the suffix complex. Some of the paradigms to be presented below are defective, however. This may be because of gaps in the data or because the informant could not remember some difficult forms, but in some other cases the defectiveness is genuine. Thus some verbs do not distinguish Punctual from Continuous forms, while some stems like -juṛa are supplanted by others (in this case -iṇaji-) in certain categories.

In the following sections I will deal one by one with all of the inflectable stems attested in the data. The kinds of information which I will provide are: a) a list of the attested forms; b) an indication as to whether the verb is used independently, as an auxiliary, or both; c) in the case of auxiliary verbs a description of the semantic and syntactic range of constructions in which they occur. At the end of the chapter are sections on the Reflexive, Reciprocal, and Imperative.

#### 7.2. Analysis of the Paradigms

The structural analysis of the verbal paradigms to be presented below is hindered both by incomplete data for some of them and by the morphological opacity of some of the more difficult forms. In the present section, therefore, I will deal chiefly with general patterns rather than details.

In several of the paradigms there is a fairly clear contrast between a Continuous system including the FutPosCon, PaActCon, PrAct,

and PrIrr, and a Noncontinuous system including the other categories. The Continuous system is usually marked by the addition of an augment, usually -*na-* or -*ma-*, between the root and the inflectional suffix. The Noncontinuous system lacks this augment.

The usual suffixes include - $\emptyset$  for the FutPosCon and PaActCon, -*ni* for the PrAct, and -*ri* for the PrIrr. In the Noncontinuous system there is less uniformity, except that -*iñu* is the invariable form of the FutPosPun. The PaActPun and FutNeg often have a zero suffix, but one or both may show a quality shift in the final vowel, e.g. /*a*/ → *i*. The PaIrr shows a variety of allomorphs including -*ri*, -*ri*, and  $\emptyset$ .

The Imperative form is usually identical to the FutNeg, and the only clear counterexamples to this are a handful of high-frequency stems. In the paradigms where a FutNeg form is given, but an Imperative is not shown, it is highly probable that the missing Imperative was identical to the FutNeg.

The citation form of each stem is either the unaffixed root (e.g. -*ba-*), where this stem is fairly easy to segment aside from possible uncertainty as to the final underlying vowel, or a suffixed form (e.g. -*juṛa*) where the stem is not easily segmented from the suffix.

### 7.3. -*ba-* to hit; to kill

The forms are:

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| - <i>ba-<math>\emptyset</math></i> | PaActPun            |
| - <i>bu-ṛa</i>                     | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| - <i>bi-ni</i>                     | PaIrr               |
| - <i>ba-ni</i>                     | PrAct               |
| - <i>ba-ri</i>                     | PrIrr               |
| - <i>b-iñu</i>                     | FutPosPun           |
| - <i>bi-<math>\emptyset</math></i> | FutNeg              |
| - <i>bi-ṇu</i>                     | Imper               |

The stem shows three forms -*ba-*, -*bu-*, -*bi-* depending on the suffix. In -*bi-ni* we could have vowel-harmony from \*-*bu-ni*, while in -*b-iñu* the *i* is due to the suffix, but we still get -*bi-* in -*bi- $\emptyset$*  and -*bi-ṇu*. Historically this is \*-*bu-*, a CA stem for *to hit; to kill*.

This meaning is preserved, but is much less common than the combination of main verb *raŋ* to *hit* with auxiliary *-ga-*. By itself, *-ba-* often has the specific sense to *kick*. As an auxiliary, *-ba-* occurs with a large and heterogeneous collection of transitive main verbs, of which a fair number (e.g. *wiŋj* to *scrape*; *wur* to *rub*; *ɖira* to *tie up*; *ɖalag* to *drop*; *jabi* to *grab at*) are in the same general domain as *to hit*. Among the others we may mention *munji* to *follow*, *yar* to *dawn*, *mirg* to *be jealous or resentful of*.

Examples: *ŋa-ba-ni* I am kicking him; *jaŋ+ŋa-ba* I pulled it (Punctual); *jaŋag+ŋa-bu-ŋa* I used to make it; I was making it.

See also the discussion of the imperative of *-ŋa-* (7.37).

#### 7.4. *-ga-* to take to

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| <i>-ga-ñi</i> | PaActPun            |
| <i>-ga-ya</i> | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-gi-∅</i>  | PaIrr               |
| <i>-gi-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| <i>-gi-ri</i> | PrIrr               |
| <i>-g-iñu</i> | FutPosPun           |
| <i>-ga-∅</i>  | FutNeg              |
| <i>-ga-ŋu</i> | Imper               |

The endings *-ñi* and *-ya* in the first two forms are unique. The Imperative allomorph *-ŋu* is found also with *-ja-* and *-ba-*. The stem fluctuates between *-ga-* and *-gi-*, but the former has a broader distribution (two of three examples of *-gi-* could reflect vowel-harmony).

As a main verb, *-ga-* occurs fairly infrequently in the sense *to take, to transport*, though this is more often expressed by the combination of main verb *gi* and *-ga-* as auxiliary. An example of *-ga-* as main verb is given in 6.7 above. As an auxiliary, *-ga-* can occur with many transitive main verbs; quite a few of these involve the transfer of the object from one point to another: *biray* to *carry (on back)*; *biŋ* to *displace*; *waɖara* to *head for*; *to understand*; *wirju* to *miss (e.g. in throwing spears)*; *to make a mistake*. Others include *warj* to *urinate*; *war* to *call to*; *to sing*; *mud* to *break*; *raŋ* to *hit*; *to kill*; *to make (rope)*. As the last examples suggest, there is no sharp break between the semantic domains of *-ba-* and of *-ga-* as auxiliaries.



Examples: *ya-ŋa-ga-ya I brought it; biŋ+ŋa-ga-ñi I moved it over; gu-war+yu-ru-gi-ri They(Pl) are not singing (it).*

-ga- is related etymologically to verbs of the same or similar form in various Aboriginal languages meaning *to carry* or the like.

#### 7.5. -gayama to hear

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| -gayiwi     | PaActPun            |
| -gaya-ma-∅  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| -gayiwi     | PaIrr               |
| -gaya-ma-ni | PrAct               |
| -gaya-ma-ri | PrIrr               |
| ?           | FutPosPun           |
| ?           | FutNeg              |
| -gayiwi     | Imper               |

This is a transitive main verb which cannot be used as an auxiliary. The Continuous system is regular, with a theme based on an augment -ma-. The Noncontinuous forms are all -gayiwi, except for the two forms which could not be elicited.

Examples: *ŋa-gaya-ma-∅ I heard him (Continuous); gu-ŋa-gayiwi I did not hear him; gu-ŋa-gaya-ma-ri I do not hear him; wu-ŋa-gaya-ma-∅ I will hear him.*

#### 7.6. -ida-

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| -ida-∅     | PaActPun            |
| -ida-ŋa-∅  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| -idi-∅     | PaIrr               |
| -ida-ŋa-ni | PrAct               |
| -ida-ŋa-ri | PrIrr               |
| -id-iñu    | FutPosPun           |
| -ida-∅     | FutNeg              |
| -ida-∅     | Imper               |

The Continuous system shows a theme with augment -ŋa- and is regular. The final a/i alternation in the PaActPun and PaIrr is paralleled in the paradigm of -ja-. The FutNeg and Imperative are not distinguished.

This stem is always used as an auxiliary. The transitive main verbs used with it, numbering around ten, generally indicate forcible manipulation of the object: *ḡil to hold*; *gur to steal*; *garj to scratch*; *jaḡ to grab (by the wrist)*; *ḡarwuḡ to bend*; *jawj to wrap up*; *to surround*, etc.

Examples: *ḡarwuḡ+ḡ-ida-∅ I bent it*; *jawj-galḡ-ida-∅ They surrounded them*; *ḡil+∅-ida-∅ Hold this!*(Sg addressee).

### 7.7. -iḡaḡa to defecate

|           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| ?         | PaActPun            |
| -iḡaḡa-∅  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| -iḡaḡa-ri | PaIrr               |
| -iḡaḡa-ni | PrAct               |
| -iḡaḡa-ri | PrIrr               |
| ?         | FutPosPun           |
| ?         | FutNeg              |
| ?         | Imper               |

This is an intransitive main verb. The Punctual forms could not be elicited and may have been missing.

### 7.8. -igira-

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| -igiri-∅     | PaActPun           |
| ?            | PaActCon/FutPosCon |
| ?            | PaIrr              |
| -igira-ma-ni | PrAct              |
| ?            | PrIrr              |
| -igir-iñu    | FutPosCon          |
| ?            | FutNeg             |
| ?            | Imper              |

The Continuous system is represented by the PrAct form, showing the *-ma-* augment.

This is a transitive stem used exclusively as an auxiliary. It is closely related to the more common stem *-wiḡḡi-*. Both indicate that the activity (usually motion or an emotional state) is directed toward

an external object. *-igira-*, to a greater extent than *-wiŋḍi-*, implies that the object is potentially menaced by, or is in an inharmonious relationship with, the subject. Examples are: *wirg+∅-igiri-∅* (the first ∅ represents /wa-/) *He jumped at him*, cf. intransitive *wirg+∅-iŋa* *He jumped* (for the Aux here cf. *-ra-*); *guwid+g-igiri-∅* *It(crocodile) turned to face him*; *yagu!+ŋ-igira-ma-ni* *I am afraid of him*. In the latter instance *-igira-* can be replaced by *-wiŋḍi-*, and the latter is probably more common.

### 7.9. *-ija*

*-ija-∅* PaActPun

This stem is attested only in the form given. It is used as a transitive auxiliary with *ḍiw* to *throw* and *ḍu!* to *release*, both of which involve releasing an object. An example: *ḍiw+ŋal-ija-∅* *I threw it*.

Some additional paradigmatic forms might have been obtainable, but I did not elicit them since I originally confused *-ija* with the auxiliary *-ja-*. I now feel certain that the two are distinct.

### 7.10. *-ilama-* to cut up

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-ilami-∅</i>     | PaActPun            |
| <i>-ilama-ŋa-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-ilami-∅</i>     | PaIrr               |
| <i>-ilama-ŋa-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| <i>-ilama-ŋa-ri</i> | PrIrr               |
| <i>-ilam-iñu-</i>   | FutPosPun           |
| <i>-ilami-∅</i>     | FutNeg              |
| ?                   | Imper               |

The Imperative is presumably also *\*-ilami-∅* but this is not attested.

This stem is transitive and can be used as a main verb or as an auxiliary. The two main verbs attested with it are *ŋan* to *hit* (not the common word for this) and *yabara-mud* to *break the leg of*. The latter is a compound with *yabara* *leg* and *mud* to *break*. Examples: *ŋar-ilama-ŋa-ni* *It is cutting me; It is stabbing me*; *yabara-mud+ŋ-ilami-∅* *I broke his leg*.

It is interesting to note that *ḡuḡuḡa-mud to break the arm of* with *ḡuḡuḡa arm* takes the auxiliary *-ba-* instead of *-ilama-*, and that uncompounded *mud to break* takes *-ga-*: *ḡuḡuḡa-mud+ḡa-ba-∅ I broke his arm*; *ḡu-mud+ḡa-gi-∅ I did not break it*. Another compound, *ḡalwar-mud to break in half; to break in the middle*, takes *-ida-*: *ḡalwar-mud+ḡa-ida-∅ I broke it in half*.

7.11. *-iḡaji-*

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-iḡaji-∅</i>     | PaActPun            |
| <i>-iḡaji-ma-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| ?                   | PaIrr               |
| <i>-iḡaji-ma-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| <i>-iḡaji-ma-ri</i> | PrIrr               |
| <i>-iḡaj-iḡu</i>    | FutPosPun           |
| ?                   | FutNeg              |
| ?                   | Imper               |

This is an intransitive stem used most commonly in Punctual forms, and is always an auxiliary. The Punctual forms of *-iḡaji-* supplete the missing Punctual forms of the auxiliary *-juḡa*, which is used chiefly with position verbs like *bay to stand* and *mun to bend over*. Hence *bay+u-ḡ-iḡaj-iḡu I will stand up*, etc. It would appear that most instances of *-iḡaji-* in my data are with verbs which usually take *-juḡa* in Continuous forms. The verbs attested with *-iḡaji-* are *ḡalag to fall down*; *ḡil to land (e.g. bird)*; *yar to fall out*; *ḡar to hide oneself*; *wanḡay to wake up*; *baḡa to be born*; *gaburg to ricochet*; *mulḡ to go to sleep*; *wirḡ to jump off* (cf. *wirḡ to jump* with auxiliary *-ḡa-*); *ḡalwal to hold spear raised, ready to strike*; *maḡaḡ to strike with spears* (gloss doubtful); *bay* and *mun* (cf. above).

The common bond here is that most or all of the stems indicate an abrupt change in position or state.

7.12. *-iḡama*

Only two forms are attested:

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-iḡama-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-iḡama-ni</i> | PrAct               |

It is possible that the basic stem is *-iŋa-* and that *-ma-* is therefore the augment of the Continuous system.

This is an uncommon transitive auxiliary. The three stems which occur with it in my data are *ɖiw* to *throw*, *ɖuɭ* to *send*, and *warj*. The first of these can also be used with *-ja-*. The verb *warj* can also be used with auxiliaries such as *-iɾayi-*, *-ga-*, and *-numi-*. With *-iŋama-*, *warj* acquires the special sense to *catch (a thrown object)*. Thus all three stems used with *-iŋama* involve the notion of (vigorously) transporting an object, e.g. by throwing, and suggest that the person responsible for the transporting does not accompany the transported object (i.e. does not carry it). Examples: *ɖiw+ar-iŋama-∅* *They(Pl) threw it*; *warj+ŋ-iŋama-ni* *I am catching it*.

This auxiliary is synchronically unrelated to *-iŋa*, a tense form of the intransitive inflected verb and auxiliary *-ɾa-* to *go*.

### 7.13. *-iɾa-*

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-iɾa-yi-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-iɾa-yi-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| <i>-iɾa-yi-ri</i> | PrIrr(?)            |
| <i>-iɾa-y-iñu</i> | FutPosPun           |
| <i>-iɾa-wa</i>    | Imper               |

The absence of several forms makes it somewhat risky to interpret the paradigm. The stem is *-iɾa-yi* even in the one Punctual form attested, but the *-yi-* is dropped in the Imperative. This *-yi-* is attested nowhere else in such a morphological context. The form *-iɾa-yi-ri* was glossed with Past instead of Present tense, but structurally it looks like a Present form. It is possible that the same form is also used for the Past as well.

This is an uncommon transitive auxiliary used with *warj* in the sense to *pick up*; to *get* where the auxiliaries *-ga-* and *-numi-* are also possible, and with *ɖud* to *find*. Examples: *warj+ŋ-iɾayi-∅* *I got it*; *warj+∅-iɾa-wa* *Pick it up!*(Sg addressee).

### 7.14. *-ja-* to *tell*

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| <i>-ja-∅</i>    | PaActPun            |
| <i>-ja-ŋa-∅</i> | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-ji-∅</i>    | PaIrr               |

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| -ja-ŋa-ni | PrAct     |
| -ja-ri    | PrIrr     |
| -j-iñu    | FutPosPun |
| -ja-∅     | FutNeg    |
| -ja-ŋu    | Imper     |

This paradigm is unusual in that the PrIrr lacks the -ŋa- augment found in other forms in the Continuous system; contrast -ida-ŋa-ri, -ilama-ŋa-ri, etc. At the early stages of my fieldwork the paradigmatic material obtained was of low reliability, because Isaac got this paradigm mixed up with that of -juṛa. For example, at one point he gave the PrAct of -ja- as -ja-ni, which turned out to be the corresponding stem of -juṛa. It occurred to me that PrIrr -ja-ri might be a similar error, since this is also the PrIrr of -juṛa. However, even after Isaac sorted these things out he insisted that -ja-ri was the correct form for -ja- as well as -juṛa and rejected \*-ja-ŋa-ri.

-ja- is occasionally used in the sense *to tell*, the direct object marked in pronominal prefixes being the addressee. These forms usually follow a quotation. Another sense, attested once in Capell's goanna text, is *to put* (this is usually expressed by main verb wuṛ with auxiliary -ga-).

As a transitive auxiliary, -ja- is as common and important as -ba- and -ga- (with which it shares the Imperative suffix -ŋu). Among the many, semantically heterogeneous main verbs used with -ja- are: ga| *to spear; to bite*; !uñ *to wrap up; to coil up*; gaw *to shout to*; ŋa| *to speak to*; ɾal *to hook up (spear, with woomera)*; yaḍ *to wait for*; gul *to make trouble for*; bal *to draw, to write*; diw *to throw*.

In general, it is convenient to think of -ja- as the transitive auxiliary corresponding to intransitive -ma-. A few stems can occur with either depending on whether an object is overtly indicated: ŋa|+u-ŋa-ja-ŋa-∅ *I will speak to him*(FutPosCon) vs. ŋa|+u-ŋa-ma-ma-∅ *I will speak*. Similarly, as independent verb -ma- means *to say* (more generally, *to do/be/say like that*), which is again in effect the objectless counterpart of *to tell*.

#### 7.15. -janayajima *to engage in a large fight*

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| -janayaji-ma-∅ | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
|----------------|---------------------|

The only form attested is wu-ŋala-janayaji-ma-∅ *We(InPl) will all fight each other*. The root is -janayaji- if we take -ma- to be a

segmentable augment, which is probably correct. The root may well be a frozen Reciprocal in -ji- (elsewhere usually -yi-, but cf. 7.36).

#### 7.16. -juṛa

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| -ju-ṛa   | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| -ja-yaṇi | PaIrr               |
| -ja-ni   | PrAct               |
| -ja-ri   | PrIrr               |
| -ja-ña   | FutNeg              |
| -ja-ṇu   | Imper               |

The missing PaActPun and FutPosPun forms are suppleted by forms of -iṇaji-. The form -ju-ṛa shows the same formation seen in the corresponding form -bu-ṛa in the paradigm of -ba-. The suffix -ña in the FutNeg is unique. Imperative -ṇu shows up also with -ba-, -ga-, and -ja-.

On two occasions Isaac gave the FutNeg form as -ja-ṇa, once in a text and once in a translation of an English sentence. However, in a later session where the paradigm was gone over carefully he indicated that -ja-ña was the correct form. Because the suffix here is unique it can hardly be considered an error due to analogy, while -ja-ṇa can be regarded as an irregular intrusion from the paradigm of -ja-. However, the possibility cannot be ruled out that -ja-ṇa was an acceptable variant of -ja-ña.

The verbs used with -juṛa are basically those which can be used with -iṇaji-, where they usually indicate a change in position or state. With -juṛa the aspectual value is Continuous or neutral, so that the reference is to the state resulting from the change. Examples: guḷa-ṇaw-ṇaw+ṇa-ju-ṛa *I was lying down (on my back)*; mulg+u-ṇa-ju-ṛa *I will be asleep*; mund+u-ṇa-ju-ṛa *I will be bending over*; gu-gu!+ṇa-ja-yaṇi *I did not drink*.

Etymologically, -juṛa is related to stems found in Nunggubuyu, Ngandi, etc. The historical prototype reflected in these languages is \*-ḡV-, forming Continuous \*-ḡu-ṛa or \*-ḡu-ḡa (Nunggubuyu -ḷa-ṛa, Warndarang -ju-ṛa, Ngandi -ḡu-ḡa with possible secondary hardening \*ṛ → ḡ), as well as other inflected forms with stem \*-ḡa- or \*-ḡi-. The Ngandi and Nunggubuyu stems mean *to stand*, and note in this connection that the Warndarang auxiliary is used mainly with stance verbs. Whether at a deeper historical level this \*-ḡV- is ultimately

related to \*-ju- underlying Warndarang -ja- I am unable to say at this time.

7.17. -ma- to be/do/say like that

|           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| -mi-∅     | PaActPun            |
| -ma-ma-∅  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| -mi-ri    | PaIrr               |
| -ma-ma-ni | PrAct               |
| -ma-ma-ri | PrIrr               |
| -m-iñu    | FutPosPun           |
| -mi-∅     | FutNeg              |
| -mi-ndi   | Imper               |

The Continuous system has augment -ma- and is regular. The other forms show some irregularities, notably the Imperative which has a unique ending. The ending -ri in the PaIrr form shows up also with -naŋi-, -ŋa-, and -wiŋdi-.

This stem can be used as an intransitive main verb meaning *to be/do/say like that*, and should be accompanied by a preceding quotation, a gesture with the hands or head, or something of this sort.

It is also the most important intransitive auxiliary, with the possible exception of -ra-. Adjectival stems may be used as the main verbs, as in gabul+a-mi-∅ *It became cooked (i.e. It is cooked)*; cf. ra-gabul *the cooked one; something cooked* as a noun with nonhuman class prefix ra-. Among many other stems used with -ma- we may mention these: ɖaj *to sit down*; jiri *to sneeze* (along with several other verbs of bodily activities and functions); jaɭab *to paddle*; gaɾ *to dance*; !u! *to cry*; yi!al *to be angry*; ɖay *to flee*; yulu-mug or mug *to forget*; ŋayab *to be silent*. The relationship between -ma- and the transitive auxiliary -ja- has been commented on (7.14).

In a very few instances -ma- is attested with main verbs which are normally transitive and occur with auxiliaries such as -ba-, -ga-, -ja-, etc. In such cases it seems that the direct object is simply de-emphasised or made indefinite to the point of not being overtly indicated, though there must be some such object for the verb to make sense. The best example of this is warj+∅-mi-ndi *Pick it up!* (Sg addressee), with -ma- instead of -iɾa-, -ga-, or -numi-. In the



example *bal+ŋa-ma-ma-∅* *I pounded it*, the use of *-ma-* may signal a different meaning from that of *bal* with auxiliary *-ja-* (*to draw*).

In attempting etymologies for *-ma-* it is important to emphasise that it is intransitive in Warndarang, so that direct correlations with *\*-ma-*, reflected widely in other Aboriginal languages with the sense *to do (something) to* and with transitive morphology, are hazardous. For the moment we will merely note the clear correlation with *Mara -ma-* and *Alawa -mba-* (the latter showing an obscure phonological development, cf. Sharpe 1972, p. 91), and probably with *Nunggubuyu -yama-* *to be/do/say like that*, which may contain a frozen compounding element *-yaŋ-* *voice, speech*.

#### 7.18. *-mal-ju-ɾa to be sitting*

*-mal-ju-ɾa* PaActCon, FutPosCon  
(etc., like *-ju-ɾa*)

This is, historically at least, *-ju-ɾa* preceded by a compounding element *-mal-*. Whether this is related to main verb *mal to go up* is unclear.

The stem *-mal-ju-ɾa* is found frequently as a main verb: *wu-ŋala-mal-ju-ɾa* *We(PlIn) sit*. This stem is more common than *-na-* (7.24). As an intransitive auxiliary *-mal-ju-ɾa* is less common than *-ju-ɾa* and is used with the same main verbs: *wund+u-ŋa-mal-ju-ɾa* *I will be bending over*; *ɟar+u-∅-mal-ju-ɾa* *He will be hiding*.

#### 7.19. *-mayi*

*-ma-yi-∅* PaActPun  
*-ma-ya-ŋi* PaIrr  
*-ma-y-iñu* FutPosPun  
*-ma-yu-∅* FutNeg  
*-ma-yi-∅* Imper

This is an intransitive auxiliary which is optionally used instead of *-ɾa-* in the latter's auxiliary functions. The stem is composite, consisting of *-ma-* plus a root *-yV-* which also turns up in *-ya-ŋi* and *-yu-∅*, two forms which pattern as part of the paradigm of *-ɾa-*. In the forms which are missing from the paradigm shown above, the corresponding forms of *-ɾa-* are the only possibilities.

I have been unable to determine any consistent semantic distinction between *-mayi* and *-ra-*. See (7.29) for more comments.

Examples: *ɲuy+∅-ma-yi-∅* *Swim!* (Sg addressee) vs. *ɲuy+a-ra* *He swam*;  
*gil-gil+a-ma-yi-∅* *It crawled* vs. *gil-gil+a-ra-ni* *It is crawling*;  
*ɖalag+u-ma-y-iñu* *He will fall down* vs. *gu-ɖalag+ɲa-ya-ɲi* *I did not fall down*.

#### 7.20. *-muɲa-* to sting

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-muɲi-∅</i>     | PaActPun            |
| <i>-muɲa-ma-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-muɲa-ri</i>    | PaIrr               |
| <i>-muɲa-ma-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| <i>-muɲa-ma-ri</i> | PrIrr               |
| <i>-muɲ-iñu</i>    | FutPosPun           |
| <i>-muɲi-∅</i>     | FutNeg              |
| ?                  | Imper               |

The Continuous system has augment *-ma-* and is regular. Of the other forms, note that *-muɲa-ri* ends in *-ri* (as in the PaIrr of *-iɖaɲa* and *-murgi-*), not in the allomorph *-ri* found with some other stems. The missing Imperative was probably identical to the FutNeg *-muɲi-∅*, but is not attested.

This stem is used as a transitive main verb: *ɲara-muɲi-∅* *It(bee) stung me*.

#### 7.21. *-murgi-*

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-murgi-∅</i>     | PaActPun            |
| <i>-murgi-ɲa-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-murgi-ri</i>    | PaIrr               |
| <i>-murgi-ɲa-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| <i>-murgi-ɲa-ri</i> | PrIrr               |
| <i>-murg-iñu</i>    | FutPosPun           |
| <i>-murgi-∅</i>     | FutNeg              |
| ?                   | Imper               |

The paradigm is identical to that of *-ida-*, if we disregard the alternation of root-final vowels shown by the latter. The missing Imperative is probably identical to the FutNeg *-murgi-Ø*.

This is the basic causative auxiliary, and is therefore used instead of a main verb's normal auxiliary when it is causativised. Examples: *ɖar+a-murgi-Ø* *He hid it* vs. *ɖar+Ø-iŋaji-Ø* *It hid*; *gu-ɖaj+ŋa-murgi-ri* *I made him sit* vs. *ɖaj+ga-mi* *He sat*; *gu-ɖalag+ŋa-murgi-Ø* *I will not make him fall down* vs. *ɖalag+Ø-Ø-iŋaj-iñu* *He will fall down*. The eight or so examples attested are causatives of underlying intransitives; it is possible, however, that occasionally an underlying transitive could have been causativised by using *-murgi-*.

Some historical connection with Alawa causative auxiliary *urga* is likely, but the Alawa auxiliary is formally intransitive ('mono-referential', Sharpe 1972, pp. 91, 99).

#### 7.22. *-naŋi-* to burn (Intrans.)

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-naŋi-Ø</i>     | PaActPun            |
| <i>-naŋi-ma-Ø</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-naŋi-ri</i>    | PaIrr               |
| <i>-naŋi-ma-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| <i>-naŋi-ma-ri</i> | PrIrr               |
| <i>-naŋ-iñu</i>    | FutPosPun           |
| <i>-ni-Ø</i>       | FutNeg              |

The FutNeg shows a special truncated stem. Other than this the paradigm is the same as that of *-wiŋɖi-*, *-igira-*, etc. The Imperative is missing, and it is doubtful that there was such a form in view of the semantic content of the attested combinations involving *-naŋi-*.

As a main verb it means *to burn*; *to be on fire*: *a-naŋi-ma-Ø* *It burned*. As an intransitive auxiliary it is attested with the following main verbs: *jad* *to burn up*; *jaɖjaɖ* *to be boiling*; *wuñ* *to shine brightly*; *to blaze fiercely (used of sun)*; *ŋalwar* *to be light out*; *to be daytime*; *ɖaŋ* *to be thirsty*. The concept of heat is involved, directly or indirectly, in all of these meanings.

## 7.23. -nija to keep in one's possession

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| -nija-Ø       | PaActPun            |
| -niji-ŋayi-Ø  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| ?             | PaIrr               |
| -niji-ŋayi-ni | PrAct               |
| ?             | PrIrr               |
| ?             | FutPosPun           |
| ?             | FutNeg              |
| ?             | Imper               |

The Continuous theme seems to contain an element -ŋayi- which is possibly the familiar augment -ŋa- plus an otherwise unattested element -yi-.

As a transitive main verb we find this in ŋararu-niji-ŋayi-Ø *They keep me (here)*. As an auxiliary it shows up in ɖaj+ŋa-nija-Ø *I sat down with it*; ɖaj in the usual sense *to sit* takes the auxiliary -ma-. Using -nija specifies that there is a sort of comitative object.

## 7.24. -na- to be sitting

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| -nu-ɾa | PaActCon |
| -na-ni | PrAct    |
| -na-ri | PrIrr    |

So far as I can tell, -na- is semantically indistinguishable from -mal-juɾa. Like the latter, it lacks Punctual forms; *to sit down* (Punctual) is expressed by ɖaj plus auxiliary -ma-. I was unable to elicit PaIrr and FutNeg forms, but I am not sure whether they never existed or whether Isaac's memory had failed. The form -nu-ɾa is parallel to similar forms in the paradigms of -juɾa and -ba-.

The stem is always used as an intransitive main verb. Etymologically it is related to Ngandi -ŋV- (e.g. Present -ŋu-ɖa matching Warndarang -nu-ɾa).

## 7.25. -numi

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| -numi-Ø  | PaActPun  |
| -num-iñu | FutPosPun |

This transitive stem, attested only in the Punctual forms shown, has been found only with *warj* to *pick up*; to *get*. The fact that *warj* occurs in the same meaning with *-iṛa-* and *-ga-*, both of which have full or reasonably full paradigms, suggests that *-numi* optionally suppletes these two in Punctual forms with *warj*. Examples: *warj+ga-numi-∅* *He picked it up*; *warj+u-∅-num-iñu* with *-∅-* from */-Wa-/* *He will pick it up*.

#### 7.26. *-ñayima*

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-ñayi-ma-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-ñayi-ma-ni</i> | PrAct               |

Other forms could not be elicited. I have taken the *ma* syllable as the augment *-ma-* of the Continuous system.

This is attested only as an intransitive auxiliary with the main verb *ṇiṛ* to *breathe*: *ṇiṛ+ṇa-ñayi-ma-ni* *I breathe*.

#### 7.27. *-ṇa-* to eat

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-ṇa-ma-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| <i>-ṇa-ṛi</i>    | PaIrr               |
| <i>-ṇa-ma-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| <i>-ṇa-ma-ri</i> | PrIrr               |
| <i>-ṇi-ya</i>    | FutNeg              |
| ?                | Imper               |

The Punctual forms could not be elicited, and it is doubtful that they ever existed. Aside from the anomalous FutNeg form, the paradigm is similar to that of *-naṇi-*.

The stem occurs only as a transitive auxiliary. Example: *gu-ṇa-ṇa-ma-ri* *I am not eating it*.

*-ṇa-* is related to a stem *\*-ṇV-* to eat which turns up in Ngandi (*-ṇu-*, *-ṇo-*), Nunggubuyu (*-ṇu-*), etc.

#### 7.28. *-ṇulwaya-* to copulate with

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>-ṇulwaya-ṇa-∅</i>  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| ?                     | PaIrr               |
| <i>-ṇulwaya-ṇa-ni</i> | PrAct               |

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| -ḡulwaya-ḡa-ri | PrIrr  |
| -ḡulwaya-∅     | FutNeg |
| ?              | Imper  |

Aside from the queried forms which I was unable to elicit, the Punctual forms are missing and probably did not exist. The Continuous system is based on augment -ḡa- and is regular.

The stem is always used as a transitive main verb. An example: ḡa-ḡulwaya-ḡa-∅ *I copulated with her*. For the more common Reciprocal form see 7.36.

By comparing Ngandi ḡul *penis*, Nunggubuyu ḡulu *pubic region*, etc. we can deduce that -ḡulwaya- is etymologically complex, viz. \*-ḡul-way-a- with verb stem \*-waya-.

#### 7.29. -ḡa-, -iḡa, -yV-, -bi to go

Since these stems combine to form a single paradigm, they will be treated together here. Most of the forms can be used as auxiliaries or as main verbs, though some (-iḡa-∅, -bi-∅, and possibly -ḡa-y-iñu) are used only as auxiliaries. The stem -ḡa- is unique in that it takes a special augment -ra- when used as a main verb.

| Main Verb | Auxiliary |                     |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
|           | -iḡa-∅    | PaActPun            |
| -ḡa-ra-∅  | -ḡa-∅     | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| -ya-ḡi    | -ya-ḡi    | PaIrr               |
| -ḡa-ra-ni | -ḡa-ni    | PrAct               |
| -ḡa-ra-ri | -ḡa-ri    | PrIrr               |
|           | -ḡa-y-iñu | FutPosPun           |
| -yu-∅     | -yu-∅     | FutNeg              |
|           | -bi-∅     | Imper               |

Rarely, the auxiliary forms are used in what appear to be main-verb uses. Usually, however, there is a preceding adverb or the like which could be thought of as functioning like a preceding uninflected main verb in an auxiliary construction: wu-niñi-yḡa a-ḡa-∅ *He went that way*.

Main verb examples: ḡu-ḡa-ya-ḡi *I will not go*; wu-ḡa-ḡa-ra-∅ *I will go*. The forms which cannot occur as main verbs occur with the main

verb *gi* to express *to go*: *gi+ŋ-iŋa* *I went*; *gi+ya-∅-bi-∅* *Come!* (Sg addressee). In at least some instances the forms with and without *gi* are both possible: *gu-ŋa-yu-∅* or *gu-gi+ŋa-yu-∅* *I will not go*.

Many intransitive main verbs, especially those which involve motion of some sort, regularly take *-ra-* and its associates as auxiliaries. These include: *yanŋar* *to go ahead*; *guŋid* *to turn around*; *ɟar* *to arrive (at a camp)*, cf. *ɟar* *to hide* with *-iŋaji-*; *raj* *to go through*; *ŋaŋl* *to come (to a place, after someone else has left)*; *bulub* *to go hunting for kangaroos*; *ɟuwa* *to appear*. In some cases motion is not clearly indicated: *jalgaɟubɟub* *to hiccough*; *gal* *to grow*.

In auxiliary function, the forms given here can be replaced by forms of *-mayi* without appreciably changing the sense. The paradigm of *-mayi* is, however, defective. About all I can say about the semantic difference between the two is that *-mayi* is rarely or never found with Centripetal *ya-*, while *-ra-* and its associates can occur with or without *ya-*. Thus the Imperative *Come!* is *gi+ya-∅-bi-∅*, and *Go!* is *gi+∅-ma-yi-∅*. However, in forms other than the Imperative, *-mayi* can occur (without *ya-*) in contexts where the motion referred to is directed toward the speaker. In other words, it is not the case that *-mayi* is explicitly non-Centripetal, but rather that it is not used when *ya-* is present. *-mayi* also differs from *-ra-* and so forth in that *-mayi* can only be used as an auxiliary.

The stem *-yV-* which is found in *-ya-ŋi* and *-yu-∅* also shows up in *-mayi* (*-ma-yi-∅*), whose corresponding forms are *-ma-ya-ŋi* and *-ma-yu-∅*. Furthermore, in view of the instability of stem-initial *\*r̥* in languages in this region, and the occasional shift of *\*r̥* to *y* (several examples in Nunggubuyu, Ritharngu, etc.), we cannot rule out the possibility that *-ra-* and *-yV-* are etymologically identical.

### 7.30. *-wa-* to give to

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| <i>-wi-∅</i>  | PaAct  |
| <i>-wa-ni</i> | PaIrr  |
| <i>-wi-ni</i> | PrAct  |
| <i>-wi-ri</i> | PrIrr  |
| <i>-w-iñu</i> | FutPos |
| <i>-wa-∅</i>  | FutNeg |

The forms *-wi-∅* and *-w-iñu* are used for both Punctual and Continuous aspect; formally, they are Punctual forms. The ending *-ni*

in the PaIrr recurs in the paradigm of -ba-.

Efforts to elicit an Imperative form resulted in FutPos forms: wu-ñi-w-iñu *You will give it to him; Give it to him!* It may well be that this was the regular way of forming Imperatives for this particular stem.

The only attested reduplications are monosyllabic: -wi-wi-ni (PrAct), -wi-wi-Ø (PaAct).

This stem is transitive. The object marked in the pronominal prefix refers to the recipient, not the gift: ɲara-wi-Ø *He gave (it) to me.* The stem is not used as an auxiliary.

A stem \*wV- *to give* is reflected in several languages in the area, e.g. Ngandi -wo-, Nunggubuyu -yi-/wu-.

### 7.31. -walmida- *to spear repeatedly*

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| -walmida-Ø      | PaActPun            |
| -walmida-ɲa-Ø   | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| ?               | PaIrr               |
| -walmida-ɲa-ni  | PrAct               |
| *-walmida-ɲa-ri | PrIrr               |
| *-walmid-iñu    | FutPosPun           |
| ?               | FutNeg              |
| ?               | Imper               |

The asterisked forms are not attested, but I feel certain that they are correct since the PrIrr and FutPosPun are usually regular and hence predictable (except in two or three of the high-frequency inflectable stems). The augment -ɲa- in the Continuous system is found in several other paradigms (e.g. -ɲulwaya-).

As a transitive main verb this stem means *to spear repeatedly; to riddle with spears*, as in ara-walmida-ɲa-Ø *They speared him repeatedly.* As a transitive auxiliary it is attested once with mud *to break*, here specifically in the sense *to break (bone, by spearing)*: mud+ga-walmida-Ø *He; broke his; (ankle, by spearing).*

### 7.32. -wangani- *to not want; to reject*

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| -wangani-Ø  | PaActCon |
| -wangani-ni | PrAct    |



This is an obscure stem attested once in each of the two forms. It is used only as a main verb, and from the attested forms could be either transitive or intransitive: *ḡa-wangani-∅ I did not want (it)*.

## 7.33. -waḡV-

-waḡ-iñu FutPosPun

This is attested only as an auxiliary with the transitive verb *ma!* to learn (well): *ma!+u-ru-waḡ-iñu You(Pl) will learn it well*.

## 7.34. -wiḡḡi- to go looking for

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| -wiḡḡi-∅     | PaActPun            |
| -wiḡḡi-ma-∅  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| -wiḡḡi-ḡi    | PaIrr               |
| -wiḡḡi-ma-ni | PrAct               |
| -wiḡḡi-ma-ri | PrIrr               |
| -wiḡḡ-iñu    | FutPosPun           |
| -wiḡḡi-∅     | FutNeg              |
| -wiḡḡi-∅     | Imper               |

The paradigm is similar or identical to those of -ma-, -naḡi-, etc.

The stem is not very common as a main verb, but is attested as such: *wu-ḡa-wiḡḡi-ma-∅ I will go looking for it*. It is fairly common as a transitive auxiliary, where the object marked in the pronominal prefix is indirect or sometimes a quasi-Allative. The main verbs are often, but not always, emotive or perceptual. Examples: *waḡ+ḡa-wiḡḡi-ma-ni I see him*; *gaw+ara-wiḡḡi-∅ They shouted to him*, cf. intransitive *gaw+ala-mi-∅ They shouted*; *yagu!+ḡa-wiḡḡi-∅ I became afraid of him* (in this sense -igira- and -ja- are also possible); *ba!+ḡalalu-wiḡḡi-ma-∅ They(Pl) sneaked up on us(InPl)*; *giḡi+alḡu-wiḡḡi-ma-∅ They were afraid of them*.

-wiḡḡi- is often interchangeable with -igira-; see the discussion of the latter (7.8) for more details.

## 7.35. -ya- to bite

|        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
| -ya-∅  | PaActPun            |
| -ya-ḡa | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| ?      | PaIrr               |

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| -ya-ŋa-ni | PrAct     |
| -ya-ŋa-ri | PrIrr     |
| ?         | FutPosPun |
| -ya-∅     | FutNeg    |
| ?         | Imper     |

So far as the forms go they match those of -ŋulwaya-, -ida-, etc.

As a transitive main verb, -ya- is attested in ŋara-ya-ŋa-∅ *It (snake) bit me*. It occurs as an auxiliary with waj *to finish off* (cf. waj *to become finished off* with intransitive auxiliary -ŋa-); jag *to chew*; !ir *to bite*; ɖag *to be cold*. In the latter instance the sufferer is the object and the subject is an invariable third singular: ɖag+ŋara-ya-∅ *I got cold; I have become cold* (literally, perhaps *It [cold weather] bites me*), with ŋara- 3Sg → 1Sg.

### 7.36. Reflexive and Reciprocal Forms

The Reflexive is formed by adding a derivational suffix /-i-/ to the inflected verb stem. The inflectional suffixes follow the /-i-/ and their form is determined by the /-i-/ rather than by the stem. The attested Reflexives are: -g-i- from -ga-, -j-i- from -ja-, -id-i- from -ida-, and -b-i- from -ba-. Examples: !ar+ŋa-g-i-ma-∅ *I cut myself*. The Paradigm is:

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| ?          | PaActPun            |
| -g-i-ma-∅  | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| -g-i-∅     | PaIrr               |
| -g-i-ma-ni | PrAct               |
| -g-i-ma-ri | PrIrr               |
| ?          | FutPosPun           |
| -g-i-∅     | FutNeg              |
| ?          | Imper               |

The Punctual forms could not be elicited and may have been missing. Note that a FutPosPun form \*-g-∅-iñu from /-ga-i-iñu/ would be homophonous with the common form -g-iñu from /-ga-iñu/.

The Reflexive can also have a mediopassive (i.e., agentless passive) sense, so that !ar+ŋa-g-i-ma-∅ can also be translated *I got cut* or

*I was cut, I had a cut.* The reflexive-mediopassive syncretism is common in languages of this area.

In some of these languages there are occasional 'false reflexive' uses (this term is taken from R.M.W. Dixon) for perhaps only two or three verb stems. In these instances the Reflexive form is used when the underlying object (not subject) is indefinite or otherwise unimportant; thus Ngandi transitive -*ɖa:-bu-* *to test (something)* becomes intransitive -*ɖa:-b-i-* *to make a test (not passive to be tested or reflexive to test oneself)*.

A possible example of this in Warndarang is that the verb *war* *to sing*, normally transitive (object representing the song, or the name of the subject of the song) with auxiliary -*ga-*, is attested in 'reflexive' forms like *war+ŋa-g-i-ma-∅* *I was singing (alone)*, where it is possible that Reflexive -*i-* is used to indicate the indefiniteness of the direct object.

The Reciprocal suffix is -*yi-*, but shows up as -*ji-* in a few frozen or semi-frozen forms and this is probably the older form of the suffix. The clearly attested combinations are: -*bi-yi-* from -*ba-*; *ga-yi-* from -*ga-*; *ja-yi-* from -*ja-*. The form -*ya-ji-* in the conventional war cry *giŋdir-ɖawj+ŋudu-ya-ji-∅* *You(Pl) bit (your) penises* can be taken as an archaic Reciprocal of -*ya-* *to bite*. Similarly, -*ŋulwaya-ji-* *to engage in copulation* is a slightly frozen Reciprocal of -*ŋulwaya-* *to copulate with*. Finally, the stem in the inflectable verb -*janayajima* *to engage in a battle* (7.15) may well be -*janaya-*, with following Reciprocal -*ji-*, at least historically.

The Reciprocal paradigm is:

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| - <i>ga-yi-∅</i>     | PaActPun            |
| - <i>ga-yi-ma</i>    | PaActCon, FutPosCon |
| - <i>ga-yi-ɾi</i>    | PaIrr               |
| - <i>ga-yi-ma-ni</i> | PrAct               |
| - <i>ga-yi-ma-ri</i> | PrIrr               |
| - <i>ga-y-iñu</i>    | FutPosPun           |
| - <i>ga-yi-∅</i>     | FutNeg              |
| ?                    | Imper               |

A Reciprocal example: *raŋ+ñiri-ga-yi-ma-∅* *We(DuEx) hit each other (i.e. fought) (hit + 1DuEx - Aux - Recip - Inflectional Suffixes)*.

Reflexive /-i-/ occurs also in Nunggubuyu, Ngandi, etc. Reciprocal -*yi-/ji-* corresponds to Ngandi -*ygi-*, Nunggubuyu -(i)ñji-, etc.

(There are no insuperable phonological problems in the latter correlation.)

### 7.37. The Imperative

The form labelled 'Imper' in the verbal paradigms is actually only one of the forms which can be used in commands. This form is the one used in Positive commands with  $\emptyset$ - pronominal prefix (2Sg, 2Sg + 3Sg). Examples: *gi+ $\emptyset$ -wiṅḍi- $\emptyset$  Go for it!*; *ḍaḍ+ $\emptyset$ -ja-ṅu Cook it!*.

It appears that when another prefix, such as Centripetal *ya-*, precedes the  $\emptyset$ - pronominal prefix, the FutNeg rather than Imper form is used in positive commands: *gi+ya- $\emptyset$ -ga- $\emptyset$  Bring it!* (Sg addressee). Note that *-ga- $\emptyset$*  (FutNeg) has been used here instead of *-ga-ṅu* (Imper).

Similarly, when the prefix is other than  $\emptyset$ - (i.e. when the addressee is not Singular, and/or in transitives the object is other than 3Sg), the FutNeg form is used. Thus contrast Sg *ḍaj+ $\emptyset$ -mi-ndi Sit down!* with Du *ḍaj+un-mi- $\emptyset$  /ḍaj+yud-mi- $\emptyset$ /* and Pl *ḍaj+udu-mi- $\emptyset$  /ḍaj+yudu-mi- $\emptyset$ /*, showing forms of *-ma-*.

The Prohibitive (Negative command) is formed by using the FutNeg form along with the usual Negative prefix *gu-*. The pronominal prefix  $\emptyset$ - cannot be used in Negative environments, so instead we get *ñi-* for 2Sg and 2Sg + 3Sg, this being the regular form in non-Imperative forms as well. Example: *gu-gi+ñi-ga- $\emptyset$  Do not take him!*

It should be noted that only a few inflectable verbs distinguish the Imper from FutNeg. For the others, the distinction between the distribution of Imper and FutNeg in various types of commands is purely theoretical.

The Imper form *-bi- $\emptyset$* , which belongs to the paradigm of *-ṛa-* (7.29), differs from other Imper forms in that it is used in all commands, including prohibitives, commands with prefix other than  $\emptyset$ -, etc. Thus *gi+yur-bi- $\emptyset$  Go!* (Du addressee) instead of *\*gi+yur-ya-ṅi*; *gu-gi+yur-bi- $\emptyset$  Do not go!* (Du addressee).

Occasionally we find what is formally a non-Imperative future form used as a command: *ḍaj+u-du-m-iñu You(Pl) will sit down; Sit down!*. In the case of *-wa-* to give it appears that the true Imperative form does not exist, so that these future forms must be used: *wu-ñi-w-iñu You(Sg) will give it to him; Give it to him!*. The FutNeg is used in forms other than 2Sg and 2Sg + 3Sg, as with other verbs: *ya-ṅara-wa- $\emptyset$  Give it to me* (with Centripetal *ya-*).

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### COMPOUNDING

#### 8.1. Generalisations

Most compounds consist of an initial element either clearly or possibly nominal in origin, although this is not always the case. The second element is usually an uninflected main verb, but is occasionally an inflectable verb or an adjectival noun. Compounding is not as active in Warndarang as it is in such languages as Nunggubuyu.

A number of instances have been noted where an initial compounding element is semantically associated with a noncognate independent noun. The best examples are *maṅal- road, path* (cf. nouns *yilgiṅ road, maṅal woomera*), and *yulu- ear, hearing, mind* (cf. noun *wanam ear*). An element *yul-* occurs once, apparently referring to the nose (cf. noun *njiṛiba*).

The usual compounding element for *nose*, however, is *jiṛi-*. This is derivable from *njiṛiba* by a) deletion of the initial nasal, and b) deletion of the final *-ba*. (a) is parallel to the alternation of noun *njaṛi many* with verb *jaṛi to do repeatedly*. This parallelism is strengthened by the observation that *njiṛiba* is a noun like *njaṛi*, while *jiṛi-* is found only in verbal constructions like *jaṛi*. As for (b), we have another exact parallel in the alternation of *ṅaral- eye*, a compounding element, with the corresponding independent noun *ṅaralba*.

The adverb *jiṅi more, again* and the particle (or preposition) *ḍuḍul all the way to, right up to* are attested in one compound each: *jiṅi-waḍara to think about (someone) further*; *ḍuḍul-ṅaḷ to speak (something) completely, in its entirety*. These combinations can, of course, be distinguished from simple juxtapositions of *jiṅi* and *ḍuḍul* to the verb, in that Negative *gu-* precedes *-jiṅi-* and *-ḍuḍul-* when used as compounding elements, but not when they are independent words.

## 8.2. Types of Compounds

The most useful ways to typologise Warndarang compounds are by the form-class of the second element (and hence of the compound as a whole), and by the semantic function of the initial element.

One of the striking aspects of Warndarang is the rarity or absence of compounds where the first element is the 'logical' subject or direct object of a verb stem in the second position. When such a compound appears to be present, as in cases like *yabara-mud to break (-mud) the leg (yabara-) of* with a body-part noun, this appearance is doubtful. The real direct object is the victim of the leg-breaking, and *yabara-* merely specifies the exact point where the break occurs. Quite a few of the predominant type of compounds, those with uninflected main verb as the second element, have body-part nouns as the initial element with similar semantic functions.

There are three or four inflectable verbs which can be considered compounds; all are somewhat frozen and the type is not productive. Alongside *-juṛa*, an auxiliary, we have *-maljuṛa to sit, to stay*, analysable as *-mal-juṛa*. Whether this *-mal-* has anything to do with main verb *mal to go up* is unclear; it is safe to say that there is no synchronic connection. Perhaps the clearest example is *-wuj-ga- to hunt with dogs*, containing *-ga- to take*. Cf. Ritharngu *guj-ga-* and Nunggubuyu *-ijga-*, both *to hunt with dogs*, showing that this compound is an old and widespread one. The inflectable verb *-ṅulwaya- to copulate* contains *\*ṅul penis* historically.

The only other type of compound attested has a body-part term followed by an adjectival noun: *maranuru-wirju insane, mentally unbalanced (head-bad)*; *maba-ṅgira sacred-handed, having sacred hands (hand-sacred)*. The body-part noun merely specifies further the semantic scope of the adjectival notion here, and does not drastically change the meaning of the latter. This type of compound is not very common.

## CHAPTER NINE

### INTERROGATION

#### 9.1. Yes/No Questions

Yes/no interrogatives are formally identical to assertions, except perhaps for slight intonational differences. There is no yes/no interrogative particle. However, the word *jabay maybe* may be added to emphasise that the speaker is uncertain about the truth value of an assertion, and this may help elicit confirmation or correction from the addressee.

Intonation was not investigated in any detail. It appears that yes/no questions are characterised by a sharp rise of tone on the penultimate syllable of the clause, followed by a sharp fall on the final syllable. Normal assertions have relatively level tone, falling off gradually at the end.

#### 9.2. Interrogative Stems

Interrogatives of the who/what/where type are formed from the stems -*ḡani*, -*ḡa*, -*ḡaḡa*, -*ḡi*, and -*ḡiḡa*. Since -*ḡa* and -*ḡaḡa* are closely related, as are -*ḡi* and -*ḡiḡa*, it is tempting to take -*ḡa* and -*ḡi* as the roots and -*ḡa* as an extension. It is unclear whether -*ḡa* here is related to Locative -*yaḡa* (which reduces to -*ḡa* following demonstrative stems ending in *ya-*). If so, this connection is etymological rather than synchronic, since -*ḡa* in -*ḡaḡa* and -*ḡiḡa* is not explicitly Locative in sense, and since -*ḡiḡa* contrasts with -*ḡi-yaḡa*. Therefore it is best to take -*ḡaḡa* and -*ḡiḡa* as units synchronically.

In addition to their interrogative uses, forms based on these stems can be indefinite pronouns or adverbs (someone, something, somewhere). Although this matter was not researched carefully, it appears that the interrogative and indefinite uses can be distinguished a) in that

interrogatives but not indefinites are typically focussed, by putting them at the beginning of the sentence, followed by a subordinated or de-focussed clause in *wu-nu* (10.2), and b) to some extent by intonational differences. An example of focussing:

*mala-wunga wu-nu ñi-ɾara*  
*when? you want*  
*When did you go?*

### 9.3. Forms of -nga and -ngaŋa

The stem *-ngaŋa* means *what?/something*. In its interrogative sense it has the NC prefix *wu-*: *wu-ngaŋa wu-nu wu-niya* *What is this?*. As an indefinite it appears to normally take prefix *ɾa-*: *ɾa-ngaŋa something*. As a predicate interrogative (*to be what?*) it takes intransitive pronominal prefixes rather than NC prefixes: *ñi-ngaŋa* *What are you?*. By adding Purposive *-ni* to *wu-ngaŋa* we get *wu-ngaŋa-ni* *why?/for some reason*. This may be optionally extended by preposing *aru* (*because*): *aru wu-ngaŋa-ni* *why?*.

Two other interrogative/indefinite words are formed from a rather tightly fused combination *wu-nga* with NC prefix *wu-*; I will hereafter write this combination as *wunga* and treat it as a unit. As a main verb with intransitive Aux *-ma-* this means *to do what?/to do something*. By changing the Aux to transitive *-ja-* we bring in an object: *to do what to?/to do something to*. Examples:

*gu - wunga + yu = Ø - maɾi*  
*not do something not 3Sg Aux*  
*He did not do anything.*

*wunga-wunga + a - jaŋani*  
*RDP do what? 3Sg/3Sg Aux*  
*What did he do to him?*

The word for *when?/sometime* is *mala-wunga*, containing an initial element which does not seem to occur elsewhere in the language.

### 9.4. Forms of -ngi, -ngiŋa

The stem *-ngiŋa* means *where?/somewhere*. As nonpredicative adverb it takes prefix *wu-*:

*wu-ngiŋa wu-nu ŋudu-maljuɾa*  
*where? you stayed*  
*Where did you stay?*



I have no good examples of the sense *somewhere*.

As a predicative adverb (*to be where?/to be somewhere*), -ngiŋa takes the appropriate NC prefix: ŋa-ŋiŋa *Where is he?*; ŋa-ŋiŋa *Where is she?*. As the latter example shows, the NC prefixes used with -ngiŋa are the same as those used with articles (3.8) rather than those used with nouns.

In the preceding senses -ngiŋa is *where?/somewhere* in the static sense. In the sense *to where?/to somewhere* we find -ngi-yaŋa, consisting of stem -ngi- and the case suffix -yaŋa, here Directional as with demonstrative adverbs. Examples:

wu-ŋi-yaŋa wu-nu ala-ɾara  
*to where?                    they went*  
*Where did they go?*

This form is regularly nonpredicative, and appears to always take prefix wu-.

#### 9.5. -ŋani, ŋaŋi

The word for *who?/someone* is -ŋani, with the appropriate NC prefix: ŋa-ŋani *who*(MSg).

An obscure interrogative ŋaŋi occurs once in a text in the sequence ŋaŋi ɾa-waɾiyi-yu, which was translated *What about (those) Aborigines?* by the informant. The precise sense is unclear.

## CHAPTER TEN

### SYNTAX

#### 10.1. Generalisations

Warndarang syntax is rather simple. There are no participial formations, no productive infinitives or other nominalisations, no gerundial clauses, no well-defined complementising processes. The general pattern of the syntax is very much like that found in other nearby languages such as Ngandi and Mara, and to a lesser extent Nunggubuyu.

There are no structurally significant deletion rules like English Equi-NP Deletion. NP's may be deleted in a clause if they are coreferential to NP's mentioned in a preceding clause, but this deletion is the functional correlate of English Anaphoric Pronominalisation, not of Equi-NP Deletion. Note that since Warndarang has pronominal prefixes in the verb marking subject and object, when an independent NP is deleted there is still a pronominal trace left of it as long as it is the subject or object of its clause.

The most common word-order is Subject-Verb in intransitive clauses, Subject-Verb-Object in transitives. Other orders are attested, however. For example, the subject NP might be initially omitted, and then added as an 'afterthought' following a pause at the end of the verb. Similarly, a constituent (perhaps the object NP or an adverb) may be put at the beginning of its clause to focus it.

In the following sections I will deal with several syntactic topics. I will begin with focus, which is far and away the most important of these topics, since Warndarang has a well-defined focussing mechanism which is used very frequently and has important syntactic ramifications.

## 10.2. Focus within a Clause

A nonverbal constituent X is overtly focussed by converting its clause into the form X wu-nu S, where S is the rest of the clause. wu-nu is an article (3.8), here with NC prefix wu- in neuter function, modifying the following sequence S. The verb complex usually directly follows wu-nu, though this is not always the case. The advantage of having the verb complex follow wu-nu is that this unambiguously signals that a focus construction is at hand, since in no other construction can wu-nu directly precede a verb complex. If a noun were to directly follow wu-nu we might not be able to determine whether wu-nu is part of a focus construction, or is simply a modifier of the following noun.

Examples of focussing:

ḡala-ḡala wu-nu ḡabaṙ+u-ḡa-maṙi  
*nearly I was about to die*  
*I nearly died.*

galḡi jilḡñi wu-nu jalḡ+u-ḡa-jaḡa ṙa-muraṙbu-ñu  
*until tomorrow I will spear it the crab*  
*Tomorrow I will spear the crab.*

Interrogative words like mala-wunga *when?* are usually focussed; see (9.2) for an example

## 10.3. Focus and Subordination

The same mechanism which is used to focus on one constituent of a clause (and, by implication, de-focus on the rest of the clause) is used to subordinate one clause to another. Leaving aside relative clauses for the moment, we find subordination by de-focussing (preposing wu-nu to the subordinated clause, which usually follows the main clause) in constructions translatable into English as purpose clauses, time adverbials, and the like. Examples:

waḡḡaraḡ wu-nu ḡa|-ḡa!+a-mama ,  
*Warndarang they used to speak*

ṙa-mañā-mañagu , wu-nu gal-gal+a-ṙa  
*the children they were growing up*  
*Warndarang is what they spoke, the children,*  
*as they were growing up.*

In this example the first *wu-nu* is the intra-clause de-focussing marker, while the second is the clause-subordinating element.

*wuṛ+u-ṅa-gaya , wu-nu*  
*I will put it down*

*biṅg+u-ṅa-giñu bindi*  
*I will finish it really*  
*I will put it (the language) down, so*  
*that I really finish it (the job).*

I should add that there are quite a few occurrences of subordinating *wu-nu* in the texts and other data whose grammatical and semantic nuances are difficult to understand. It seems clear that there is a fair degree of optionality in the addition of *wu-nu*, since Warndarang often simply juxtaposes two formally independent clauses in situations where English would join them into a gerundial or complement-clause construction.

Clauses with *wu-nu* can be used in constructions translatable as relative clauses when added to a noun:

*ṅa-jawulba-ñu , wu-nu ṅabaṛ+a-mi , ...*  
*old man he died*  
*the old man who died...*

It is also possible to explicitly indicate that the clause here is relative, rather than an ordinary subordinated clause, by replacing *wu-nu* by a form of the article agreeing with the head noun, in this case M<sub>Sg</sub> *ṅa-nu*:

*ṅa-jawulba-ñu , ṅa-nu ṅabaṛ+a-mi , ...*  
*the old man who died...*

I was able to find no examples where both clauses in a two-clause sequence began with *wu-nu* (i.e., mutual subordination). It is quite possible, though, that such constructions might have turned up if more examples of contrary-to-fact conditionals (cf. 10.5) had been elicited.

#### 10.4. Nominalisations

Although Warndarang has no productive nominalising processes applicable to verb stems, there are one or two unproductive formations attested.

In the data which I collected, an element *-maṅgara* occurs once added to the uninflectable main verb *mud to break*. The example showed

ɖuɖul *right up to, all the way to* directly before this verb:

wu-naya wu-nu yil+a-mi , wu-nu wu-naya-ŋa  
*here it struck this way*

ɖuɖul mud - maŋgara  
*all the way to break Nominaliser*

*It (a spear) struck him here (in the ankle),  
 (it came) this way to the point of breaking  
 (his ankle).*

Shortly after this in the same text, Isaac used a different construction to express the same thing. Here a finite, inflected verb complex containing mud along with an auxiliary verb was used:

ɖuɖul mud+ga-walmida  
*it broke him (i.e. his ankle)  
 to the point where it broke his ankle*

The other form in the available data which may be a nominalisation is in Capell's goanna text. In Capell's transcription we find this: wungarmandjarini *for dancing*. Although when reading this to Isaac I could not get him to understand this, it has occurred to me since that this form may be, in my transcription, wu-ŋgaɾ-manjar(i)-ni, with NC prefix wu-, -ŋgaɾ- *to dance*, nominaliser -manjar(i)-, and Purposive -ni. If so, this construction is completely unlike anything else I have found in the corpus.

The verb *to dance* is usually gaɾ rather than \*ŋgaɾ. However, the reduplication gaɾ-ŋgaɾ suggests a prototype \*ŋgaɾ-ŋgaɾ, hence simplex \*ŋgaɾ, and also suggests that the nasal could remain on the surface provided it is not word-initial. Although the addition of Negative gu- leads to gu-gaɾ, not \*gu-ŋgaɾ, this does not mean that a nominalisation \*ŋgaɾ-manjar ought to have become \*gaɾ-manjar. There are other examples where a stop-nasal cluster has survived in stem-initial position in nouns, but has disappeared in the same stems when functioning as verbs (2.14).

Therefore all morphemes in wu-ŋgaɾ-manjar(i)-ni except for -manjar(i)- can be correlated with morphemes found elsewhere in the language. As for -manjar(i)-, a nominaliser of similar form occurs in Mara and Alawa (Sharpe 1972:69,72).

## 10.5. Conditionals

I was unable to elicit any well-defined conditional constructions of the type *If he comes, I will kill him*. All I could get from the informant were constructions literally translatable as two independent clauses with *jabay maybe* in each of them: *Maybe he will come, maybe I will kill him*.

A Past tense contrary-to-fact conditional did turn up in a text:

wu-nu yalja wu-Ø-yaŋi  
earlier he would have gone

wulguy , gal+u-rŋu-ji  
all right he would have speared them

*If he had gone earlier, all right then...  
he would have (found and) speared them.*

Both verbs here are in the Past Potential. Apparently the *wu-nu* functions here as a subordinating element, showing that the first clause is dependent on the second. The element *wulguy* contrasts the statement *he would have speared them* with the fact, previously reported in the text, that he did not in fact catch and spear them.

## 10.6. Some Other Constructions

*Because*-clauses are formed by adding *aru because* to the beginning of what is otherwise a well-formed independent clause:

gu-wungatyu-Ø-maŋi ɾa-waŋiyi-yu ,  
they did nothing Aborigine(s)

aru giŋitalŋu-wiŋɟima  
because they were afraid of them

*The Aborigines did nothing, because they were  
afraid of them (the others).*

The verbs *jaŋi* (reduplication *jaŋi-yaŋi*) *to do many times* and *ɟirg to continue* can take subordinated clauses with *wu-nu* as complements. The auxiliary for *ɟirg* is *-maljuɾa*. In the available examples of *jaŋi* the auxiliary is *-ga-*, but since this also happens to be the auxiliary of the subordinated verb, it is possible that *ɟirg* merely agrees with the subordinated verb in its choice of auxiliary.

Examples:

jaṛi+ṅa-gaya            wu-nu ɾaṅ+ṅa-gaya  
*I did it many times            I hit him*  
*I hit him many times.*

ɸirg+ṅa-maljuṛa wu-nu !ar-!ar+ṅa-gaya  
*I continued            I was cutting it up*  
*I continued to cut it up.*

The particle *anjala* can apparently be used instead of *wu-nu* at the beginning of purposive, *so that*, and *like* clauses. An example:

anjala gaṛ-ṅgaṛ+u-lu-mama ɾa-waṛiyi  
*so that they will dance            men*

wu-nu jaṛag+u-ñā-biñu  
*you and I will make it*  
*Let you and I make it (dancing ground)*  
*so the men will dance.*

#### 10.7. Predicate Nouns

Nouns may function as predicates in equational sentences. Generally such nouns are adjectival in nature, and indicate some quality or status. An example is *ṅa-waṛiyi I am an Aboriginal*, which can be expanded by adding an independent pronoun: *ṅiṅa ṅa-waṛiyi I am an Aboriginal*. Note that the predicate noun takes an intransitive pronominal prefix like those used in verbs, rather than a NC prefix, and that the Absolutive suffix is not used.

When the predicate noun is a kin term, or another noun which cannot take intransitive prefixes (e.g. nonadjectival nouns like *ṅuṅu fish*), the independent pronoun or NP is the only indication of the subject: *ṅaya ṅa-baba-ñu I am his father*. In this type of construction the predicate noun may take its normal set of prefixes; in the example given *ṅa-* is a NC prefix and *-ñu* is the Absolutive suffix (both of these affixes are required in kin terms with third person possessor).

The predicative type *ṅa-waṛiyi* should be distinguished from the nonpredicative type *ṅudu-waṛiyi-yu you men*, found in one of Capell's texts. The prefix here is the same as the corresponding intransitive pronominal prefix, as in the type *ṅa-waṛiyi*. However, the Absolutive suffix can be used in the nonpredicative type, and such forms do not function syntactically as predicates.

In the type *ḡudu-waḡiyi-yu*, the prefix must be first or second person. There is no corresponding third person form; one can say *we men* or *you men*, but not *\*they men*. Instead of *\*ala-waḡiyi-yu they men*, with intransitive prefix, we get the ordinary nominal form *wulu-waḡiyi-yu men* with nominal prefix *wulu-* (Pl).

It may be that this restriction also applies to the predicative type *ḡa-waḡiyi*. No third person forms such as *\*ala-waḡiyi they are men* or *\*a-waḡiyi He is a man* are recorded. Although the data are inconclusive on this point, it may be that the way to express such notions is by having an ordinary noun as predicate, and expressing the subject by an independent noun or pronoun rather than by an intransitive prefix: *ḡiwa ḡa-waḡiyi-yu He is a man (he man)*. If the type *\*a-waḡiyi* with intransitive prefix were permitted, we would get confusion between 3Sg intransitive *a-* from /*Wa-*/ and the variant *a-* of the common nominal prefix (*ḡ*)*a-*.

#### 10.8. Negation

The usual way to negativise a clause is to add Negative *gu-*, with or without Third Person Negative *-yu-*, to the verb, which must go into an Irrealis (Past, Present) or Negative (Future) form. See Chapters Six and Seven for details.

Nonverbal clauses consist of a nonverbal predicate, normally an adjectival noun, to which is added an intransitive pronominal prefix (4.4). To make this Negative, the usual Negative verbal prefixes are added: *ḡa-waḡiyi I am an Aboriginal*; *gu-ḡa-waḡiyi I am not an Aboriginal*.

The usual way of saying *to be (at a place)* is to use a stance verb like *-maljuḡa to sit; to stay*: *wu-nu wu-nḡaya a-maljuḡa He is (staying) there*. The usual way of negativising this is to use the Negative stem *-yagu* with the appropriate nominal prefix: *ḡa-yagu wu-nu wu-nḡaya He is not there*. The stem *-yagu* can also be used in Negative existential statements: *ḡa-mariya ḡa-yagu There is no food*.

With the neuter nominal prefix *wu-* we get *wu-yagu*, which can be a Negative particle *No!* by itself (*awayi* is also attested in this use), or can be an emphatic Negative translatable *never, nothing at all*, or the like, depending on the context. An example:

*wu-yagu gu-gi+ḡa-yaḡi*  
*not I did not go*  
*I never went. I did not go at all.*



The nominal prefixes used with -yagu have the forms which they take before nouns, not those they take with articles and most demonstratives. Hence FSg  $\eta$ i-yagu (not \* $\eta$ a-yagu).



## WARNDARANG TEXTS

### Introduction

The texts presented here were all obtained by me from Isaac Joshua, and range from the very brief to the very long.

Another text which I obtained from Isaac, titled *Massacre at Hodgson Downs*, will be published separately (Heath forthcoming). It describes how an Aboriginal named Long Peter along with some other Aboriginals killed and ate some horses with which they had been entrusted by a Queensland cattleman, and how they were then tracked down and massacred.

Two important dreamtime stories in Warndarang were published by Capell (1960). I was able to go through these with Isaac, and my retranscription and comments have been lodged with the AIAS library (Heath 1974a) where interested scholars may inspect them.

A number of short texts from Isaac were also recorded on tape and tentatively transcribed by Dr Sharpe, who was good enough to give me copies of this material. Although I did not have time to go through these with Isaac before his death, I did attempt a retranscription after listening to the tapes, and a fairly satisfactory analysis was obtained by examining Dr Sharpe's rough phrase-by-phrase glosses, using my knowledge of the language from my other material, and clearing up some points in interviews with Elizabeth Joshua. My versions of Dr Sharpe's texts (most of which are rambling anecdotes rather than dreamtime stories) are also lodged with the AIAS library (Heath 1974b).

## Text 1

- 1) wu-nu wu-niñi miṛiyilmi , wu-nu jad-jad+gara-buṛa  
 NC-ART NC-there Phelp R. NC-ART RDP-dam+3P1/3Sg-AUXC

wulu-jawu-yawulba-ñu ,  
 Pl-RDP-old man-ABS

*Around the Phelp River old men used to make dams.*

- 2) ṛa-ḡuḡu , wu-nu mal-mal+a-ṛa ṛa-ḡuḡu , wu-jaḡbin-gu-yaḡa  
 NC-fish NC-ART RDP-go up+3Sg-AUXC NC-fish NC-fish trap-ABS-LOC

miṛiyilmi ,  
 Phelp R.

*Fish would go up into the trap in the Phelp River.*

- 3) galḡi baḡa ṛa-waḡañan-gu , wu-nu yar-yar+a-maljuṛa ,  
 until later NC-crowd of fish-ABS RDP-lie around+3Sg-AUXC

*Before long there would be a crowd of fish lying around  
 (in the trap).*

- 4) wudjiwa , bu-butala-mama wulu-wuybi-yu wulu-jawu-yawulba-  
 then RDP-burn grass+3Pl-AUXC Pl-woman-ABS Pl-RDP-old man-ABS

ñu ,

*Then the old men would burn grass (as a signal for) the women.*

- 5) wu-nñaya-wala wu-ṛandaga wu-nu guḡid-guḡid+ya-ru-gaya ,  
 NC-there-ABL NC-cooliman NC-ART RDP-carry+CEN-3P1/3Sg-AUXC

wu-nñaya-wala wu-nu biḡ-biḡ+gara-jaḡa guḡid-guḡid+gara-  
 NC-there-ABL NC-ART RDP-carry on back+3P1/3Sg-AUXC RDP-carry+3P1/3Sg-

gaya ṛa-ḡuḡu , wu-nu wu-niñi wu-nu ḡiḡa wu-ṛadbur-u miṛiyilmi ,  
 AUXC NC-fish NC-ART NC-there NC-ART 1Sg NC-country-ABS Phelp R.

*Then they would come back carrying the fish in coolimans. They  
 would carry them (in their hands), or carry them on their backs,  
 there at my country at the Phelp River.*

- 6) gu-ṛaḡani-biḡ+ju-Ø-ga , wu-yagu wu-njaṛi , ṛa-njaṛi  
 NEG-no one-finish off+3NEG-3Sg/3Sg-AUX NC-not NC-many NC-many

ḡaldud+ga-jani , ṛa-ḡuḡu-ñu  
 abundant+3Sg-AUX NC-fish-ABS

*There were so many fish that no one could have caught all of them.*

## Text 2

wu-nu wu-niya ɾa-maɾawuriŋa , ɾa-maɾawuriŋa , wu-nu  
 NC-ART NC-*this* NC-*magical poison* NC-ART  
 jaɾag-jaɾag+ara-bani , yo , wu-naya wu-nu ɖiw+ar-ija yo ,  
 RDP-*make*+3P1/3Sg-AUX NC-*here* NC-ART *throw*+3P1/3Sg-AUXP  
 mangar+ŋararu-ba  
*throw on body*+3P1/1Sg-AUXP

*This is magical poison. They always make poison. Someone threw it here, someone threw it on my body.*

## Comments:

During an illness, Isaac would meticulously scrape grains of sand off of his body, particularly his chest and belly, with a pocket knife. This was done to remove particles of magical poison which sorcerers had thrown on him.

## Text 3

ɾa-ŋa!ŋa! , ɾa-ŋa!ŋa! , baɖa wu-ru-wiŋɖima  
 NC-*bloodwood* later POT-3P1/3Sg-*will look for*(C)  
 jab+u-ru-gaya (after an interruption, text resumes:)  
*pull up*+POT-3P1/3Sg-AUXC  
 wu-ŋa!ŋa! , baɖa gi+wu-ru-wiŋɖiŋu , jab+u-ru-gaya ,  
 NC-*bloodwood* later go look for+POT-3P1/3Sg-AUXP  
 gi+wu-ru-wiŋɖiŋu , jab+u-ru-gaya

*(After being magically poisoned,) then they will go looking for bloodwood (Eucalyptus polycarpa). They will pull it up. They will go looking for bloodwood, they will pull it up.*

## Comments:

This is a follow-up to Text 2. Medicine was made from bloodwood to combat the magical poison.

## Linguistic Notes:

Observe the fluctuation of NC prefix (wu-/ɾa-) with ŋa!ŋa!.

## Text 4

wu-nu yangarmanja , wu-nu yangarmanja , wu-nu jawu-yawulba-ñu ,  
 NC-ART *first time* NC-ART RDP-*old man*-ABS

ra-munaña-ñu waɾ+ara-wiŋɖi , "wiya ra-ngana ra-nu ra-niya ,  
 NC-*white man*-ABS *see*+3Pl/3Sg-AUXP *enough* NC-*what?* NC-ART NC-*this*

ra-wuruyu , gu jabay ra-ngana ra-waɾiyi "  
 NC-*devil* *or maybe* NC-*something* NC-*human*

*The first time the old people saw white men, (they thought) 'What is this? A devil? Or maybe some kind of human?'* .

## Text 5

1) ɲuduguñay ! , bulub+u-ɲala-ɾa bulub+u-ɲala-ɾa  
*Hey you*(Pl) *hunt kangaroo*+POT-1PlIn/3Sg-AUXC

ɲuduguñay ! , bulub+u-ɲala-ɾa ,

*Hey you! We are going hunting for kangaroos.*

2) wurgmalan , ɲad+u-ru-ɾayiñu , wu-naya-ɲa , wu-naya-ɲa guyma-guyma  
*bush fire* *run*+POT-2Pl-AUXP NC-*here*-LOC *northward*

wu-naya-ɲa wayburi wu-naya-ɲa , wu-nu jiɾi-mad+u-ru-biñu ,  
*southward* NC-ART *end-connect*+POT-2Pl/3Sg-AUXP

*You will run (setting) bush fires, this way to the north and this way to the south, connecting the ends (of the string of fires, which form a circle).*

3) a-wu-ni-wala baɖa wari+wu-du-mayiñu , anjala waɾ+u-ɲala-wiŋɖima  
 ?-NC-*there*-ABL *later return*+POT-2Pl-AUXP *see*+POT-1PlIn/3Sg-

wu-nu wirg+u-∅-ɾa , wudjiwa jaj+u-ru-jaña , jaj+u-ru-jaña ,  
 AUXC NC-ART *hop*+POT-3Sg-AUXC *then* *chase*+POT-2Pl/3Sg-AUXC

*Then come back from there, so we can see (kangaroos) hopping (away from the fire). Then you will chase them.*

4) ra-waŋgiñ jabay jaj+u-∅-jaña , gal+u-∅-jiñu ,  
 NC-*one* *maybe chase*+POT-3Sg/3Sg-AUXC *spear*+POT-3Sg/3Sg-AUXP

wu-∅-mama wu-nu yangar+u-∅-giñu ,  
 POT-3Sg-*do this* NC-ART *take forward*+POT-3Sg/3Sg-AUXP

biɖ+u-∅-jaña , wu-ɾadbur-u-ñiyi  
*carry*+POT-3Sg/3Sg-AUXC NC-*camp*-ABS-*DIR*

*Perhaps (just) one (of you) will chase them and spear them. He will take them ahead, he will carry them (on his shoulder) to the camp.*

## Text 6

ra-ŋaɖugu-ñu , wu-nu raŋ-raŋ+gara-gaya , wa|i-wa|i+ara-  
 NC-rope-ABS NC-ART RDP-make(rope)+3Pl/3Sg-AUXC RDP-twist+3Pl/3Sg-  
 gaya , wu-nñaya-wala wu-nu raŋ-raŋ+gara-gaya , ra-ŋaɖugu  
 -AUXC NC-there-ABL NC-ART RDP-make(rope)+3Pl/3Sg-AUXC NC-rope

*They used to make rope. They twisted (bark fibre of kurrajong, Brachychiton paradoxum), then made it into rope.*

## Text 7

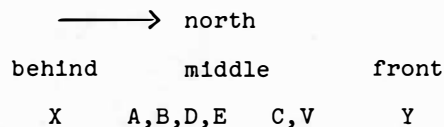
## Introductory comments

This is a long and action-packed text, certainly the most interesting in this collection. It begins with an allusion to an episode involving a Nunggubuyu and Warndarang war party which went south to kill two Mara men; this episode is described in detail in a Mara text which I have collected and hope to publish later.

The major events detailed in the present text begin during the war party's return northwards, when an unnamed man said to have been a giant was killed by a group including the narrator's (Isaac's) father. To enable the reader to follow the main lines of the action in the first part of the text, here is a schematic summary with diagrams:

- A: narrator's father
- B: narrator's father's brother (died later at Ngudjalayi)
- C: narrator's father's brother (Charley's father)
- D: narrator's FaMoBr Lidjanggarra
- E: narrator's FaMoBr Lindy
- V: the victim, a gigantic man
- X,Y: groups of other Aborigines

- a) The Aborigines return north in several groups not within sight of each other.



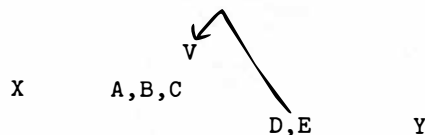
b) Charley's father rejoins his relatives while the victim remains slightly ahead of them.



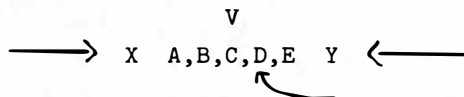
c) Lidjangerarra and Lindy sneak up on the victim and spear him.



d) The victim, badly wounded, runs west, then is hailed by A B C and runs back east toward them, where he is speared and finished off by C.



e) Hearing the commotion, the groups of Aborigines in front and behind run to the scene, but take no action to punish the killers. Lindy and Lidjangerarra have rejoined their relatives.



In the remainder of the text, the narrator describes the efforts of the original war party to evade attacks by a revenge party of the dead giant's relatives, leading to a wrestling match with a crocodile, an incident of punishment by spearing, and an escape from the hands of the enemy as reinforcements come to the rescue.

1) wulu-nu wulu-niya wulu-ṅumbuṛindi wulu-ṅaniyulma wu-nu ala-ṛara  
 PL-ART PL-*this* PL-*Nunggubuyu* PL-*Nganiyulma* NC-ART PL-*go(C)*

wayburi wu-ḍilḍil ṅiṅḍal+ara-gaṅi [emended from ṅiṅḍal+  
*southward* NC-*feathered stick transport+3P1/3Sg-AUXP*

alṅu-gaṅi] wu-nṅaya war+ara-gaya::: , gal+arṅu-ja wuru-ṅu  
 NC-*there sing+3P1/3Sg-AUXC spear+3P1/3Du-AUXP DU-ART*

bijaja [ṅa-bijaja would be more correct; bijaja is the Mara form]  
*grandfather(maternal)*

yiri-jawulba-ṅu yiri-jawulba-ṅu ,  
 DU-*old man-ABS DU-old man-ABS*

*The Nunggubuyu (language group around Cape Barrow) and Nganiyulma (a collection of coastal groups around the mouth of the Rose River) went south, taking feathered sticks. There (around the Limmen River)*





ara-wi , wiya biḍ-biḍ+ga-jaṅa ,  
3PL/3SG-give(P) enough RDP-carry+3SG/3SG-AUXC

*(They asked Charley's father:) 'Why are you going in front? There will be spears there in front.' Then they gave him (the ochre), he was carrying it.*

6) wiya ala-ṛara ṛa-waṛiyi ṅaṅayana , ṛa-waṛiyi yaṅgar ,  
enough 3PL-go(C) NC-Aboriginal behind in front  
wulayi wuluṅa , ṅa-ñi ṅa-wargil-u wu-nu , yaṅgar-yaṅgar+  
3PL middle MASG-same MASG-victim-ABS NC-ART RDP-take in front+  
ara-jaṅa , ṅa-balwayi ṅa-ṛugalara ,  
3PL/3SG-AUXC MASG-big MASG-tall

*They went along in the middle, with (other) Aborigines ahead of and behind them. They kept that victim (i.e. the old man they were about to kill) in front, the big, tall man.*

7) wu-nu wu-nñaya-wala , ma-yiṛg+a-gaya ṛa-wariman-gu ,  
NC-ART NC-there-ABL BEN-loosen+3SG/3SG-AUXC NC-stone spear-ABS  
ṛa-wañin-gu , ṅa-nu ṅa-!ijaṅara-ñu wurayi ṅa-nu  
NC-stone spear-ABS MASG-ART MASG-Lidjangarra-ABS 3DU MASG-ART  
!indi ma-yiṛg+a-gaya ṅa-nu ṅa-!indi , ṅa-nu !indi ma-yiṛg+a-gaya  
Lindy  
ṅa-nu ṅa-!ijaṅara-ñu , ṛa-wañin-gu ,  
NC-stone spear-ABS

*After that Lidjangarra and Lindy (the narrator's two father's mother's brothers) loosened (the protective covering on their) stone spearheads.*

8) ṅa-nad+gar-a , wu-niya wu-nu ma-yilgiṅ-gu wu-nu a-mama  
RDP-run+3DU-AUXC NC-there NC-ART NC-road-ABS NC-ART 3SG-do this(C)  
"wu-naya-ṅa gajart+u-ña-giñu" , maṅal-gajar-gajart+  
NC-here-LOC take shortcut+POT-1DUIN/3SG-AUXP path-RDP-take shortcut+  
ara-gaya maṅal-gajar-gajart+ara-gaya wiya ma-biṅ+ga-gaṅi  
3PL/3SG-AUXC enough BEN-get rid of+3SG/3SG-  
wiya ma-biṅ+ga-gaṅi , wu-nu ḍab+g-idima wu-yibar ,  
AUXP NC-ART be tied up+3SG-AUXC NC-string  
ḍu]+ḍ-ija ,  
release+3SG-AUXP

*The two of them were running. There where the road does this (meanders), (one of them said to the other:) 'Let's take a shortcut this way'. They took a shortcut. One of them removed (the covering) for it (the spear), where it had been tied up with string. He released it (the spear).*

9) *ḡad+ga-mayi , ḡalwal+Ø-iḡaji ḡalwal+Ø-iḡaji ,*  
*run+3SG-AUXP prepare to strike+3SG-AUXP*

*wanga-ñi ḡub+ga-ba , wu-naya-wala maḡad+gal-iḡaji ,*  
*other way-DIR throw+3SG/3SG-AUXP NC-here-ABL injure+3PL-AUXP*

*ḡa-wañin-gu wu-naya-ḡa , galimba argali-ñi wu-nu ḡay+a-mi*  
*NC-spear-ABS NC-here-LOC and west-DIR NC-ART flee+3SG-AUXP*

*yibaḡa-!u!u!u+a-gaya , baḡa wari+Ø-yiḡa wu-nu wu-nñaya-wala*  
*shaft-be through+3SG/3SG-AUXC later return+3SG-AUXP NC-ART NC-there-ABL*

*an-arga!i ,*  
*ABL-west*

*He ran, holding the spear raised ready to strike. He threw it the other way (from behind him?). They injured him around here (in the lower back), with the spear here. Then he (the victim) fled to the west. The spear shaft was sticking right through him. Then he came back from the west.*

10) "*a-wu-ni-wala ḡaw ! , ḡaw ! jawulba a-wu-ni-wala , wu-naya-ḡa*  
*?-NC-there-ABL Hey! old man NC-here-LOC*

*ḡaw ! ḡad+ja-Ø-mayi " , ḡa-nu ḡiya ḡujalayi a-mi ,*  
*run+CEN-2SG-AUX MASG-ART ? Ngudjalayi 3SG-do this(P)*

*ḡa-nad+ja-ḡa , aru wu-nu wu-niya , wu-nu ḡalwal+a-jḡa ,*  
*RDP-run+CEN-AUXC because NC-ART NC-there NC-ART prepare to strike+*

*ḡalwal+a-jḡa , wu-niya wu-ḡanja gal+a-jḡa ,*  
*3SG/3SG-AUXC NC-this NC-belly spear-3SG/3SG-AUXP*

*(The narrator's father and others with him called to the wounded man:) 'Hey! This way, old man! Hey! Run this way!' Then the man who died (later) at Ngudjalayi billabong (a father's brother of the narrator) came running with his spear raised ready to strike him, then speared him here, in the belly.*

11) *wu-nu ara-gayiwi wulu-nu yanggar , wulu-wariyi-yu ,*  
*NC-ABS 3PL/3SG-hear(P) PL-ART in front PL-Aborigine-ABS*

wari-wari+a-mayi ɾa-waɾiyi-yu , ɲa-nu ɲaɲayana baɟa  
RDP-return+3SG-AUXP NC-Aborigine-ABS MASG-ART behind later

ɲad+ga-mayi wiya ,  
run+3SG-AUXP enough

*The Aborigines in front heard it (the commotion) and came back.  
The Aborigines in the rear (also) came running.*

12) wu-nu yili-muluɲuy , yiri-wudɲuy yiri-wudɲuy ɲa-waŋgiɲ , wiya ,  
NC-ART PAUC-few DU-two MASG-one enough

wulu-nu gal+ara-ja , ɲa-ɲi ɲa-jawulba-ɲu , ɾa-waɾiyi  
PL-ART spear+3PL/3SG-AUXP MASG-same MASG-old man-ABS NC-Aborigine

ɾa-balwayi , yo , gu-wunga+yu-Ø-maɾi ɾa-waɾiyi-yu ,  
NC-big NEG-do something+3NEG- 3SG -AUX NC-Aborigine-ABS

aru giɾi+alɲu-wiɲɟima ,  
because fear+3PL/3PL-AUXC

*The ones who had speared that old man, that big man (i.e. the group including the narrator's father, father's brothers, and father's mother's brothers) were (only) a few in number, five (2+2+1). (However,) the (other) Aborigines did nothing (to punish them), because they were afraid of them.*

13) wu-nɲaya-ɲa-ni ɾa-galga-ɲu , ɾa-galga-ɲu wu-nu  
NC-there-LOC-PUR NC-soldier-ABS NC-ART

ma-ɟuɾur-ɟuɾur+ala-gayima , ja-jaj+galɲu-jaɲa ja-jaj+galɲu-jaɲa ,  
BEN-RDP-assemble+3PL-AUXC RDP-chase+3PL/3PL-AUXC

ɾa-galga-ɲu , yo , ja-jaj+galɲu-jaɲa,  
NC-soldier-ABS

*Because of that (episode), soldiers (enemies of the narrator's relatives, who are hereafter referred to as 'the killers') assembled (for) each other, and went after them (the killers).*

14) wu-niɲi baɟa gal+ara-ja ɾa-gurwiji ɾa-wugaɭij ,  
NC-there later spear+3PL/3SG-AUXP NC-female dugong NC-dugong

gal+ara-ja ɾa-gurwiji , ɾa-galga , ɾa-waŋgiɲ ɾa-murji ,  
spear+3PL/3SG-AUXP NC-female dugong NC-soldier NC-one NC-hand

ɾa-waŋgiɲ ɾa-murji , ma-ɲajan-gu wu-nu yaja+alɲu-buɾa ,  
NC-canoe-ABS NC-ART hunt+3PL/3PL-AUXC

ṅaṅi+al-iṅa , ṅaṅi+Ø-yiṅa ṅiwa ṅa-galga-ñu ,  
*come after+3PL-AUXP come after-3SG-AUXP 3MASG MASG soldier-ABS*

*Some time later they (the killers) speared a dugong, a female dugong (they were out in a canoe). The soldiers, ten of them (one hand, another hand), pursued them with a canoe. They came (to a place where the killers had been just before), he came, that soldier.*

15) wulayi miṅi ya|buri , miṅi yaja+ara-buṛa wulu-niñi:::  
 3PL just then down hunt+3PL/3SG-AUXC PL-that

yiwwaba jaw+ara-gaṅi , ṛa-gurwiji-yu , baḍa  
*Yiwwaba catch fish+3PL/3SG-AUXP NC-female dugong-ABS later*

ana-yiwayi wari-wari+a-mayi , ṛa-galga-ñu , wari-wari+Ø-yiṅa ,  
 ABL-south RDP-return+3SG-AUXP NC-soldier-ABS RDP-return+3SG-AUXP

*They, those ones (the killers), had just then (gone) down (to the estuary). They were catching fish, and a female dugong, at Yiwwaba. The soldiers were coming back (toward the killers) from the south.*

16) ṅan+g-ilami ṅa-nu |indi , 'jalg+ṅara-ja baga  
 hit+3SG/3SG-AUXP MASG-ART *Lindy* stab+3SG/1SG-AUXP *Hey!*

ṅan+ṅar-ilami , giṅḍir-ḍawj+ṅudu-yaji ṛa-wa ṛa-niya , ṛa-wa  
 hit+3SG/1SG-AUXP penis-bite each other+2PL/AUX NC-? NC-this NC-?

ṛa-ni ṛa-galga , wiya bad+ṅala-gini ṛa-wa ṛa-niya  
 NC-that NC-soldier enough abandon+1PLIN/3SG-AUX NC-? NC-this

ṛa-wuga|ij-gu ' ,  
 NC-dugong-ABS

*Something struck *Lindy* (a premonition of danger). 'Hey! Something stabbed me, something hit me! You bit each other's penises! [a conventional war cry]. There are soldiers there. We must leave this dugong [which had been fastened alongside the canoe *Lindy* and the others were in].'*

17) wiya juyub+gara-gaṅi wu-nu ḍirata+juṛa , juyub+gara-gaṅi  
 enough untie+3PL/3SG-AUXP NC-ART *be tied+3SG-AUXC*

bad+gara-gaṅi , wiya jaj+gala-jayi wu-nu  
 abandon+3PL/3SG-AUXP enough chase each other+3PL-AUXP NC-ART

wu-nñaya-wala ḍuḍul yiwawaba mal-mal , wanga-ñi ,  
 NC-there-ABL all the way to *Yiwwaba* RDP-go up other way-DIR

wu-yinma-yinma bugi ɲa-nad+gala-ɾa , wu-yinma , bugi aŋulya ,  
 NC-RDP-foot still RDP-run+3PL-go(C) NC-foot still Angulya  
 ɲawarwar ɟirwu , yijagirirgirirama ɟirwu+ala-mi  
 Mt Moore dive into water Yidjagirrirrgirrirrama dive into water+  
 wu-nñaya-ɲa ,  
 3PL-AUXP NC-there-LOC

*They untied (the rope) where it had been tied up, and abandoned it (the dugong). There was a chase. They went up to Yiwawaba, then still on foot they ran in another direction to Angulya. Around Mt Moore, at Yidjagirrirrgirrirrama, they jumped into the water (and went) that way.*

18) ɾa-galga-ñu miɲi wuñmi-ñi , baɟa , wari-wari+Ø-yiɲa  
 NC-soldier-ABS then north-DIR later RDP-return+3SG-AUXP  
 wu-niñi , wu-niya ɲumbulwarɟ , baɟa miɲi ɾa-waɟiyi-yu  
 NC-there NC-this Numbulwar later then NC-Aborigine-ABS  
 ɟuɟur+a-gaya , wulu-nu Groote Eylandt , wulu-nu wulu-baɟamumu ,  
 gather+3SG/3SG-AUXC PL-ART PL-ART PL-Barlamumu  
 wulu-ɾiɟa-ɾiɟarɲu-ñu , ɾa-waɟiyi-yu wu-nu , wu-nu  
 PL-RDP-Ritharngu-ABS NC-Aborigine-ABS NC-ART  
 ɲiɲɟal+a-gaya , maj-maj+ga-bura ,  
 transport+3SG/3SG-AUXC RDP-make sacred+3SG/3SG-AUXC

*Then the soldiers came back north here to Numbulwar (having given up the pursuit of the killers for the time being). They gathered Aborigines - Groote Eylandters, Barlamumus (North-East Arnhem Landers), Ritharngus - whom they brought over and gave sacred powers ceremonially.*

19) wulayi miɲi wargujaja , ala-maljuɾa , wulu-yugulmangi , galimba  
 3PL then Warrgudjadja 3PL-stay(C) PL-Yugulmangi and  
 wulu-yugul , ara-ɲama ɾa-ɲuɲu-ñu wu-nñaya wu-nu ɟar+Ø-yiɲa  
 PL-Yugul 3PL/3SG-eat(C) NC-fish-ABS NC-there NC-ART arrive+3SG-  
 ɾa-ñi ɾa-ɟalga-ñu ɾa-balwayi-yu , ' ɲuduguñay ! '  
 AUXP NC-same NC-soldier-ABS NC-big-ABS

*They (the killers) were staying at Warrgudjadja with (their allies) the Yugulmangi and Yugul people. That big soldier arrived (at their camp, and called out:) 'Hey you!'*

20) *na-nu na-gayi-yu na-jawulba-nu yur+Ø-yina ,*  
 MASG-ART MASG-other-ABS MASG-old man-ABS come out+3SG-AUXP  
 ' *naṇi ra-waṛiyi-yu ' , ' yo ! miṇi miṛmiṛya ṇiya*  
*what about? NC-Aborigine-ABS now in previous days ?*  
*gayari biṅ+gara-gaṇi ma-nu ma-ḍuṅal-u wu-nu*  
*long time finish+3PL/3SG-AUXP NC-ART NC-spear-ABS NC-ART*  
*wi!+ara-gaya ' , ' yo ! baḍa wanggay-wanggay+wu-du-maljuṛa ' ,*  
*make(spear)+3PL/3SG-AUXC later RDP-be awake+POT-2PL-AUX*

*Another old man (from the Yugulmanggi-Yugul camp) came out (to meet the newcomer). (He asked him,) 'What about (those) Aborigines?' (The newcomer answered,) 'For some days now they have finished the spears which they were making.' (The old man said to the other Yugul and Yugulmanggi men,) 'You must stay awake (in the event we are attacked).'*

21) *na-nu na-baba baḍa bur+Ø-yina a-gayiwi*  
 MASG-ART 1POSS-father later set(sun)+3SG-AUXP 3SG/3SG-hear(P)  
*yiri-wa!maṇ ḷi+arṇu-gaṇi yiri-wirjiṅ-gu , ṇiwa*  
*DU-black duck scare+3DU/3DU-AUXP DU-spy-ABS 3MASG*  
*naṇi+Ø-yina wurayi yanggar wu-nu ya!ja!+ar-iṅa ,*  
*go after+3SG-AUXP 3DU in front NC-ART slip away+3DU-AUXP*  
*yanggarmanja , wu-nu ya!ja wu-Ø-yaṇi wulguy , gal+u-rṇu-ji ,*  
*before NC-ART early POT-3SG-go all right spear+POT-3SG/3DU-AUX*

*My father, later when the sun had gone down, heard (the noise made by) two black ducks frightened by two spies (from the enemy camp). He went after the two (spies), but they slipped away. Had he gone a bit more quickly, he would have speared them all right.*

22) *a-gayiwi 'wu-wu-wu-wu!' ra-wuṅgan-gu , ra-nṇaya-ṇa*  
 3SG/3SG-hear(P) NC-dog-ABS NC-that-LOC  
*yulu-wiṛ+a-juṛa , ra-balwayi-yu , wu-nu garaṛ+a-ba , ṇawaṅul ,*  
*ear-hear+3SG-AUX(C) NC-big-ABS NC-ART howl+3SG-AUXP Nawarnul*  
*ra-nṇaya ra-balwayi-yu , ' ṇaru! wari+Ø-yina ṇuduguṇay*  
*NC-that NC-big-ABS There! return+3SG-AUXP*  
*wanggay-wanggay+wu-du-maljuṛa yo ! , ra-wirjiṅ ba!+ṅalalu-wiṅdima*  
*RDP-be awake+POT-2PL-AUXC NC-spy sneak up on+3SG/1PLIN-AUXC*

wu-nu ṅala , wanggay '  
 NC-ART now be awake

*He heard the sound of a dog howling, going along there, then a big (group of dogs) howling from around Nawarnul billabong. (These were a spy signalling the main group by dog calls, then the main group answering.) (The narrator's father then said to the others in his camp:) 'Hey you! They were there and have gone back. Stay awake! Spies have been sneaking up on us just now. Stay awake!'*

23) wu-nñaya-wala mulg+ara-ba , ṅiwa gu-mulg+ju-Ø-bini ,  
 NC-there-ABL go to sleep+3PL/3SG-AUXP 3MASG NEG-go to sleep+  
 yulu-wiṛ-wiṛ+a-juṛa bugi , maṅal-waṛ-waṛ+a-wiṅḍima  
 3NEG-3SG/3SG-AUX ear-RDP-hear+3SG-AUXC still road-RDP-see+3SG/3SG-AUXC  
 ṛa-waṛiyi-yu , wu-nñaya-wala wu-nu yar+ya-Ø-buṛa , galṅi  
 NC-Aborigine-ABS NC-there-ABL NC-ART dawn+CEN-3SG/3SG-AUXC until  
 baḍa wu-nu baṛa+a-mi wu-niñi wuñmi-ñi , ṛa-ṅalabura-ñu  
 later NC-ART look back+3SG-AUXP NC-there north-DIR NC-white paint-ABS  
 ḍuwa+Ø-yiṅa ,  
 be visible+3SG-AUXP

*After that they (the others) went to sleep, but he (the narrator's father) did not. He kept listening, and watching the path for Aborigines. After it dawned, he looked around to the north, and white paint (on the bodies of the attacking soldiers) was visible.*

24) 'ṅuduguñay ! ṛa-galga ḍuṅ+yudu-mayi , ṅad+yudu-bi , ṛa-galga ' ,  
 Hey you(PL) NC-soldier get up+2PL-AUX run+2PL-AUX NC-soldier  
 wu-nñaya-wala miṅi jawj+galṅ-ida yo , wu-niñi-ṅaṅa , wu-niya  
 NC-there-ABL then enclose+3PL/3PL-AUXP NC-there-east NC-there  
 arg-argaḷi , wu-niya ana-wuñmi ,  
 RDP-west NC-there ABL-north

*(The narrator's father called out to the others:) 'Hey you! Soldiers (are coming)! Get up and run! Soldiers! Then they (the soldiers) surrounded them, to the east and west, from the north.*

25) wulayi , wulu-nu wulu-yugulmanggi-yu , miṅi argaḷi-ñi wu-nu  
 3PL PL-ART PL-Yugulmanggi-ABS then west-DIR NC-ART  
 ḍay+ala-mi , yangarmanja , ṅaṅi+Ø-yiṅa ṛa-galga-ñu ,  
 flee+3PL-AUXP before come after+3SG-AUXP NC-soldier-ABS



wurayi bugi an-maljuṛa , baḍa bay+ara-juṛa , wu-nñaya bugi ,  
3DU still 3DU-stay(C) later stand+3DU-AUXC NC-there still

*They, the Yugulmanggi (and Yugul), fled then to the west, before the soldiers came to them. The two of them (the narrator's father and father's brother) were the only ones still there. They were still standing there.*

26) waṛ+ara-wiṇḍi ṛa-balwayi ṛa-waṛiyi , ṇa-nu wuyagiba-yaygi ,  
see+3PL/3SG-AUXP NC-big NC-Aborigine MASG-ART Wuyagiba-?

arṇu-ja , 'ṛa-balwayi ṛa-nu ṛa-niya ṛa-waṛiyi-yu baga! ,  
3SG/3DU-AUXP NC-big NC-ART NC-this NC-Aborigine-ABS watch out!

andagari ḍirwu+yun-mi , wayburi miṇi ṇuy+yur-bi , aru  
go on! dive into water-2DU-AUX southward now swim+2DU-AUX because

jabay gu-maṇ+ṇarṇu-ba ' ,  
maybe NEG-save+1SG/2DU-AUX

*They saw a big group of Aborigines. A man from Wuyagiba told them, 'Watch out! These Aborigines are big (in number). Go on, dive into the water and swim south, since I may not be able to save you.'*

27) wu-dñaya-wala ḍirwutan-mi , ṇuytar-a , ṇuytar-a , wu-nu  
NC-there-ABL dive in+3DU-AUXP swim+3DU-AUXC NC-ART

wulṇa , wuljur wu-nu a-ṛara , ṛa-ṇaṅguru-ñu , wuljur  
middle underwater NC-ART 3SG-go(C) NC-crocodile-ABS underwater

wu-nu ya-ḍ-ṛara ṛa-ṇaṅguru-ñu , wu-nu arṇu-gayiwi wu-nu  
NC-ART CEN-3SG-go(C) NC-crocodile-ABS NC-ART 3SG/3DU-hear(P) NC-ART

ṇuytar-a ,  
swim+3DU-AUXC

*Then they jumped into the water and swam. In the middle, underwater, a crocodile was going along. The crocodile came along underwater, and heard them swimming.*

28) jalg+a-ja ma-ḍuṇal-u , wu-nu wu-niya ,  
strike+3SG/3SG-AUXP NC-spear-ABS NC-ART NC-there

jaig+a-ja ma-ḍuṇal-miri , jalg+a-ja , 'andagari wu-niya  
strike+3SG/3SG-AUXP NC-spear-INST Oh dear! NC-there

jalg+ṇa-ja jabay wu-ngṇa , jabay ma-ḷigar , jabay  
strike+1SG/3SG-AUXP maybe NC-something maybe NC-stone maybe

ɾa-ɳaŋguru , andagari garja! ɳuy+Ø-mayi ' , a-ja  
 NC-crocodile go on! quickly swim+2SG-AUX 3SG/3SG-tell(P)

ɳa-nu ɳa-balwayi-yu ,  
 MASG-ART MASG-big-ABS

*He (the narrator's father) struck it (accidentally), he struck it with the point of the spear. He told the big one (i.e. his older brother): 'Oh! I have struck something, maybe a rock, maybe a crocodile. Go on, swim fast!'*

29) ɳa-ɳi-baɳa ɳuy+Ø-yiɳa garja! , miɳi ɳab+ja-Ø-ɾa ,  
 as for him swim+3SG-AUXP fast then rise+CEN-3SG-AUXC

ɾa-wa!ajandama-ɳu miɳi ɳab+ja-Ø-ɾa , wu-nu baw+Ø-yiɳa  
 NC-crocodile-ABS then rise+CEN-3SG-AUXC NC-ART stick out head+3SG-AUXP

waɾ+a-wiɳɳi ɳa-niya ,  
 see+3SG/3SG-AUXP MASG-this

*He himself (the narrator's father) began swimming fast. Then it rose up, the crocodile rose up. It stuck its head out and saw him there.*

30) galimba, wu-nu wu-nɳaya-wala wirg+Ø-igiri  
 and NC-ART NC-there-ABL jump at+3SG/3SG-AUXP

jabi+a-ba , ɳiwa ya!buri , ya!buri wirju+a-gaɳi  
 grab at+3SG/3SG-AUXP 3MASG downward miss+3SG/3SG-AUXP

wu-niya garj+ga-gaɳi wu-yidma-ɳiyi , wirju+a-gaɳi  
 NC-there scratch+3SG/3SG-AUXP NC-foot-DIR miss+3SG/3SG-AUXP

wu-nu wu-nɳaya-wala baɳa jiɳi , baɳa biriɳ+ga-ba ,  
 NC-ART NC there-ABL later again did again+3SG/3SG-AUXP

jaj+ga-ja ,  
 chase+3SG/3SG-AUXP

*Then it lunged at him and tried to grab him (in its jaws). He (went) down, so that it missed and just scratched him on the foot. It turned to face him, and (again) it missed him. Then it did it to him again, it charged at him.*

31) yil+a-mi wu-nu wayburi , ɳiwa ya!buri , wu-nu  
 attack+3SG-AUXP NC-ART southward 3MASG down NC-ART

ja-jaj+gala-jayima , ' wari+yur-bi wari+yur-bi , wari+yur-bi '  
 RDP-engage in chase+3PL-AUXC return+2DU-AUX

ra-galga-ñu wu-nu gaw+a-mama gaw+arñu-jana ,  
 NC-soldier-ABS NC-ABS call+3SG-AUXC call+3SG/3DU-AUXC

*It attacked to the south, but he (went) downriver (east). There was a chase. 'Come back, you two!' the soldiers (who were watching the chase from the river bank) called out, they called out to them.*

32) wari+an-mayi , mal-mal , ra-wariyi-yu-yana , wu-nñaya wu-nu  
 return+3DU-AUXP RDP-climb NC-Aborigine-ABS-LOC NC-there NC-ART

wiñ+garñu-gaya wiya , wu-nu wu-nñaya-wala miñi , miñi  
 rest+3SG/3DU-AUXC enough NC-ART NC-there-ABL then

ala-janayajima , wu-nu wu-nñaya-wala miñi ala-janayajima ,  
 3PL-engage in battle(C)

*They went back and climbed (onto the bank), to the (enemy) Aborigines. They rested there for a while, then after that they engaged in a battle.*

33) ña-nu ña-baba ðub+ga-ba wu-naya-ña , baða  
 MASG-ART 1POSS-father throw+3SG/3SG-AUXP NC-here-LOC later

birid+ga-ba ña-nu ña-baba , ña-nu  
 do again+3SG/3SG-AUXP MASG-ART 1POSS-father MASG-ART

ñiñdal-ñiñdala-gaya ra-galga-ñu , baða wu-naya-ña baða  
 RDP-transport+3SG/3SG-AUXC NC-soldier-ABS later NC-here-LOC

jiñi gal+a-ja , wu-gañðurba ,  
 again spear+3SG/3SG-AUXP NC-hook spear

*My father threw (spears) this way (into the shoulder of the adversary), then he did it again, my father, to the one who had brought all the soldiers. Then he speared him again here, with a hook spear.*

34) baða jiñi wiya , baða wu-nu jilgñi wiya buwa-buwata-ra ,  
 later again enough NC-ART next day enough RDP-face ordeal+

'wu-yagu gu-buwatña-yu gu-bay+ña-jaña [emended  
 3SG-AUXP NC-not NEG-face ordeal+1SG-AUX NEG-stand-1SG-AUX

from -jana]', wiya ñujalayi wu-nu buwata-ra  
 enough Ngudjalayi NC-ART face ordeal+3SG-AUXC

wulguy jalg+ara-ja ma-yarbij , baða ma-yarbij ,  
 all right stab+3PL/3SG-AUXP NC-thigh later

mangal-ðatara-ba , miyirbaḥbaḥ-ðatara-ba , wiya ,  
 head strike+3PL/3SG-AUXP head strike+3PL/3SG-AUXP enough

Then later, the next day, he (the narrator's father) was to face punishment by ordeal (having a hook spear thrust into his legs around the thighs). (He said,) 'I will not face the ordeal'. (The narrator's father's brother, who died later at) Ngudjalayi, faced the ordeal alone. They stabbed his thigh (with the hook spear), then the other thigh. They struck him on the head (with woomeras). It ended.

35) 'wiya wiya wu-ŋari-yu arimigi', baɖa jilgñi, wu-nu  
 enough NC-fight-ABS hopefully later next day NC-ART  
 yaɾ+a-gaya baɖa jiñi ɾa-galga 'ŋuduguña ɾa-galga',  
 be light+3SG/3SG-AUXC later again NC-soldier Hey you(PL)! NC-soldier  
 baɖa jiñi jaj+galŋu-ja, miŋi yaɭburi, wu-nu ɾambi+a-ja,  
 later again chase+3PL/3PL-AUXP then down NC-ART attack+3SG/3SG  
 mayiwuɾ+ala-juɾa yiwiŋ+<g>a-jima aru ɾa-gabaja  
 ? splash+3SG-AUXC because NC-good  
 ɾa-mawaɾayimbiɾjimbiɾ ma-waɾagulu ...  
 NC-hook spear NC-hook spear

(The soldiers said,) 'That should be enough fighting. But the next day when it got light, soldiers were there again. (The narrator's father called to his comrades, some of whom had rejoined him and his brother,) 'Hey you! Soldiers (are coming)!'. Then they (the soldiers) chased them down to the river, where they attacked them with spears, showering them with spears. The water was splashing because of the good (abundant) hook spears ...

[There was an interruption at this point as the tape ran out and a new tape was put on the recorder.]

36) baɖa jiñi ɾambi+a-ja, baɖa jiñi ɾambi+a-ja, wu-nu  
 later again attack+3SG/3SG-AUXP NC-ART  
 wu-niya-wala yaɾ+ya-Ø-buɾa baɖa jiñi ɾambi+a-ja,  
 NC-there-ABL dawn+CEN-3SG/3SG-AUXC later again attack+3SG/3SG-AUXP  
 wiya yaɭburi, wu-nu jaj+galŋu-jaŋa, aru ɾa-gabaja  
 enough down NC-ART chase+3PL/3PL-AUXC because NC-good  
 ɾa-mayaɭungu, ɾa-wanungu, ɾa-mawaɾayimbiɾjimbiɾ, mayiwuɾ+ala-juɾa,  
 NC-hook spear NC-hook spear NC-hook spear ?+3PL-AUX  
 wu-balba-ñiyi, mayiwuɾ+ala-juɾa, wu-nu ɖu-ɖub+gara-buɾa,  
 NC-river-ALL NC-ART RDP-throw+3PL/3SG-AUXC

*Then they (the soldiers) attacked again. They attacked again after daybreak. They (the narrator's father, et al.) went down (into the river). They chased after them, showering them with spears which they threw into the river.*

- 37) jaj+galŋu-ja::: wu-niñi giṛiṛi , ḍirwu+ara-ja  
 chase+3PL/3PL-AUXP NC-there Giriri take into water+3PL/3SG-AUXP  
 ŋa-gayi , jaj+galŋu-ja ḍirwu-ḍirwu+alŋu-jaŋa  
 MASG-other chase+3PL/3PL-AUXP RDP-take into water+3PL/3PL-AUXC  
 wu-nñaya-ŋa::: miṇi ŋuy+ala-ṛa , miṇi wuluŋa wu-nu ŋuy+ala-ṛa ,  
 NC-there-LOC then swim+3PL-AUXC then middle NC-ART swim-3PL-AUXC  
 ŋa-waŋgiñ ŋa-nu ŋa-baba ŋa-balwayi , baḍa buliñ+g-iŋa ,  
 MASG-one MASG-ART 1POSS-father MASG-big later stay behind+3SG/AUXP

*They chased them there, at Giriri. They chased another man (Lindy) into the water, they chased them into the water. They were swimming that way. They swam in the middle. One of my fathers, the big one (i.e. the narrator's father's elder brother), stayed behind (on the river bank).*

- 38) ŋa-ni wu-nu guṛŋguṛ+a-mama ṛa-waṛiyi-yu , ṇad+ga-mayi  
 MASG-same NC-ART gather+3SG-AUXC NC-Aborigine-ABS run+3SG-AUXP  
 yaŋgar wu-niñi ŋalwa!a+a-buṛa , ŋalwa!a+a-buṛa wu-nu  
 ahead NC-there clear+3SG/3SG-AUXC NC-ART  
 gal+u-lŋu-ji wulu-nu wulu-niñi ŋuy+ala-ṛa , aru  
 spear+POT-3SG/3PL-AUX PL-ART PL-that swim+3PL-AUXC in order that  
 gal+u-lŋu-ji ,  
 spear+POT-3SG/3PL-AUX

*That same one who had gathered the Aborigines (the enemy soldiers) ran ahead there and cleared (a little space among mangroves on the river bank). He cleared it so he could spear the ones who were swimming (the narrator's ancestors).*

- 39) ṛa-bulugija-yu , a-mama , wu-naya wu-nu , wu-naya  
 NC-mangrove sp.-ABS 3SG-be like this(C) NC-here NC-ART  
 wu-nu miñ+ga-ba , gaburg+Ø-iŋaji , mal+Ø-yiŋa  
 aim+3SG/3SG-AUXP rebound+3SG-AUXP go up+3SG-AUXP  
 ma-guḍijbal-u-yaŋa , wu-naya wu-nu yil+a-mi , wu-nu wu-naya-ŋa  
 NC-mangrove sp.-ABS-LOC NC-here hit+3SG/AUXP NC-ART NV-here-LOC

duḍul mud-mangara , wu-nu wu-naya-ḡa , wu-nu wu-niya wu-ḡuḡḡi ,  
 until break-NOM NC-ART NC-here-LOC NC-this NC-ankle  
 wu-ḡuḡḡi wu-niya , ḡanani wu-niya , duḍul mud+ga-walmida , wu-nḡaya  
 NC-ankle NC-this ? NC-this until break+3SG/3SG-AUXP NC-there  
 bugi yal-yal+a-murḡi ,  
 still RDP-make fall+3SG/3SG-AUXP

*One type of mangroves were doing this (leaning over the water). He (the narrator's father's brother) aimed (his spear) at him (the leader of the enemy soldiers). (When he threw it,) it rebounded off one of the mangroves, went up into another kind of mangroves, and hit him (the enemy leader) here in the ankle, (so hard that) it broke it. He was still there (among the mangroves), but it made him fall.*

40) ' garara yudu-mi duḡ+ḡa-ba ,  
 2PL-do this throw(spear)+1SG/3SG-AUXP  
 ḡiḡḡiḡ-ḡawj+ḡudu-yaji ' alḡu-ja wulu-nu wulu-niḡi ,  
 penis-bite each other+2PL-AUXP 3SG/3PL-tell(P) PL-ART PL-that  
 wu-nu ḡuy+ala-ḡa , yo ! , wula-ḡi-baḡa 'garararara ! ' ,  
 NC-ART swim+3PL-AUXC as for them

*He (the narrator's father) told those men who were swimming, 'Shout "garara"; I have speared him! You bit each other's penises!' They shouted "gararararara" (a signal of victory).*

41) ḡa-galga-ḡu wu-nu a-gayama , wu-nu an-argaḡi , 'wu-niḡi  
 NC-soldier-ABS NC-ART 3SG/3SG-hear(C) NC-ART ABL-west NC-there  
 wu-nu ḡuy+ala-ḡani wu-nu garara ala-mi , jabay  
 NC-ART swim+3PL-AUX NC-ART 3PL-do this(P) maybe  
 duḡ+gara-ba wulayi ' , yuḡḡaḡa wu-nu waḡ+alḡu-wiḡḡi ,  
 throw(spear)+3PL/3SG-AUXP 3PL true NC-ART see+3PL/3PL-AUXP  
 wiya wu-nu biray-biray+ara-gaya , biray+ya-ru-gaya ,  
 enough NC-ART RDP-carry+3PL/3SG-AUXP carry+CEN-3PL/3SG-AUXP

*The soldiers heard the sound from the west. (They said to each other:) 'The ones swimming over there made a victory shout. Maybe they speared him.' (They knew this was) true, as they saw them. Then they carried (the wounded man) away, they carried him this way.*

42) niyal ɾa-wa ɾa-ni niyal wu-nu munji-munji+ɲulɲu-wiŋɟimani ,  
 ? NC-that NC-that NC-ART RDP-follow+2PL/3PL-AUXC  
 wulu-nu a-wulu-ni , wula-ñi-baŋa , ma-ɟuŋal-u ɟil+ar-idaŋani ,  
 PL-ART ?-PL-that as for them NC-spear-ABS hold+3PL/3SG-AUX  
 wu-niya wu-wujula-ñu ' , 'yo! ɲala ɲunju ɟil+ɲal-idaŋani ' , wiya ,  
 NC-this NC-woomera-ABS 1PLIN likewise hold+1PLIN/3SG-AUX enough  
 wu-nñaya-wala mud+g-iŋa ɾa-galga-ñu  
 NC-there-ABL break+3SG-AUXP NC-soldier-ABS

*(The soldiers said to each other,) 'You chased them, that group, but (now) they have spears too, and woomeras.' (One of the swimmers, in the narrator's ancestors' group, called to them:) 'Yes, all of us have them like (you).' That is all, the (group of) soldiers broke up and left.*





## WARNDARANG-ENGLISH DICTIONARY AND SUPPLEMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

This dictionary is based on material obtained from Isaac Joshua, supplemented by materials given to me by Drs Capell and Sharpe, in most instances rechecked or reworked by me with Isaac. Some details were cleared up in interviews with Elizabeth Joshua following Isaac's death.

Each entry is followed by an indication of its part of speech, using the following abbreviations:

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| <i>Adj</i>  | adjectival    |
| <i>Adv</i>  | adverb        |
| <i>Art</i>  | article       |
| <i>Conj</i> | conjunction   |
| <i>Dem</i>  | demonstrative |
| <i>Infl</i> | inflectable   |
| <i>Int</i>  | interjection  |
| <i>Intr</i> | intransitive  |
| <i>N</i>    | noun          |
| <i>Part</i> | article       |
| <i>Pro</i>  | pronoun       |
| <i>V</i>    | verb          |

Inflectable verbs include auxiliaries (*AUX*) and a few main verbs which directly take inflectional affixation. All other verbs require auxiliaries, and the particular *AUX* used with each verb is indicated in parentheses. Thus *bad VTr (-ga-)* means that *bad* is a transitive verb which takes the *AUX -ga-*. If a particular main verb can take two or more different auxiliaries, perhaps in different senses, this is indicated.

Nonhuman nouns are shown with the appropriate noun-class (NC) prefix(es) in parentheses. These prefixes are disregarded in alphabetisation. For human nouns the class prefix is normally predictable on the basis of actual sex and number and is therefore omitted. Adjectival nouns, which agree in class prefix with whichever noun they modify in given sentences, have variable class prefix.

Other abbreviations used, typically at the end of an entry:

*Cogn* cognate (in another language)

*Corr* correlated with (a word in another language)

*Syn* synonym of

*Var* variant

The term 'cognate' here is used loosely to include shared vocabulary which may have spread by diffusion. Cognates have only been listed where the cognate set is nonobvious or interesting for some reason, in order to save space. Many other cognate sets involving Warndarang can be found by comparing this dictionary with the other dictionaries I am preparing. Since a great many Warndarang words are shared with Mara and/or Alawa I have not indicated these except in a few cases.

The term 'correlated with', used especially with flora-fauna vocabulary, means that Isaac or another informant indicated that the Warndarang term is applied to the same object as the word in the other language.

To save space, the slash / is used instead of the arrow in transitive pronominal prefix formulae, hence 1SG/3SG instead of 1Sg + 3Sg. Abbreviations are generally fully capitalised, hence SG instead of Sg.

It is likely that there are occasional mistranscriptions in this dictionary. I had trouble distinguishing *nj* from *ñj*. Sometimes I also had trouble distinguishing apicoalveolar from retroflexed consonants, especially after *u*.

The order of phonemes for purposes of this dictionary is:

a, b, d, ɖ, ɠ, g, i, j, l, ɭ, m, n, ŋ, ñ, ŋ, r, ɽ, u, w, y.

The dictionary is followed by a list of nouns in various domains (flora-fauna and human body parts). This in turn is followed by a brief English-Warndarang index. Warndarang items in the domains lists are omitted from the index. Thus readers wishing to find Warndarang terms for particular plants, animals, or human body parts should consult the domains lists rather than the index.

**WARNDARANG-ENGLISH DICTIONARY**



## A

*andagari Part* indicates anticipation, fear, or urging of an impending event.  
*ñuŋ+ga-ɾani andagari* Go on! Smell it! *andagari wu-ŋara-wiñu* maybe she will give it to me soon.

*anga Int* Yes!

*anjala Conj* as, like, so that.

*arajay adv* on top, above.  
*Cf. arajiyi, arwar.*

*arajiyi Adv* (same meaning as *arajay*).

*argali Adv* in the west.  
*argali-ñi* westward. *an-argali* from the west. *arg-argali* in the west, far to the west (*RDP*).  
*Cogn Nungg.*

*arimigi Part* indicates hopefulness or effort. *gl+ñiri-wiñdi ɾa-ŋanguru, arimigi* We went (hunting) for crocodiles, hoping/trying (to kill some).

*aru Conj* because. Goes at beginning of clause.

*arwar Adv* on top, above. More common than *arajay, arajiyi*.  
*arwar-wala* from on top. *Cogn Nungg.*

*awayi Int* No!

## B

*-ba- VInflTr* 1. to hit, to kick.  
*ŋa-bani* I am kicking him.  
 2. *AUX NB: -bi, the FutNeg* form, is also used as the *Imper* of *-ɾa-*. *Reflex -bi-, Recip -biyi-, Recip RDP -biyi-wiyi-*.

*-baba N* father.

*baŋalan NAdj* short.

*bad Vtr (-ga-)* to abandon, to leave behind or aside.

*bad+ŋa-gañi* I abandoned it, I rejected it.

*badab VIntr (-ɾa-)* to turn back, to change direction sharply.

*(ɾa-)badanga N* stone axe.

*baða Adv* later. *baða jiñi* again, a second time.

*baðaða N* baby. *NC* often *wu-* or *ɾa-* even for human babies.

*baðurga N* saltwater long-tom fish. *NC* unknown.

*baga Int* Watch out! Help!  
 Indicates fear or warning.

*(ɾa-)bagmanjar N* 'milk snake' (snake-lizard).

*bal* 1. *VIntr (-ma-)* to pound something. *bal+ŋa-mama ma-!igari* I was pounding (it) with a stone.

2. *VTr (-ja-)* to write, to draw.

*(wu-)balanga N* fork in tree.  
*Syn galagala.*

*(wu-)balara N* buttocks.

*(wu-)balba N* river.

*balgiñ NAdj* bitter-tasting.

*(ŋi-)balubalu N* pelican. *Syn gulanbiri.*

*balwayi NAdj* big.

*baļ VTr (-wiñdi-)* to sneak up on.

*baļa VIntr (-iŋaji-)* to be born.

*baļabaļa VIntr (-ɾa-)* to revolve.  
*baļabaļa+a-ɾani* It goes round and round.

*(ɾa-)baļajalbaļajal N* vine with yam, probably *Ipomoea sp.*

*(wu-)baļara N* *Acacia sp.*, probably *A. difficilis*. *Cogn Nungg., Rith.*

*(ɾa-/wu-)baļgan N* mangrove with prominent buttressed roots,

- Rhizophora stylosa* (and perhaps other *Rhizophoras*).
- (ṛa-)baḷya *N* woomera, not as sharply curved as wujula.
- (ṛa/wu-)bamaṇa *N* tree *sp.* with yellow fruit, *Diospyros sp.* *Syn* gaḍaburañ.
- (ṛa-)bambal *N* 1. coral.  
2. sea sponge.
- (ṛa-)bambuja *N* stringybark tree, *Eucalyptus tetradonta*.  
bark: yalanu, yulway.
- (ṛa-)bandiyan *N* king brown snake.
- (ṛa/wu-)baṇar *N* marble tree, *Owenia vernicosa*. *Cogn* Nungg.
- (ṛa-)baṇbaṅgari *N* a prostrate vine, *Ipomoea pres-caprae*.
- (wu-)baṇḍij *N* kidney. Etymologically identical to waṇḍiñ.
- (ṛa-)baṇmira *N* a tree, *Wrightia saligna*.
- baṇ *VIntr* (-juṛa) to bloom.
- (ṛa-)bara *N* north to west wind.
- bara *VTr* (-ja-) to feel restless, 'tight'. The subject is invariable 3Sg, the object represents the sufferer.  
bara+ṇara-ja I feel restless.
- (ṛa-)barambal *N* low mangrove scrub. Etymologically identical to warambal.
- (ṛa-)barawu *N* boat. A Macassan word.
- (ṛa-)barga *N* sawshark. *Cogn* Nungg., etc.
- (ṛa-)baruwa *N* red ochre.
- baṛa *VIntr* (-ma-) to look back.
- (wu-)baṛan *N* track, trail (e.g. of snake). Not footprints (yinma).
- baṛmunu *N* sand goanna, *Varanus gouldii*. NC unknown.  
*Cf.* waḍabir.
- (wu-)baṛurbaṛur *N* type of kurrajong tree, *Brachychiton diversifolium*. *Syn* ṇḍilan.
- baw *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to stick one's head out (e.g. of water).
- bay *VIntr* (-iṇaji-, -juṛa) to stand up.
- bibi *N* mother (with 2nd pers. poss.). Can be replaced by -gara.  
*Cf.* also -yibi.
- (ṛa-)bidiliriliri *N* masked plover (bird).
- biḍ 1. *VIntr* (-maljuṛa) to lie face down.  
2. *VTr* (-ja-) to carry on the back.
- bij *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to spread out, to extend over an area; (sun) to rise.
- bijaja *N* maternal grandfather.
- biḷg *VIntr* (-ma-) to be weak, feeble.
- (ṛa-)bilimar *N* freshwater fork-tailed catfish *sp.* Distinct from walmagara, ṇaḷaṇaḷa.
- (ṛa-)bilinjiri *N* grass *sp.* or *spp.* Has strawlike texture, good for bedding.
- (ṛa-)bilmabilmin *N* seagrass (fodder for dugong).
- (ṛa-)biḷbar *N* throat, neck.
- (ṛa-)biḷgur *N* dingo. *Cf.* wuṅgan.
- biḷi *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to enter, to go in or through.
- bindi *Part* really, truly, indeed. Postposed to the modified constituent. *Cf.* gudagaya for example.

- (wu-)biṃmiri *N* river red gum (tree), *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.
- (ṛa-)biñbinjaḷa *N* bats, except flying foxes.
- (wu-)biñbiñ *N* long stick.
- biṅ 1. *VIntr* (-ṛa-, -iṇaji-) to become finished or extinct, to die off.
2. *VTr* (-ga-) to wipe out, to finish.
3. *VTr* (-ya-) to finish up (food, by eating it).
- bir *VIntr* (-ma-) to become full of food, sated; to be frightened, to jump in fear (this sense doubtful).
- biray *VTr* (-ga-) to carry on shoulder or back.
- (wu-)biribiri *N* horse-mussel shell, *Modiolus sp.*
- birid̄ *VTr* (-ba-) to do it again to (someone).
- biṛ *VTr* (-ga-) to move, to shift.
- (wu-/ṛa-)biṛir *N* a grass on sand dunes, *Vetiveria elongata*.
- (wu-/ṛa-)biṛiwiri *N* a tree, *Canarium australianum*.
- bu *VIntr* (-ma-) to burn something. bu+wu-ṇa-miñu I will burn (it), I will set fire to it.
- (wu-)bubu *N* sore, wound.
- (ṇi-/ṛa-/wu-)bubunara (or bubunara) *N* black-headed rock python, *Aspidites melanocephalus*. *Cogn* Nunggbuyu bubunara.
- (ṛa-)buḍalar *N* firestick.
- buḍilbuḍil *NAdj* red.
- (ṛa-)buḍuga *N* a tree, *Clerodendrum floribundum* or a form thereof. *Cogn* Nungg., etc.
- bugaḍ *VIntr* (-ṛa-) wu-niya wu-ṛaba maba-bugaḍ+ṇ-iṇa The fingernail (wu-ṛaba) came out of my hand (maba-).
- (ṛa-)bugbana *N* swamp pheasant, pheasant coucal.
- bugi *Part* nothing but, only, still. Postposed to modified constituent. wu-nñaya bugi still there (i.e. nowhere else). ñiñu bugi only you.
- (wu-)bugun *N* large tree *sp.* near water, good for shade.
- bujin *N* wife (with any poss.); husband (with 2nd or 3rd pers. poss.). *Cf.* -liṇali.
- buju *VTr* (-ba-) to produce flame from firestick. Object is always 3Sg.
- (wu-)bulbul *N* heart. *Syn* ṇiṇṇiṇ.
- bulbuldu *NAdj* light (in weight).
- buliñ *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to stay behind (while others go on ahead).
- bulub *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to hunt kangaroos by setting grass fires.
- (ṛa-)bulugi *N* bullock. A fairly old loanword.
- (ṛa-)bulugija *N* mangrove tree, *Excaecaria agollacha*.
- bulujiḍimiṅga *N* waterhole. *NC* unknown.
- (wu-/ṛa-)buḷanganga *N* a shrub with soft white fruits, *Securinega virosa*. *Cogn* Nungg.
- (wu-)buḷṇu *N* ashes.
- (ṛa-)buḷunbuḷun *N* spoonbill (bird).
- bunji *VIntr* (-ma-) to be/become dry. bunji+a-mi It has become dry, it is dry. man-bunji+ṇa-mi I got dry.

(wu-/ra-)bunji *N* honey. *Syn*  
gulawar.

(wu-/ra-)buḡubunḡu *N* shellfish  
*sp.*, including ground snails.

(ra-)buḡala *N* over-mature water  
lily root (gaḡaya).

bur 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) (sun) to set.  
2. *VTr* (-wiḡi-) to be fond of,  
to like (an object or person).

buralgin *NAdj* light- or bright-  
coloured, shiny, white.

(ra-)burgun *N* chest scars on men.

(wu-)burulu *N* river pandanus,  
*Pandanus aquaticus*.

buruluburuḡu *N* shellfish *sp.*  
NC unknown.

(ḡi-)buruḡandiḡ *N* tortoise *sp.*  
(has strong smell), perhaps  
*Chelodina novaeguineae*.

buḡguḡ *NAdj* dirty (especially,  
dirty water). wu-buḡguḡ  
wu-ḡaḡaja-ḡu dirty water.

buwa *VIntr* (-ra-) to face  
punishment by ordeal (e.g. having  
hook spear jabbed into one's  
thighs), to 'stand up' to  
punishment.

## D

-daga *N* (elder or younger) sister  
(with 2nd or 3rd pers. poss.).  
*Cf* -ḡali, -ndaga.

-dḡaya *Dem* there; (rarely) that.  
Also -nḡaya.

## D

ḡa *VTr* (-ba-) attested only in  
compounds: maḡal-ḡa,  
miyirbaḡbaḡ-ḡa to hit on top of  
the head.

ḡab *VTr* (-ida-) to surround, to  
enclose, to wrap up.

(wu-)ḡabaliya *N* tree, stick,  
wood. *Syn* yulba.

ḡabur *VTr* (-ba-) to hit with a  
thrown object (e.g. boomerang);  
to shoot.

(wu-)ḡabururu *N* grasshopper.  
*Syn* ḡajbiḡajbi.

ḡad *VIntr* (-maḡuḡa) to hang,  
to perch, to be aloft.

(ra-)ḡadba *N* frilled lizard,  
'blanket lizard'. *Syn*  
ḡalḡunji, gabaḡa.

ḡaḡ 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to be hot,  
to feel hot. Used of a person  
or object.

2. *VTr* (-ja-) to heat, to cook.

(ra-)ḡaḡajara *N* freshwater  
crocodile.

ḡag *VTr* (-ya-) to feel cold.  
Subject is invariable 3Sg,  
Object represents sufferer.  
ḡag+ḡara-ya I became cold.

ḡagiḡagi *Adv* upwards, above,  
on top.

ḡaj 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to sit down.

2. *VTr* (-murgi-) to cause to  
sit down.

3. *VTr* (-nija) to sit down with,  
to keep with oneself (while  
sitting).

(wu-)ḡajbiḡajbi *N* grasshopper.  
*Syn* ḡabururu.

ḡalag 1. *VIntr* (-iḡaji-, -ra-)  
to fall down.

2. *VTr* (-murgi-) to cause to  
fall.

3. *VTr* (-ba-) to knock down.

(ra-)ḡalḡunji *N* frilled lizard,  
'blanket lizard'. *Syn* ḡadba,  
gabaḡa.

ḡaḡ *VIntr* (-naḡi-) to be thirsty.



- (na-/wu-)daṇaḍaṇa *N* month.
- (ma-)daṅgaḷgara *N* lancewood tree, *Acacia shirleyi*.
- (wu-)daṅul *N* tree trunk.
- ḍar 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) to come out, to arrive (at a camp).  
2. *VIntr* (-iṇaji-, -maljuṛa) to hide.  
3. *VTr* (-murgi-) to conceal.
- (ṇi-)ḍarabu *N* freshwater goanna.
- (wu-)ḍarin *N* jungle cane grass, *Phragmites karka*.
- ḍawj *VTr* occurs only in the phrase giṇḍiṛ-ḍawj+ṇudu-yaji You have bitten each other's penises (giṇḍiṛ-). This is a conventional war cry.
- ḍay 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to run away, to flee.  
2. *VTr* (-ja-) to chase away.  
3. *VTr* (-murgi-) to light (fire).
- ḍi *VTr* (-ga-) to break off claws (e.g. of crab).
- dib *VTr* (-ga-) to carry in hands. *RDP* ḍi-ḍib.
- ḍiduṅ *VTr* (-ga-) to play didjeridu. Object is 3Sg.
- (ra-)ḍiḍibawaba *N* lotusbird or swamphen.
- (wu-)ḍigay *N* (used as *Adv*) nearby.
- dil 1. *VIntr* (-iṇaji-) (bird, aeroplane) to land.  
2. *VTr* (-ida-) to hold, to grasp. *Cpd* ṇalwar-ḍil (-ida-) to hold in the middle.
- (wu-)ḍilḍil *N* feathered sticks; funeral ceremony sung with boomerangs.
- (ra-)ḍilḍilgururu *N* peewee, mudlark.
- (ra-)ḍiliyagḍiliyag *N* wedge-tailed eagle.
- (wu-)ḍilyar *N* tree *sp.* used for boomerang, *Hakea arborescens*. *Syn* yingiriṛi.
- (ra-)ḍiṇmanjar *N* kingfisher.
- (wu-/ra-)ḍiṅgaḷḍiṅgaḷ *N* prostrate vine with yellow flowers, sharp spinescent fruits, *Tribulus cistoides*.
- ḍir *VIntr* (-ma-) to fart.
- ḍira 1. *VIntr* (-juṛa) to be tied up.  
2. *VTr* (-ba-) to tie up.
- ḍirg *VIntr* (-maljuṛa) to continue (doing something); to keep going. ḍirg+ṇa-maljuṛa wu-nu |ar-|ar+ṇa-gaya I continued cutting it up.
- (ra-)ḍirṅilḡḍirṅilḡ *N* bush lily, *Crinum asiaticum*.
- ḍirwu 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to plunge into (water), to dive in.  
2. *VTr* (-ja-) to accompany into the water; to take or force into the water.
- ḍiw 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) to fly away.  
2. *VTr* (-ija, -iṇama-) to throw.
- (ra-)ḍiway *N* green pygmy-goose, especially juvenile. *Syn* madiway. *Cogn* Nungg., etc.
- ḍiwan *VTr* (-ba-) to cook in ashes; to burn slightly. ḍiwan+ṇara-ba He burned me.
- ḍub 1. *VTr* (-ba-) to throw (a spear).  
2. *VTr* (-ga-) to uproot (grass, etc.).
- (wu-)ḍubal *N* large tree *sp.*, probably *Nauclea coadunata* (leichhardt tree).
- ḍud 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to grow up, to up raised.  
2. *VTr* (-ira-) to find. *RDP* ḍu-dud (from /ḍud-ḍud/).

(ra-)dujađuja *N* vine with yam.  
*Boerhavia diffusa*. *Cogn* Nungg.  
ri:ja, Mara duja.

(ra-)dulbari *N* honey bee,  
*Trigona sp.* 'short-nosed' or  
'circumcised sugarbag'. *Corr*  
Nungg. nalyurwa.

đuł *VTr* (-ija) to send, to send  
away.

(ra-/wu)đumbuyumbu *N* sandalwood,  
*Santalum lanceolatum*. *Cogn*  
Nungg. đumbuđumbu, Rith.  
đumbuđumbu, etc.

đuñ *VIntr* (-ra-) to get up; (to  
get up and) to set off, to  
depart. đuñđ+u-ña-ra I will get  
up.

(ma-)đuñal *N* spear (of any kind).

đuřur 1. *Vtr* (-ga-) to round up,  
to muster (e.g. stock), to bring  
together.

2. *VIntr* (*Recip* of -ba-) to  
assemble, to come together.

đuwa *VIntr* (-ra-) to gleam, to  
shine, to be visible.

(wu-)đuymanji *N* a small plant with  
a roundish 'potato' as root.  
Distinct from ñambidñambid. *Cogn*  
Nungg. wuđuñmanji, etc.

## G

-ga- 1. *VInflTr* to take, to convey.  
gi+ya-ø-ga ra-mariya-ñu Bring  
food!

2. a common transitive *AUX*.  
*RDP* -gaya-gaya (from -gaya,  
*PaActCon*). *Cpd* -wuj-ga- *VInflTr*  
to take (dogs) hunting, to hunt  
with dogs.

gabaja *NAdj* good, proper;  
abundant.

gabajaya *Adv* properly. From  
gabaja, with obscure ending.

(ra-)gabal *N* tree *sp.*, on sand-  
ridges or hilly country, bark  
said to be yellowish.

(ra-)gabała *N* frilled lizard.  
*Syn* đalñunji, đadba.

(ra-)gabilili *N* skink *sp.*  
(lizard).

(ma-)gabir *N* swamp plant with  
edible tubers, *Triglochin*  
*procera*. *Cf.* jařguł.

gabubulya *NAdj* full-grown.

gabul 1. *NAdj* cooked, ripe,  
ready to eat.

2. *VIntr* (-ma-) to become  
cooked or ripe.

gaburg *VIntr* (-iñaji-) to rebound,  
deflect, bounce off.

(ni-/ra-)gađaburay (also  
gađaburañ) *N* a tree,  
*Diospyros sp.* *Syn* bamaña.

(wu-)gađira *N* diarrhea. Possibly  
a loanword.

-gaga *N* maternal grandmother;  
sister's daughter's child.

gajar *VTr* (-ga-) to take a  
shortcut. Object is invariable  
3Sg. *Cpd* mañal-gajar (same  
meaning).

gal 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) to grow.

2. *VIntr* (-ma-) to obtain  
(honey) by chopping tree down.  
gal+u-ña-mama ra-ñulawar I got  
honey by chopping tree down.

3. *VTr* (-ja-) to bite; to  
spear.

(ma-)galagala *N* tree fork.  
*Syn* balangar.

(ra-)galanañđa *N* 'wild onion'.  
*Cogn* Nungg. wugalanañđa.

galawa *N* Alawa (tribe and  
language). *Cf.* waliburu.

(ña-)galga *N* soldier, warrior.

galgalgara *NAdj* strong. As  
predicate: ña-galgalgara  
I am strong.

(wu-/ra-)galijiri *N* tree *sp.*  
with reddish fruits.

- galimba *Conj* and; then. Said by informant to be really a Mara conjunction.
- galŋi *Adv* later, until. Generally used with another following time adverb; galŋi emphasises that the time of this adverb is subsequent to the reference time (usually the present). Hence galŋi baḍa later; galŋi jilgñi tomorrow; galŋi ŋilŋiliwayi tomorrow morning (vs. wu-nu ŋilŋiliwayi this morning).
- gaḷ 1. *VTr* (-ida-) to dig.  
2. *VTr* (-ga-) to remove from fire, to dig out of fire or oven.
- (ṛa-)gaḷaḷgaḷaḷ *N* skink lizard.
- (wu-/ṛa-)gaḷambar *N* tall grasses (*Sorghum spp.*).
- (wu-)gaḷiwan *N* tree *sp.*, *Melaleuca acacioides*. *Syn* wuluṛu.
- (wu-)gaḷŋar *N* anus.
- (ma-)gamba *N* pearl shell, *Pinctada sugillata*. Also (wu-)ṛagamba.
- (ṛa-)gambuma *N* ray *sp.* *Cogn* Nungg.
- (ṛa-)gamirinji *N* star.
- (ṛa-)ganayi *N* yamstick.
- (wu-/ṛa-)gandar *N* paperbark tree, *Melaleuca cajaputi*. In coastal jungle and at edge of billabongs. *Cogn* Nungg. magandar.
- gangima *NAdj* raw, uncooked, unripe.
- ganuṅ *N* old person. All examples are reduplicated multiple plurals: (ṛa-/wulu-)ganu-ganuṅ-gu. I have taken -gu as the Absolutive suffix, but it is possible that it is part of the stem.
- (wu-)gaṇamuru *N* honey bee, *Trigona sp.* 'long-nosed' or 'uncircumcised sugarbag'. *Corr* Nungg. miṅiguya.
- (ma-/ṛa-)gaṇaya *N* root of jadabul water lily (*Nymphaea sp.*, probably *N. violacea*). immature: jirigiil; over-mature: buṇala.
- (ŋi-)gaṇḍalburu *N* female antelope kangaroo (garjambal).
- (ṛa-)gaṇḍaṇilili *N* tree *sp.* similar to ŋgumir, said to have yellowish fruits. Possibly an *Antidesma* or *Bridelia* (family *Euphorbiaceae*).
- (ṛa-)gaṇḍawaḍjiri *N* wading bird *sp.* with long legs.
- (ṛa-)gaṇḍina *N* walking stick, cane.
- (wu-)gaṇḍurba *N* hook spear with hooks on both sides.
- gañan *VTr* (-igira-) to occupy country of (exact sense unclear).
- gaṅu *Adv* in the east. Contracts with wu-niñi to form wu-niñi-ngaṅu there, in the east. *Cf.* yini.
- gara *N* mother (with 2nd or 3rd pers. poss.). *Cf.* -yibi, -bibi.
- garabi *N* See ŋgarabi.
- (ŋi-)garaggarag *N* darter, 'diver duck'.
- (wu-)garaḷaḷa *N* tree *sp.*, said to resemble *Acacia holosericea*. *Cf.* jugul.
- (ṛa-)garañbilili *N* grasslike plant with reddish seeds found near water, *Leptocarpus spathaceus*.
- garara *Int* Victory cry in war.
- garaṛ *VTr* (-ba-) (dog) to howl. Object is 3Sg.
- (ma-)gargañ *N* a hawk, probably the brown falcon.
- garig *VIntr* (-ma-) to begin.

- (ṛa-)garimaḷa *N* 1. taipang snake.  
2. tree *sp.*, similar to maḷaḷaḷaḷa and yiwanguḷubuju.
- (ṛa-)garinji *N* jabiru.
- garj *VTr* (-ida-) to scratch.  
man-garj+ḡ-idaḡani I scratched myself. Possibly an early English loanword.
- garjaḷ *Adv* fast, quickly.
- (wu-)garjambal *N* antelope kangaroo, *Macropus antelopinus*, especially male. female: gaḡḡalburu. *Cogn* Nungg. arjambal, Rith. garčambal, etc.
- (ṛa-/wu-)garmbagarmba *N* small scrubby tree *sp.*
- (ḡi-)garubu *N* hawksbill turtle.  
*Syn* ḡaluwa.
- garwiṛi *N* dog. NC unknown.  
*Syn* wuḡan.
- gaṛ *VIntr* (-ma-, -juṛa) to dance; to play, to frolic. *RDP* gaṛ-ḡgaṛ.
- gaṛay *VTr* (-ga-) to open up, to uncover.
- gaṛayara *NAdj* clean, clear.  
wu-ḡaḷaja wu-gaṛayara clean water.
- (ṛa-)gaṛbi *N* black-striped grunter (fish).
- (ḡi-)gaṛgunja *N* nankeen night-heron (bird).
- (ṛa-)gaṛjir *N* python *sp.* often found near water, probably *Liasis fuscus*. *Corr* Nungg. aḷja.
- gaw 1. *Int* Hey! Used to attract someone's attention, or to evoke a response (also gaw) from someone out of sight so that his position can be determined.  
2. *VTr* (-ma-) to call out, to shout 'gaw'.  
3. *VTr* (-wiḡḡi-) to call out to.
- gayama *VInflTr* to hear, to listen to. *Rdp* -ga-gayama. Root is -gaya-/gayi-.
- gayari *Adv* (for) a long time; long ago. wu-nḡaya nḡiya gayari way back then. wu-nu wu-naya gayari wu-d-maḷjuṛa will you stay here long?
- (ṛa-)gayawuwu *N* 'jumping mullet' (fish *sp.*).
- gayi *NAdj* other, different.  
*Cf.* -wayara.
- gi 1. *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to go.  
*Cpd* yar-gi (-ṛa-) (water, tide) to recede.  
2. *VTr* (-ga-) to take, to deliver.
- (ṛa-)giḡḡiḡiḡi *N* freshwater eel-tailed catfish *sp.*, perhaps 'toothless' catfish, *Anodontiglanis dahli*.
- giḡ *VIntr* (-ma-) to sing a curse against someone.  
ḡa ḡa-niya giḡ+ḡa-mi I sang a curse against this one.
- gil *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to crawl; to move very slowly.
- (ṛa-)gilibirma *N* red emperor (fish), *Lutjanus sebae*.
- (ṛa-/wu-)gilwir *N* yellow clay and body paint.
- (wu-)gimalamalagaḡḡi *N* log with branches of certain chemically potent trees tied to it, dragged through billabong to stun fish.
- giḡḡiṛ *N* a rare compounding element referring to the penis.  
*Cf.* ḡawj for the only instance attested. *Cf.* also yiwur.
- (wu-)giḡḡira *N* wild rice, *Oryza sp.*
- (ṛa-)girimbu *N* euro (hill kangaroo), *Macropus robustus*.  
*Syn* girmu.
- (ṛa-)girmu *N* euro. *Syn* girimbu.
- giṛi *VTr* (-wiḡḡi-) to be afraid of.
- (wu-)giwgiw *N* lungs.

- giyagiya *VTr* (-ja-) to shake.
- (ra-)gubijiji *N* rain.
- gudagaya *Adv* continuously, constantly. gudagaya bindi a-rarani She is indeed still going.
- gudid *VTr* (-ga-) to carry, to convey.
- (ra-)guḍargu *N* broilga. *Syn* walunara. *Cogn* Nungg.
- (wu-)guḍaḍi *N* Gunabibi headdress. *Cogn* Nungg. wuguḍaḍi.
- (ra-)guḍijbal *N* a mangrove with pointed leaves, edible fruits, *Avicennia marina*.
- (wu-)gujan *N* sand.
- (ra-)gujaḍi *N* possum, probably the brush-tailed possum.
- (wu-)gujirwujir *N* jellyfish.
- gul *VTr* 1. (-murgi-) to soak.  
2. (-ja-) to make trouble for.
- (ni-)gulanbiri *N* pelican. *Syn* balubalu.
- (ra-)gulduru *N* bony bream (fish), *Fluvialosa erebi*.
- (wu-)gulinja *N* black plum tree, *Vitex glabrata*.
- (ra-)gulubiḍama *N* tree *sp.*, probably *Persoonia falcata*.
- (wu-)gululu *N* head. Not a common word. *Syn* wadamuru, miyirbaḍbaḍ.
- (ra-)guluḅ *N* witch doctor.
- guḷ *VIntr* (-juḷa) to drink. wu-ḅaḷaja guḷ+ḅa-juḷa I drank some water.
- guḷa- *N* Compounding element; *cf.* yar, ḅaw.
- gulday *VTr* (-ga-) (flood) to let (someone) go, to cease blocking (someone's) path. Exact sense and transcription uncertain.
- Possibly related to nguḷday.
- guḷgmin *NAdj* heavy.
- (wu-)guḷugal *N* brain.
- (ma-)guḷulu *N* black fruit of water lily, *Nymphaea gigantea*. *Cf.* yaḷbun, njagiri.
- (ra-)guḷumbilguḷumbil *N* shrub or vine with red-and-black berries, *Abrus precatorius*.
- (wu-)guḷuḅurwa *N* long yam *sp.*, *Dioscorea ?sativa var. elongata*.
- (ra-/wu-/ma-)gunalu *N* woody climbing vine *sp.*, *Tinospora smilacina*.
- (ra-)gunanḅala *N* fish *sp.*, perhaps a grunter such as *Hephaestus carbo*.
- (ni-/ra-)gundi *N* python *sp.*, perhaps *Liasis olivaceus*. *Syn* walunḅa, etc.
- (ra-)gundir *N* toadfish, toado.
- gunduggundug *NAdj* crooked.
- (wu-)gunganḅa *N* pollen.
- (wu-/ra-)gunubul *N* tree *sp.*, *Alphitonia sp.*
- (wu-)guḅḅi *N* ankle.
- (wu-)guḅḅil *N* bush fly; flies, bees, and wasps generally.
- (wu-)guḅḅuru *N* Milky Way.
- guḅij *VTr* (-murgi-) to burn; to cook on an open fire.
- guḅ *VIntr* (-ma-) (tapsticks) to clatter, to resound.
- (wu-)guḅur *N* 1. ant mound, termite mound.  
2. oven made with ant or termite mound sections.
- gur 1. *VTr* (-ida-) to steal.  
2. *VIntr* (-murgi-) to soak.
- (ra-)guralgguralg *N* koel (bird).

(ŋi-/ra-)gurbuḷugurbuḷu (also gurbuḷugurbuḷug) *N* 'rainbird' (unidentified).

(ra-)gurgur *N* blue-winged kookaburra. *Syn* jiriyrigu.

(ra-)gurjaḍa *N* tree sp., *Eucalyptus ferruginea*.

(ra-)gurujaḍbuṅgu *N* python sp., perhaps *Liasis olivaceus*. *Syn* walunṃa, etc.

(ra-)gurujgu *N* marine fish sp., probably sweetlips emperor.

(ra-)guruḷuwul *N* paperbark tree with thick trunk along rivers. Perhaps a form of *Melaleuca leucadendron*.

(ra-)guruwalya *N* stone spear. *Syn* wariman, !arŋinja.

(ra-)gurwiji *N* female dugong. *Cf.* wuga!ij.

(ra-)guryala *N* red flying fox (fruit-bat), *Pteropus scapulatus*.

(ra-)guṛa *N* semen. Also ŋguṛa.

guṛguṛ *VIntr* (-ma-) to cough.

guṛid 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) to turn around. guṛid+ŋ-iṅa I turned around.

2. *VTr* (-ga-) to turn around; to flip over.

guṛŋguṛ *VIntr* (-ma-) to gather something. Object not mentioned in verb. Exact sense not clear.

guwiḍ *VTr* (-igira-) to turn on, to face menacingly.

(ra-)guwiḷu *N* southern stone curlew. *Cogn* Nungg.

-guwu *N* uncle (mother's brother).

(ra-)guyabiri *N* boomerang. *Syn* mulwari.

guyal *NAdj* of the Guyal semimoiety. May become -wuyal after prefixes.

(wu-)guyiya *N* small plant with

edible berries, *Grewia retusifolia*.

guyma-guyma *Adv* in the north, far to the north. *Cf.* guymi.

guymi *Adv* in the north. *Cf.* wuñmi, guyma-guyma.

## I

-ida- *VInflTr* a transitive *AUX*.

-iḍaṅa *VInflIntr* to defecate. Root probably -iḍa-.

-igira- *VInflTr* a transitive *AUX*.

-ija *VInflTr* An uncommon transitive *AUX*.

-ilama- *VInflTr* 1. to cut, to make an incision in.

2. an uncommon transitive *AUX*.

-iṅaji- *VInflIntr* an intransitive *AUX*.

-iṅa *VInflIntr* the PaActPun form of -ra-.

-iṅama *VInflTr* a transitive *AUX*.

-iṛa- *VInflTr* a transitive *AUX*.

-iwa *Pro* the stem for nonplural 3rd pers. pronouns.

## J

-ja- *VInflTr* 1. to tell (someone). Object is addressee. ṅara-jaṅa He told me. Usually follows a quotation.

2. to put (something) down. This sense is rare, *cf.* wuṛ.

3. a common transitive *AUX*. *RDP* of PrAct -jaṅa-yaṅani.

jab *VTr* (-ga-) to pull up, to uproot.

(wu-)jabaḍa *N* short-necked tortoise.

- jabay *Adv* maybe.
- jabi *VTr* (-ba-) to grab at.
- (ɾa-)jabimuru *N* large fish *sp.*,  
said to resemble long-tom.
- jad *VTr* (-ba-) to dam up (a creek).
- (ɾa-)jadabul *N* water lily,  
probably *Nyphaea violacea*.  
Found in shallow water in  
billabongs.
- jadba *VIntr* (-ɾa-) to go chopping  
trees down.
- jaɖ *VTr* (-ida-) to seize by the  
arm.
- (ɾa-)jaɖbaramba *N* nest of wedge-  
tailed eagle (ɖiliyagɖiliyag).
- (ɾa-)jaɖiwaŋaŋi *N* flatback turtle,  
*Chelonia depressa*.
- jaɖjaɖ *VIntr* (-naŋi-) to be  
boiling; to be on fire.
- (ɾa-/wu-)jaɖŋin *N* bloodwood,  
*Eucalyptus polycarpa*. *Syn*  
ŋa!ŋa!.
- jag *VTr* (-ya-) to chew.
- (ɾa-)jagaɭmara *N* wooden two-  
pronged spear with hooks on  
inside.
- jagaɾ *VTr* (-ba-) to eat breakfast.  
Object is 3Sg.
- (wu-)jagiri *N* reddish black fruit  
of water lily, *Nymphaea sp.*  
Also (ma-)njagiri. *Syn*  
ngi!iringgi!iri, nguluɾunguluɾu.
- (wu-)jagul *N* testicles.
- (ɾa-)jaguɾudjaguɾud *N* pigeon *sp.*
- jaɟ *VTr* (-ja-) to chase.  
*RDP* ja-jaɟ. Possibly a loanword.
- jalaɭa *VIntr* (-ɾa-) to go walkabout.
- jalbij 1. *N* (wu-) meat.  
2. *VIntr* (-ma-) to eat meat.
- (wu-)jalbijalbij *N* rainbowfish *sp.*  
*Corr* Nungg. buyal.
- jalɟ *VTr* (-ja-) to stab, to  
puncture; to plunge spear into.
- jalgaɖubɖub *VIntr* (-ɾa-) to  
hiccough.
- jalji *Adv* early, earlier,  
previously, before.
- (ɾa-/ma-)jalma *N* round yam *sp.*  
Taxonomic status unclear;  
previously referred to  
*Dioscorea sativa var. rotunda*.
- jalɭ *VTr* (-ba-) to hold by the  
hand.
- jalab *VIntr* (-ma-, -ɾa-) to  
paddle, to paddle along.
- jama *N* son, daughter of male  
*EGO* (with 2nd or 3rd pers.  
poss.). *Cf.* -nija.
- (ɾa-)jamaɭag *N* tapsticks.  
*Syn* jandayi.
- (ɾa-)jamanbara *N* paperbark tree,  
in sand ridge country.  
Probably *Melaleuca viridiflora*.
- (wu-)jambagu *N* tobacco. A loan-  
word.
- (ŋi-)jambirina *N* bustard, plains  
turkey.
- (wu-)jaminjamin *N* eyebrow.
- (ɾa-)jamiŋanba *N* shell *sp.*,  
*Terebralia palustris*.
- (ɾa-)jamulmulanja *N* hermit crab.
- (wu-)janamba *N* forehead.
- janayajima *VInflIntr* to fight,  
to engage in battle.
- (wu-)janda *N* lower back.  
*Cf.* malir.
- (ma-)jandayi *N* tapsticks.  
*Syn* jamaɭag.
- (ɾa-)jangar *N* nest.
- janmijaŋmi *N* file snake. *NC*  
unknown.
- janar *VTr* (-ga-) to shoo away,  
to keep at a distance.

- (wu-)jaŋguyala *N* cycad damper.  
Cf. maŋaju.
- (ma-)jaŋuŋ *N* bamboo spear.
- jar *VTr* (-ba-) to cut, to carve.
- (ra-)jaraɖadbuwa *N* chestnut rail (bird).
- (ra-)jarag *N* seagull, silver gull.
- (ra-)jaraji *N* yamstick.
- (ra-)jarbɪlijarbɪli *N* wren.
- jaɾ *VTr* (-ba-) to pull along, to drag.
- jaɾag *VTr* (-ba-) to make, to manufacture.
- (wu-)jaɾbur *N* a vine.
- (ra-)jaɾguŋ *N* a plant said to be very similar to gabir; possibly a form of *Triglochin procera*.
- jaɾi *VIntr* and *VTr* to do repeatedly or continuously. Apparently agrees in choice of *AUX* and pronominals with the *AUX* of the complement clause. jaɾi+ŋa-gaya wu-nu ɾaŋ+ŋa-gaya I hit him many times. *RDP* jaɾi-yaɾi. Etymologically identical to njaɾi.
- jaɾud *VIntr* (-ra-) to hobble along, to grope.
- jaw *VTr* (-ba-) to catch (fish).
- (wu-)jawaɖu *N* menstrual blood.
- (wu-)jawal *N* jaw. *Syn* ŋayala. *Cogn* Rith. ɖakal, etc.
- (ra-)jawaŋɖa *N* beard.
- jawj *VTr* (-ida-) to enclose, to surround.
- (wu-/ra-)jawjaw *N* stem of water lily, *Nymphaea gigantea*.
- jawulba *N* old person. ŋa-jawulba old man. ŋi-jawulba old woman. *RDP* wulu-jawu-yawulba old people.
- (ra-)jawurŋalayi *N* heavy shell sp., family *Veneridae*. *Corr* Mara guruyuyu.
- (ra-)jawuru *N* baby dugong (wugaɭij).
- ji *VTr* (-ba-) to shake.
- jid *VTr* (-ba-) occurs in *cpd* ŋaral-jid to poke in the eye.
- (wu-)jiɖigara *N* ant mound, termite mound.
- (ra-)jigjig *N* small bird sp.
- (ra-)jilagjilag *N* water plant, possibly *Nymphoides* sp.
- (wu-)jilbi *N* spring (of water); jungle, rain forest.
- jilgŋi *Adv* tomorrow; the following day. Often preceded by galŋi.
- jililij *VIntr* (-ra-) in *cpd* ŋaral-jililij to have tears running (down one's cheeks).
- (wu-)jimbalan *N* crayfish.
- (ra-)jimbijamba *N* fish sp. (marine and freshwater).
- (ra-)jimiŋɖi *N* 1. 'nail' or spike of dugong harpoon (ɾaɖar). *Syn* maɭbi.  
2. long seed pod of mangrove (baɭgan).
- (wu-/ra-)jinma *N* whaler shark (enters freshwater).
- (ra-)jiŋɖijiŋɖi *N* tree sp., *Thespesia populnea*.
- jiŋi *Adv* again, additionally, more. In *cpd*: cf. waɖara.
- (ra-)jinguɭili *N* conkerberry shrub, *Carissa lanceolata*.
- (ŋi-)jirbiyug *N* water whistling duck; grass whistling duck.
- (ra-)jirg *N* shrub sp., *Clerodendrum inerme*.



- jiri *VIntr* (-ma-) to sneeze.
- jiribi *VIntr* (-juṛa) to be abundant.
- (ṛa-)jirigilil *N* young water lily root (gaṇaya).
- (ṛa-)jirilma *N* tree *sp.* Probably *Atalaya hemiglauca*.
- (ṛa-)jiriṇḍiḍ *N* quail.
- (ṇi-)jiriyirgu *N* blue-winged kookaburra. *Syn* gurgur.
- jiriyiri *N* large ray *sp.* *Corr* Nungg. ṛabarayala. *NC* unknown.
- (ṛa-)jirṇujga *N* eucalypt *sp.* said to resemble woollybutt (mangaḍa).
- jiri- *N* a compounding element related to njiṛiba (nose; tip). *Cf.* mad.
- (wu-)jiṛjiṛ *N* tree *sp.*
- (wu-)jiwuru *N* wild cassava tree, *Cochlospermum sp.* *Cf.* ḷibulu.
- (wu-)jiwuyiwulya *N* firestick.
- jub *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to go down. *RDP* ju-jub.
- (wu-)jugul *N* 'soap tree', *Acacia holosericea*. Possibly refers only to a heavy-wooded variety, *cf.* garaḷaḷa. *Cogn* Nungg. wuḍugul, Rith. ḍukul, etc.
- jul *VTr* (-ga-) to swallow.
- juḷuḷu *VTr* (-ga-) to push.
- juṛa *VInflIntr* an intransitive *AUX*.
- (ṛa-)juṛir *N* bird *sp.*
- (ṛa-)juṛyar *N* friarbird.
- juy 1. *Int* refers to the notion of going.  
2. *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to go away.
- juyub *VTr* (-ga-) to pull out, to remove, to untie.
- L
- liṇali *N* husband (with 1st pers. poss.). *Cf.* -bujin.
- L
- (wu-)ḷagurja *N* wild cucumber, *Cucumis melo*.
- ḷali *N* elder sister (with 1st pers. poss.). *Cf.* -daga.
- (ṇi-/ṛa-)ḷanguṇa *N* pied (magpie) goose.
- (wu-)ḷanur *N* corroboree.
- ḷar *VTr* (-ga-) to cut up (e.g. meat), to cut deeply into.
- ḷara *VIntr* (-ma-) to perform a burial.
- ḷarañ *VTr* (-ga-) (flood) to cease, to recede. Object appears to be invariable 3Sg. ḷarañ+ga-gaṇi It (flood, rain) receded.
- (wu-)ḷarin *N* bushes.
- (ṛa-)ḷarṇinja *N* stone spear. *Syn* wariman, etc.
- ḷaw *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to cross. ḷaw+ṇiṇa wu-balba-ñu I crossed the river.
- ḷib *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to bathe, to be immersed in water.
- (wu-)ḷiba *N* paperbark (bark only). *Cogn* Nungg.
- (wu-)ḷibulu *N* gutta percha tree, *Excaecaria parvifolia*. *Cogn* Nungg. wuḷibulu (*E. parvifolia*), Mara ḷibulu (*Cochlospermum sp.* *cf.* Warnd. jiwuru).
- (ma-)ḷigar *N* stone. ma-ḷigar ma-balwayi big stone. Also (ṛa-)maḷigar. *Syn* manuga.
- ḷiṇ *VIntr* (-maljuṛa) to be abundant.

- (wu-)l̥iŋl̥iŋ *N* hills, ridge country.
- l̥ir *VTr* (-ya-) to bite; to scare away.
- (ra-)l̥iraḍuma *N* red-tailed black cockatoo.
- (ra-)l̥irga *N* blue-tongued lizard. *Cogn* Nungg. l̥irag ~ l̥irwag.
- l̥iri *VIntr* (-ma-) found in *cpd*: nanja-l̥iri to have a belly ache.
- (ra-/wu-)l̥iril̥iri *N* scrubby tree with thick, jagged leaves, *Bossia bossiaeoides*.
- (ra-)l̥iringiñ *N* small fish *sp.* (in fresh and saltwater).
- (ma-)l̥irjal *N* jungle, especially mangrove jungle.
- (ra-)l̥iwaray *N* freshwater eel-tailed catfish *sp.*, *Neosilurus ater*. *Corr.* Nungg. aṅgalbiya.
- (ra-)l̥iyaga *N* shell *sp.*, *Telescopium telescopium*.
- l̥ulga *N* *Cf.* l̥ulga.
- l̥ul̥ 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to cry, to weep.  
2. *VTr* (-ja-) to cry for, to mourn.
- l̥ul̥bam *N* young euro (girumbu).
- (wu-)l̥ulga (possibly l̥ulga) *N* island. *RDP* l̥ulga-l̥ulga (multiple plural).
- l̥uluj *VTr* (-ja-) to chase after (pray).
- l̥ululu *VTr* (-ga-) in *cpd*: yibaṛa-l̥ululu (spear shaft) to be through (someone's body).
- (ra-)l̥ulumara *N* wooden spear, sharp stick.
- l̥uñ *VTr* (-ja-) to coil up, to wrap.
- l̥urg *VTr* (-ja-) to enclose in

coffin. *Cf.* l̥urgun.

- (wu-)l̥urgun *N* log coffin.  
*Cf.* l̥urg.

## M

- ma- *VInflIntr* 1. to do/say like this. Usually accompanied by a gesture or a quotation.  
2. a common intransitive *AUX*.
- (wu-)maba *N* hand. *Cf.* murji. *Cpds cf.* ñugur, wur, ngira.
- mad 1. *VTr* (-ga-) to meet, to meet with. mad+ñiri-gañi We met with him.  
2. *VTr* (-ba-) in *cpd*: jiri-mad to connect the ends of.
- (wu-)madamada *N* woman's genital cover, made from possum skin.
- (ra-)madiwaj *N* green pygmy-goose, especially adult. *Var* madiwañ. *Syn* diwaj.
- (ra-)madiwañ *N* Variant of madiwaj.
- (ra-)madjur *N* black flying fox (fruit-bat), *Pteropus gouldii*.
- (wu-)maḍaṅar *N* chest (body part).
- (ra-)maḍiga *N* swamp plant with edible tubers, *Eleocharis dulcis*. *Syn* ngarabi. *Cf.* mulalu.
- (ra-)maḍun *N* south wind.
- (ra-)magurmagur *N* dragonfly.
- (wu-)magur̥ *N* face, forehead.
- maj *VTr* (-ba-) to make sacred.
- (ra-)maja *N* pond scum, algae. *Cogn* Nungg., etc.
- (ra-)majaladi *N* woody climbing vine with edible roots. *Cogn* Nungg. (mana-)jaladi, Ngandi ma-jalaṭi?, etc.
- (ra-)majanmajaṅ *N* grass or grasslike plant *sp.*

- mal *VIntr* (-ra-) to go up; (sun) to rise. ra-maligar mal+ŋ-iŋa I went up on the stone (hill).
- (wu-)mala *N* 1. cloud.  
2. abdomen, area around navel.
- (ra-)malambaŋin *N* mangrove *sp.*, *Ceriops tagal*.
- (wu-)malaŋin *N* firewood.
- mala-wunga *Adv* 1. when?  
2. sometime. *Cf.* wunga.
- (ra-)malbamba *N* ironwood, *Erythroleum chlorostachyum*. *Syn* wi!wi!.
- (ra-)malir *N* back (body part). *Cf.* janda.
- maljuŋa *VInflIntr* 1. to sit, to remain.  
2. an intransitive *AUX*.
- (wu-)malmalwana *N* ridge country.
- (wu-)malŋuŋ *N* spirit, image. *Cogn* Nungg. malŋuj, etc.
- (ŋi-)maluruŋguruna *N* female agile wallaby (*ŋargulamba*).
- mal 1. *VTr* (-ga-) to take to, to convey to. Object is recipient. mal+ŋara-gaya ra-mariya He brought the food to me.  
2. *VTr* (-waŋV-) to learn.
- (ra-)malabaŋu *N* clitoris. *Cogn* possibly Nungg. malabaŋu (freshwater mussel).
- (ra-)malalaŋga *N* a tree used for firesticks, found in black soil country.
- (ŋi-)malamaŋaba *N* girl.
- (wu-/ŋi-)malawal *N* a plum tree, *Terminalia sp.* (perhaps *T. ferdinandiana*).
- (ŋi-)malawururu *N* loggerhead turtle.
- (ra-)malbi *N* 'nail' or spike of dugong harpoon (raŋar). *Syn* jimiŋdi.
- malgayayi *NAdj* many. Can function as *Adv*: malgayayi raŋ+ŋalŋu-gaŋi I hit them many times.
- (ra-)maligar *N* stone; stone hill. Also (ma-)!igar. *Syn* manuga.
- (ra-)maŋugundu *N* bone-pointed spear.
- (ra-)maŋuŋariŋin *N* tree *sp.* used for boomerang, *Petalostigma pubescens*. *Syn* wangadiyin.
- (ra-)maŋuruluŋu *N* saltwater.
- mambali *NAdj* of the Mambali semimoietty.
- (ra-)mambubu *N* yam *sp.* in black soil country.
- (ra-)manabaru *N* water buffalo. *Syn* wali.
- (wu-)manba *N* armband, made from rilgara.
- (ra-)mangaŋa *N* woollybutt tree, *Eucalyptus miniata*. *Syn* ya!iriya!iri.
- mangar *VTr* (-ba-) to throw (poison) on the body of. mangar+ŋararu-ba They threw (poison) on my body.
- mani-ŋala *Adv* every day. *Cf.* ŋala.
- manjawumanjau *VIntr* (-juŋa) to go walkabout.
- (ra-)manuga *N* stone. *Syn* maligar, !igar.
- maŋ *VTr* (-ba-) to save, to defend.
- maŋaŋ 1. *VTr* (-ba-) to break, to injure.  
2. *VIntr* (-iŋaji-) to injure or break something.
- (wu-)maŋaŋar *N* bees wax.
- maŋdar *VIntr* (-ma-) to burp.
- maŋdiwa *N* circumcision ceremony.

- (ra-)mañdiwaja *N* a vine whose berries are eaten by emus, *Cassytha filiformis*.
- mañgalgal *N* eagle ray, *Aetobatus narinari*. NC unknown.
- (ra-)mañiwi *N* a climbing vine, with little fruits eaten by emus.
- mañjurjur *NAdj* straight.
- (ra-)mañungurun *N* cypress, *Callitris intratropica*. *Syn* yimbidi.
- mañur 1. *NAdj* circumcised.  
2. *VTr* (-ga-) to circumcise.
- mañagu *NAdj* small; child. *RDP* maña-mañagu.
- (ra-)mañarara *N* soldier crab.
- (ra-/wu-)mañagu *N* a fig tree, *Ficus virens*.
- (ra-)mañaju *N* cycad palm, *Cycas sp.* *Cf.* jañguyaļa. *Cogn* Nungg. (mana-)ñañu, etc.
- (ra-/wu-)mañal *N* woomera. *Syn* wujula.
- mañal- *N* a compounding element referring to a road, path, etc. *Cf.* yañ, yaña, gajar, wañ.
- mañgal- *N* a compounding element referring to the head. *Cf.* ða.
- (ma-)mañan *N* road. Less common than yilgiñ.
- (wu-)mañunga *N* white clay and body paint.
- mara *N* Mara (tribe and language).
- maramara *NAdj* ripe, in bloom, etc.
- (wu-/ra-)marañmarañ *N* chenopod *sp.*, probably *Tecticornia australasica* (small plant found in salt pans).
- (ra-)marañgalba *N* black whip snake. *Syn* ñuluļ.
- (ra-)marañuru *N* 1. head. Can be used in *cpd.*, *cf.* wirju.
- Syn* miyirbañbañ, etc.
2. yam *sp.* in black soil country, possibly *Ipomoea graminea*.
- (ra-)marayuluyulu *N* flower of water lilies (*Nymphaea spp.*).
- (ra-)mariya *N* food, especially vegetable food.
- (wu-)marjañaña *N* daytime.
- (wu-)marwañaga *N* dillybag.
- (ra-)marwiñiñbiñiñ *N* a climbing vine, *Flagellaria indica*. *Syn* řilgara.
- mañamañ *Adv* slowly.
- (ra-)mañawuriña *N* magical poison.
- (ra-)mañbañba *N* small branch of tree. *Cf.* ñunguña.
- (wu-)mañbur *N* hand. *Syn* maba.
- (ra-)mañur *N* witchetty grub.
- (ra-)mawal *N* floater (used with dugong harpoon, řağar).
- (ra-)mawar *N* ghost gum, 'whitebark', *Eucalyptus papuana*.
- (ra-)mawañayimbirjimbir *N* hook spear. Probably a synonym of mayaļungu.
- (ra-)mawululugu *N* tree *sp.* with red fruits, along coast, possibly *Glycosmis sp.* *Cogn* Nungg. (mana-)wuļuļugu.
- mawurgayi *NAdj* other, different. *Cf.* -gayi.
- (ra-)mawurugu *N* spangled perch, *Madigania unicolor*.
- (ra-)mayaļungu *N* hook spear, with closely-spaced hooks on one side. *Cf.* wanungu. Possibly *Syn* mawañayimbirjimbir, wañagulu. *Cogn* Nungg. (mana-)ļaļungu.
- (wu-)mayamaya *N* plain; flat open country.

- (ṛa-)mayaranja *N* sandpaper fig, *Ficus opposita*.
- mayi *VInflIntr* an intransitive *AUX*.
- (ṛa-)mayigaḷ *N* nut of *Pandanus spiralis* (waguru, mugara).
- mayiwuṛ *VIntr* (-juṛa) apparently refers to spears raining down on people. Exact sense and structure unclear.
- (wu-)mbiḷal *N* water lily leaf.
- mbirmbir *VTr* (-ba-) to make a nest. An archaic word.
- miḍ *VTr* (-ga-) to comprehend, to remember well.
- (ṛa-)migaḷ *N* shrub on coast, with small red fruits, *Malaisia scandens*. *Syn* waḍarayū, walanjurga.
- (ṛa-)mijuruṅu *N* a small saltwater fork-tailed catfish.
- (ṛa-)milawur *N* a chenopod *sp.*, 'tumbleweed', *Salsola kali*.
- milga- *N* milga-ṅa-bani my wife's brother. milga-ṅi-bani your wife's brother. milga-bin his wife's brother.
- (ṛa-)milgiwiri *N* full-grown barramundi fish, *Lates calcarifer*. *Syn* miriji.
- (ṛa-)miliḍiḍi *N* rib.
- (ṛa-)miliṅmar *N* lorikeet.
- (wu-/ṛa-)mimbi *N* ants, including meat ants.
- mimi *N* paternal grandmother.
- (ṛa-)mindiwaba *N* baler shell, *Melo umbilicus*.
- (ṛa-)minjigawugawu *N* scar.
- (ṛa-)miṅbilṅin *N* sugar glider, 'flying squirrel'. *Syn* waṛmur.
- (ṛa-)miṅija *N* tree with large thorns, *Cathormion umbellatum*.
- (wu-)miṅijar *N* salt.
- miṅ *VTr* (-ba-) to aim (a weapon) at.
- (wu-)miṅṅaṅa *N* sleep. gayari wu-miṅṅaṅa-ṅu wu-nu yaṅa+ṅi-juṛa You were asleep a long time.
- miṅi *Adv* just now, just then. Indicates the temporal immediacy of one event to a reference time.
- mirg *VTr* (-ba-) to be jealous or envious of, to have a grudge against.
- (ṛa-)miriji *N* barramundi, *Lates calcarifer*. *Syn* milgiwiri.
- mirṅaḍu *N* a light-coloured shovelnose ray. *Corr* Nungg. ḷaṅij.
- (ṅi-)miṛiyi *N* dolphin *sp.*, cream-coloured. *Cf.* yuḷarṅu.
- miṛmiṛya *Adv* yesterday.
- (ṛa-)miyaṛigari *N* a wattle with long thin leaves, *Acacia torulosa*.
- miyirbaṛbaṛ *N* head. *NC* unknown. Can occur in *cpd.*: *cf.* ḍa. *Syn* maraṅuru, gululu, wadamuru.
- mud 1. *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to break up, to disperse.
2. *VTr* (-ga-) to break (e.g. a long object).
3. *VTr* to grab. Uncommon in this sense. *Cpds*: yul-mud (-ga-) to break the nose of. yabara-mud (-ga-, -ilama-) to break the leg of. ṅuṅṅa-mud (-ba-) to break the arm of. ṅalwar-mud (-ida-) to break in the middle.
- (ṛa-)mudiḍi *N* *Cf.* muḍiḍi.
- (ṛa-)mudju *N* coolibah, *Eucalyptus microtheca*. *Cogn* Nungg. wumudju.

- mudŋuy *NAdj* Two. Less common than wudŋuy.
- (wu-)mudurmudur *N* head hair.
- (ɾa-)muđiđi (also mudiđi) *N* scrub wattles, e.g. *Acacia conspersa*. *Cogn* Nungg.
- mug *VIntr* (-ma-) to forget.  
mug+ŋa-mamani I have forgotten.  
*Cpd* yulu-mug (same meaning).
- (ɾa-)mugara *N* pandanus tree, *Pandanus spiralis*. *Syn* waguru.
- (ɾa-)mugmug *N* owl *sp.*, said to have large eyes, probably barn and masked owls.
- (ma-)mulalu *N* sedge in swamp, *Eleocharis sphacelata*.
- mulg 1. *VIntr* (-juɾa) to be sleeping.  
2. *VTr* (-ba-) to go to sleep. Invariable 3Sg object.  
mulg+ŋa-ba I went to sleep.
- muluŋuy *N* a few, several (usually three to five). Prefix usually yili-. *Cf.* mudŋuy, wudŋuy, which share the ending -ŋuy.
- (ɾa-)mulwari *N* boomerang, treated as a 'boy' in ceremonies. *Syn* guyabiri. *Cf.* yuɻanji. *Cogn* Nungg. wulmuwari.
- (ɾa-)mulwarwar *N* grass *sp.* on beach, *Spinifex longifolius*.
- (ɾa-/ŋi-)muɻa *N* mosquito.
- (wu-)muɻiriŋ *N* bones, skeleton.
- mun *VIntr* (-juɾa, -maljuɾa, -iŋaji-) to bend over. *Cf.* also mud, which may become mun after phonological rules.
- munana *NAdj* white person. *RDP* muna-munana.
- (wu-)mundur *N* backbone.
- munji 1. *VTr* (-ba-) to follow, to pursue.  
2. *VTr* (-wiŋđi-) to follow after.
- (ɾa-)munjuj *N* green plum, *Buchanania obovata*. *Cogn* Nungg.
- (wu-)munŋu *N* tree *sp.*, *Pouteria sericea*.
- (ɾa-)munurwiɻa *N* large tree *sp.* in swamps. *Corr* Mara bulgur.
- muŋa- *VInflTr* to sting, to jab at.
- (ɾa-/wu-)muŋda *N* 1. root of tree or plant.  
2. muscle.
- (ɾa-)muŋđin *N* fish, probably mouth almighty fish.
- (wu-/ɾa-)muraɾbu *N* 1. crab.  
2. scorpion.
- murgi- *VInflTr* a transitive *AUX*.
- murgu *NAdj* few, not many. *Cf.* muluŋuy.
- (ɾa-)murji *N* hand. Used especially in counting: ɾa-waŋgiŋ ɾa-murji one hand (i.e. five). *Syn* maba.
- (ɾa-)murŋmurŋ *N* bubbles.
- (wu-)murunji *N* elbow.
- murunun *NAdj* of the Murrungun semimolety.
- (ɾa-)mururungu *N* barracuda.
- (ɾa-)muɾ *N* something.
- muɾi *N* paternal grandfather.
- muy *VTr* (-ja-) to miss, to not hit. *Cf.* wirju.

## N

- na- *VInflIntr* to be sitting. Not common. *Cf.* -maljuɾa.
- nalŋija *N* daughter's child (male EGO).

- naŋi- *VInflIntr* 1. to be burning, to be on fire.  
2. an intransitive *AUX*.
- naya *Dem* here; (rarely) this.
- ndaga *N* younger sister (with 1st pers. poss.). *Cf.* -daga.  
(wu-)ndagi *N* nape.  
(wu-)ndaway *N* word(s), language; news.  
(wu-)ndula *N* leg.  
(wu-)nduru *N* shin (from knee to ankle).
- ngaŋa *N* functions as interrogative pronoun (what?) or indefinite pronoun (something). *ñi-ngaŋa* What are you? *ra-ngaŋa* something.
- ngaŋu *Adv Cf.* gaŋu.
- ngiŋa *N* which? where? *ŋa-ngiŋa* Which one is she? Where is she? Takes a nominal prefix agreeing with referent. For neuter adverbial where? *cf.* wungŋa.
- ni *Dem* that; there.
- nija *VInflTr* 1. to keep, to hold on to, to have in one's possession.  
2. a transitive *AUX*.
- nija *N* son or daughter (of male EGO, with 1st pers. poss.). *Cf.* -jama.
- niŋi *Dem* that; there.
- ni-ŋaga *N Cf.* -ŋaga.
- ni-walŋa *N Cf.* -walŋa.
- niya *Dem* this; there.  
(wu-)njagaŋ *N* saliva  
(ma-)njagiri *N* dark red water lily fruit. Also (wu-)jagiri.  
(ŋa-)njalguyi *N* man. *Syn* ŋaŋgiwar.
- (wu-)njalbar *N* vulva, female genitals.  
(wu-)njanur *N* cold (disease). *Cogn* Nungg. yinur.  
njaŋi *NAdj* many, much. *RDP* njaŋi-njaŋi. *Cf.* jaŋi.  
(wu-)njigur *N* tail. *Syn* ŋabara.  
(wu-)njiŋiba *N* nose; tip, corner (e.g. of blanket). *Cf.* jiŋi-, yul-. For the ending -ba *cf.* ŋaralba (ŋaral-).  
(wu-)njiwa *N* charcoal.  
(wu-)njiyilŋ *N* tongue.  
(ra-)njula *N* rain. *Syn* gubijiji.  
-nŋaya *Dem* there; (rarely) that. Also -dŋaya.  
-nu *Art* The stem for articles. Nominal prefixes before -nu are the same as those used with nouns, except FSg *ŋa-nu*, Du *wuru-nu*. No Paucal form. Stem may become -ŋu, especially after MSg *ŋa-*.  
-numi *VInflTr* a transitive *AUX*.
- N**
- (wu-)ŋabi *N* honey bee, *Trigona* sp., 'cheeky sugarbag'. *Syn* ŋimaradji. *Corr* Nungg. ŋabi.  
ŋad *VIntr* 1. (-ra-) to run. *RDP* ŋa-nad from /ŋad-ŋad/.  
2. *VTr* (-ga-) to rip, to tear.  
(ra-)ŋaŋi *N* frog sp. *Cf.* yulwu.  
(ma-)ŋajan *N* dugout canoe.  
ŋala *Adv* now, today, these days. *wu-nu* ŋala (same meanings). *RDP* ŋala-ŋala just about to. *miŋi* ŋala-ŋala jalg+u-ŋa-ji I was about to spear him, I nearly speared him. *Cf.* mani-ŋala.

nalaymaryi *Adv* soon.

namaṛ *Int* Hey! Used to attract someone's attention.

namiri *Adv* at night; (last) night.

naṇaṇaṇa *Adv* behind; after. Not common.

naṇayana *Adv* behind, following.  
*Cf.* ṇaṇaṇaṇa, ṇaṇi.

(ṇa-)ṇaṅgiwar *N* man. *Syn* njalguyi.

(ṛa-)ṇaṅguru *N* saltwater crocodile.  
*Syn* waḷajandama.

ṇaṇi *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to arrive after (someone else has left), to arrive too late (to find someone).

ṇaṛuma *N* chest, brisket.  
*NC* unknown. In *cpd*: ṇaṛuma-  
jiwiyiwiya chest hair.

(wu-/ṛa-)ṇḍilan *N* a kurrajong tree,  
*Brachychiton diversifolium*.  
*Syn* baṛurbaṛur.

(wu-)ṇḍular *N* smoke.

(ṛa-)ṇinin *N* small bird *sp.*,  
perhaps a finch.

-ṇu *Cf.* -nu.

ṇumbuṛindi *N* Nunggubuyu (tribe and language), especially those around Cape Barrow and Wurindi.

ṇuṅgayi *Adv* merely. ṇuṅgayi  
ṇa!+ṇa-mamani wu-yuḍmuṅgi  
I am merely speaking briefly.  
*Cogn* Ngandi.

ṇuṅgulaṅur *N* 'Fish Hunters',  
general term for Yugul,  
Warndarang, and other groups  
around the Roper River area.  
From Gentilic ṇuN- and wu-!aṅur  
corroboree.

(wu-)ṇuṅguṇa *N* 1. arm.

2. limb of tree.

N

ṇab *VIntr* (-ma-) to take a meal.

(wu-)ṇagagul *N* a large tree  
found in Mara country.

ṇal *VTr* (-ga-) to want (?).

(ṛa-)ṇaliṇali *N* native cat.

(wu-)ṇaḍin *N* 1. skin.

2. bark of trees.

(ṛa-)ṇaḷṇaḷ *N* bloodwood,  
*Eucalyptus polycarpa*. *Syn*  
jaḍṇin.

(wu-)ṇanay *N* long distance;  
far away. Usually functions  
as *Adv*.

ṇaru *Int* There! There it is!  
Emphasises actual manifestation  
of something the speaker has  
been talking about.

-ṇayima *VInflIntr* a rare  
intransitive *AUX*.

-ṇi *NAdj* same, aforesaid.  
Prefixes as with -nu.

ṇil 1. *VTr* (-ba-) to shut off,  
to block off (e.g. sunlight).

2. *VTr* (-ja-) to cover (e.g.  
fire) with sand; to bury.

ṇim *VTr* (-ga-) to make a camp.  
Object 3Sg.

ṇiya *Part* used occasionally with  
preceding temporal adverb  
referring to antecedent time.  
miṛmiṛya ṇiya a-ṛara He went  
yesterday.

(wu-)ṇiyin *N* name.

ṇugur *NAdj* sacred. *Cpd*: maba-  
ṇugur one with sacred hands.  
*Cf.* ṇgira.

ṇuṅ 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) to smell  
something.

2. *VTr* (-ja-, -ida-) to smell.



## N

- na-* *VInflTr* to eat.
- ḡab VIntr* (-*ḡa-*) to rise (in water).  
*Cf. mal.*
- ḡabalaga N* garfish. *Syn wurjulugu.*  
NC unknown.
- (*wu-*) *ḡabala N* shoulder.
- ḡabaḡ VIntr* (-*ma-*) to die.
- ḡad VIntr* (-*maljuḡa*) to be alive.
- (*ḡa-*) *ḡaḡiñ N* a tree, *Hibiscus tiliaceus.*
- (*ḡa-*) *ḡaḡugu N* rope, fishline.  
*Cogn Nungg., etc.*
- (*ḡa-*) *ḡaḡaḡ N* white-breasted sea eagle. *Cogn Nungg. ḡagaḡaga.*
- (*wu-*) *ḡajal N* waterhole, well.
- ḡajbaḡajbaya NAdj* fat, corpulent.
- (*ḡa-*) *ḡalabura N* white clay and body paint.
- (*ḡa-*) *ḡalaḡara N* archer fish, 'rifle fish'.
- ḡalagan N* Ngalakan (tribe and language).
- (*wu-*) *ḡalanin N* bush, open forest.
- ḡalbum VIntr* (-*ma-*) to be daybreak.
- ḡaldud VIntr* (-*juḡa*) to be sitting in a large group.
- ḡalgañan VTr* (-*igira-*) to occupy or fill up (an area). *ḡalgañan+g-igiri* (White men) have filled up (this country). *Cf. gañan.*
- ḡaljug VTr* (-*ja-*) to spit. Perhaps etymologically segmentable \**ḡal-jug.*
- (*wu-/ḡa-*) *ḡalmi N* 1. fresh water (*wu-*). Not common in this sense. *Syn ḡalaja.*  
2. mangrove *sp., Bruguiera sexangula* (*ḡa-*).
- (*ḡi-*) *ḡaluwa N* hawksbill turtle. *Syn garubu. Cogn Nungg. ḡaluwa.*
- ḡalwal* 1. *VIntr* (-*ḡaji-*) to be in position to strike with spear.  
2. *VTr* (-*ja-*) to be in position to strike (someone, something) with spear.
- ḡalwala VTr* (-*ba-*) to clear off (ground, bushes, etc.).
- ḡalwar- N* middle (in *cpds.*).  
*Cf. mud, ḡil.*
- ḡalwaḡ* 1. *VIntr* (-*naḡi-*) to be/become daylight.  
2. *VTr* (-*wiḡḡi-*) to be looking around. Object 3Sg.
- ḡal* 1. *VIntr* (-*ma-*) to speak, to talk; to make a sound (e.g. dog barking). *Cpd: ḡudul-ḡal* to speak (e.g. a story) in its entirety.  
2. *VTr* (-*ja-*) to speak to.
- (*wu-*) *ḡalaja N* freshwater.  
*Syn ḡalmi.*
- ḡalaḡala N* a freshwater fork-tailed catfish, smaller than *walmagara. Corr Nungg. ḡiḡiḡi.*
- (*wu-*) *ḡalimur N* collarbone.
- ḡamba VTr* (-*ja-*) to summon, to call for.
- (*wu-*) *ḡambiḡḡambiḡ N* a *sp.* of wild potato, distinct from *ḡuymanji. Corr. Nungg. wuḡambiḡḡambiḡ.*
- ḡambud VTr* (-*ga-*) to drown (someone).
- (*wu-*) *ḡambur N* fire; firewood.
- ḡan VTr* (-*ilama-*) to hit, to strike. Exact sense unclear, much less common than *ḡaḡ.*
- ḡani N* who? *ḡa-ḡani ḡa-nu ḡa-niya* Who is this (man)?
- ḡaniyulma N* Nganiyulma, name of

- people around mouth of Rose River, formerly speaking Warndarang and Nunggubuyu.
- (wu-)ḡanja *N* belly, stomach.
- (ṛa-)ḡaṇḡal *N* mouth.
- ḡaṇi *Adv* ḡaṇi ṛa-waṛiyi-yu What about (those) Aborigines? Exact sense unclear.
- (ṛa-)ḡarabuṇa *N* marine fish *sp.*
- ḡaral- *N* eye (in *cpds.*). *Cf.* jid, jililij. *Cf.* also ḡaralba.
- (wu-/ra-)ḡaralba *N* 1. eye.  
2. seed; fruit with seeds. Takes the form ḡaral- in *cpds.* For final -ba *cf.* ḡjiṛiba vs. jiri-.
- (ṛa-)ḡarambili *N* centipede. *Cogn* Rith. ḡarambali? scorpion.
- (wu-)ḡaraḡaḡḡin *N* ankle. *Syn* ḡuṇḡi.
- (ṛa-)ḡarayaḡ *N* Saratoga fish, *Scleropages jardini*.
- (ṛa-/wu-)ḡargu *N* billabong.
- (ṛa-)ḡargulamba *N* agile (sandy) wallaby, *Macropus agilis*. female: maluruḡuruna. *Cogn* Nungg. ḡargu.
- ḡari 1. *N* (wu-) fight, war, dispute.  
2. *VTr* (-ja-) to be angry. Dummy 3Sg object. wu-ḡari ḡari+ara-ja They are angry. They are having a fight.  
3. *VTr* (-wiṇḡi-) to be angry at. *Cogn* Nungg. wuṇa:ri.
- (ṛa-)ḡarmaḡ *N* armpit.
- ḡarwuḡ *VTr* (-ida-) to bend.
- (wu-)ḡaraḡaṛa *N* knee.
- (ṛa-)ḡaṛḡḡaṛḡ *N* shovel spear.
- ḡaw *VIntr* (-juṛa) in *cpd*: ḡuḡa-ḡaw to be lying down. *RDP* ḡuḡa-ḡaw-ḡaw.
- ḡay *VIntr* (-ma-) to be sick.
- ḡayab *VIntr* (-ma-) to be silent.
- (wu-)ḡayala *N* jaw. *Syn* jawal.
- (wu-)ḡayigan *N* bone.
- (ṛa-)ḡgalin *N* spear shaft. *Syn* ḡgumul. *Cogn*: perhaps Rith. giliḡ, ḡiliḡ.
- (wu-)ḡgaḡḡar *N* stone oven.
- (ṛa-/wu-/ma-)ḡgarabi *N* swamp plant with edible tubers, *Eleocharis dulcis*. *Syn* maḡiga. *Cf.* mulalu.
- ḡgarwa *NAdj* smelly, foul-smelling.
- ḡgaṛ see ḡaṛ.
- (ṛa-)ḡgaṛar *N* river whistling tree, *Casuarina cunninghamiana*. *Cogn* Nungg. wuḡgaṛar.
- (ma-)ḡgawuḡa *N* rough, irregularly-shaped water lily root, found in deep water in billabongs, sometimes floating on surface (from *Nymphaea gigantea*). *Cogn* Nungg. maḡawuḡa.
- (ma-)ḡgiliṛiḡgiliṛi *N* dark red water lily fruit. *Syn* jagiri, ḡguluṛuḡguluṛu.
- ḡgira *N* sacred. Attested only in *cpd*: maba-ḡgira having sacred hands. *Syn* ḡugur.
- (ma-)ḡguluṛuḡguluṛu *N* dark red water lily fruit. *Syn* jagiri, ḡgiliṛiḡgiliṛi.
- (wu-)ḡgulḡday *N* season (of year). *Cf.* ḡulḡday.
- (ṛa-/wu-)ḡgumir *N* shrub with juicy black fruits, probably *Antidesma ghaesembilla*.
- (wu-)ḡgumul *N* spear shaft. *Syn* ḡgalin.
- (ma-/wu-)ḡgurya *N* 1. excrement (ma-).  
2. bees eggs (wu-).

- (wu-)ngura *N* semen. Also  
(ra-)gura.
- (ra-)nilili *N* little corella  
(bird).
- niliniliwayi *Adv* morning. wu-nu  
niliniliwayi this morning; that  
morning. galqi niliniliwayi  
tomorrow morning; the following  
morning.
- nil VTr (-wiŋdi-) to inquire of.  
nil+ŋa-wiŋdima wu-ndaway-ñu  
I asked him for news. Object  
is addressee.
- nimug *VIntr* (-ma-) to become  
dark, to become night. *Cogn*  
Nungg. ŋamug.
- niŋdal *VTr* (-ga-) to transport.
- (ra-)ŋirgŋirg *N* sulphur-crested  
white cockatoo. *Syn* ŋirwula.
- (ra-)ŋirwula *N* sulphur-crested  
white cockatoo. *Syn* ŋirgŋirg.
- ŋir *VIntr* (-ñayima) to breathe.
- (wu-)ŋirŋir *N* heart. *Syn* bulbul.
- (wu-)ŋubal *N* song, singing.  
*Cogn* Nungg. wuŋubal.
- (ra-)ŋubari *N* 'queen fish',  
*Chorinemus sp.*
- ŋudjuguña(y) *Int* Hey you (Du)!
- ŋuduguña(y) *Int* Hey you (Pl)!
- (ra-)ŋulawar *N* honey.
- (ra-)ŋuliji *N* blood.
- (ra-)ŋuliri *N* black duck. *Syn*  
wa|mañ.
- ŋuljun *N* sleepy cod, 'mud fish',  
*Oxyeleotris lineolatus*.
- (ŋi-)ŋulŋun *N* honey bee, *Trigona*  
*sp.*, 'girl sugarbag'. *Syn*  
wanjambu. *Corr* Nungg. ŋa:nig.
- (ra-)ŋulul *N* black whip snake.  
*Syn* maraŋga|ba.
- (ra-)ŋulumidin *N* large fork-tailed
- catfish *sp.* *Cogn* Rith.  
ŋulumitin.
- (ra-)ŋulumuru *N* nail-tailed  
wallaby, *Onychogalea fraenata*.  
*Cogn* Ngandi ŋo|omoro, etc.
- (ra-)ŋulumurun *N* pubic hair.
- ŋulwaya-*VInflTr* to copulate  
with. *Recip.* -ŋulwayaji-.
- (wu-)ŋumba *N* itchiness (?).
- ŋunjuŋunju *NAdj* equal(ly),  
reciprocal(ly). Often functions  
as adverb. yiri-ŋunjuŋunju  
wu-nu ŋabaŋtan-mi they both  
died.
- (ra-/wu-)ŋuŋu *N* fish (generic  
term). *NC* usually ra-.
- ŋur *VTr* (-ba-) to dig (a well).
- (wu-)ŋuriŋin *N* wild banana,  
*Leichhardtia australia*.  
*Cogn* Nungg. wuŋuruŋin, etc.
- (wu-)ŋurja *N* river bank.
- ŋurŋurŋur *VIntr* (-ra-) to go  
along making a loud noise  
(e.g. a truck).
- (wu-)ŋurudu *N* certain eucalypts  
including *Eucalyptus latifolia*.
- (ra-)ŋuruwañin *N* sweat.
- ŋuy *VIntr* (-ra-) to swim.
- (ra-)ŋuyŋuy *N* rays, stingrays  
(generic term).

## R

raj *VIntr* (-ra-) to go through.

## R

- ra- *VInflIntr* 1. to go.  
2. a common intransitive *AUX*.
- (wu-/ŋi-)ra<sup>a</sup> *N* 1. tooth (wu-).  
2. fingernail, toenail (ŋi-).

- (wu-)ṛabara *N* tail. *Syn* njigur. *Cogn* Nungg.
- (wu-)ṛadbur *N* camp; country, place.
- (ma-)ṛaḍar *N* dugong harpoon. *Cogn* Nungg.
- ṛaga *N* younger brother (with 2nd or 3rd pers. poss.). Takes the form -ni-ṛaga with 1st pers. poss., hence ṛa-ni-ṛaga my/our younger brother.
- (wu-)ṛagamba *N* pearl shell, *Pinctada sugillata*. Also (ma-)gamba.
- (wu-)ṛagulunju *N* trumpet (triton) shell. *Syrinx aruanus*.
- ṛal *VTr* (-ja-) to hook (spear) onto woomera.
- (ṛa-)ṛalyi *N* eel.
- (wu-)ṛaman *N* emu feathers, painted white (body decoration in corroborees). *Cogn* Nungg., etc.
- (wu-)ṛambana *N* paperbark tree on coastal dunes, a form of *Melaleuca leucadendron*.
- ṛambi *VTr* (-ja-) to attack.
- (ṛa-/wu-)ṛamulbiya *N* scrubby tree *sp.*
- (wu-)ṛandaga *N* cooliman.
- (ṛa-)ṛanuga *N* butter fish, *Scatophagus argus*.
- ṛaṅ *VTr* (-ga-) to hit (hard); to kill. *Recip* to fight. ṛaṅ+ñiri-gaylma We had a fight.
- (wu-)ṛaṅajba *N* fat, grease. *Cf.* ṅajbaṅajbaya.
- (wu-)ṛaṅga *N* a paperbark, *Melaleuca sp.*, found near swamps. The bark is used for coolimans. Perhaps *M. nervosa*.
- (ṛa-)ṛaragal *N* sharp stick from mangroves, e.g. ṅalmi, used as a spear.
- ṛiḍarṅu *N* Ritharngu (tribe and language). *RDP* ṛiḍa-ṛiḍarṅu.
- (ṛa-)ṛilgara *N* 1. a climbing vine, *Flagellaria indica*. *Syn* marwiḷiñbiḷiñ.  
2. armband made from this vine. *Syn* manba.
- (wu-)ṛimaradji *N* honey bee, *Trigona sp.*, 'cheeky sugarbag'. *Syn* ṅabi. *Corr* Nungg. ṅabi.
- ṛimbarṅa *N* Rembarrnga (tribe and language).
- (wu-)ṛimbir *N* leaf.
- ṛud *VTr* (-ga-) to get plenty (game, etc.).
- ṛugalara *NAdj* tall.
- (wu-)ṛujuru *N* young green turtle (*yunduñuga*). *Cogn.* Nungg.
- ṛungal *N* enormous; terrible, terrifying. *Cogn* Nungg.

## W

-wa *VInflTr* to give. Object is recipient.

-wa *Dem* stem of part of one demonstrative form, e.g. ṛa-wa ṛa-ni that one.

(ṅa-)wabalu *N* boss, owner.

-wad *VIntr* (-ṛa-). In *cpd*: yulu-wad to forget (a fact or name); to forget, to leave behind.

(ṛa-)wadamuru *N* head. *Syn* gululu, miyirbaṛbaṛ, maraṅuru.

(ṛa-)wadbaṛ *N* a tree, *Grevillea pteridifolia*. *Cogn* Nungg.

(ṛa-)waḍabir *N* various goannas including the sand goanna, *Varanus gouldii*. *Cf.* baṛmunu.

- (ra-/ni-)waḡaḡarin *N* moon.
- waḡara *VTr* (-ga-) 1. to think about; to understand. *Cpd* jiñi-waḡara to think about further.  
2. to head for (a place).
- (ni-)waḡarayu *N* shrub *sp.* along coast with red fruits, *Malaisia scandens*. *Syn* miga!, walanjurga.
- (ra-)waḡawaḡa *N* tree *sp.* used for stone spear shafts, with small leaves, away from coast. *Cogn* Nungg. (where the term refers to a different *sp.* also used for spear shafts).
- (ra-)waḡuwaḡu *N* liver.
- waḡi *Adv* in the south. *Cf.* wayburi, -yiwayi. *Cogn* Ngandi bakič, etc.
- (ra-)waḡuru *N* pandanus, *Pandanus spiralis*. *Syn* mugara. nut: mayiga!.
- (ra-)waḡuwagu *N* coastal whistling tree, *Casuarina equisetifolia*.
- waj 1. *VIntr* (-ra-, -iḡaji-) to disappear, to become finished or extinct. waj+gal-iḡa They died off.  
2. *VTr* (-ba-) to finish; to finish off.  
3. *VTr* (-ya-) to finish off (by eating). *Syn* biḡ.
- waja 1. *NAdj* wet.  
2. *VIntr* (-ma-) to be/become wet.
- (ra-)wajaḡ *N* mud.
- (ra-/wu-)wajawul *N* a eucalypt.
- wal *VTr* (-ja-) to step on.
- (ra-)walagari *N* marine fish *sp.*
- walanaga *N* dark shovel-nosed ray. NC unknown. *Corr* Nungg. ma:mbaḡi.
- (ra-)walanjurga *N* shrub *sp.* along the coast, with red fruits, *Malaisia scandens*. *Syn* miga!, waḡarayu.
- (ra-)wali *N* water buffalo. *Syn* manaburu.
- waliburu *N* Alawa (tribe and language), or a subgroup thereof. *Cf.* galawa.
- (ra-)walmagara *N* a freshwater fork-tailed catfish *sp.*, *Hexanematichthys sp.* Distinct from ḡalaḡaḡa. *Cogn* Nungg. almagara.
- (ra-)walmaḡ *N* a tree, *Terminalia carpentariae*.
- (ra-)walmaraba *N* blue swimmer crab, *Portunus pelagicus*. *Cogn* Nungg. almaraba.
- walmida- *VInflTr* 1. to spear many; to spear many times. ḡuru-walmidaḡa You speared many (fish).  
2. an uncommon transitive *AUX*.
- walḡa *N* son or daughter (female EGO), sister's son or daughter (any EGO, with 2nd or 3rd pers. poss.). Becomes -ni-walḡa with 1st pers. poss., hence ḡa-ni-walḡa my/our nephew.
- (wu-)walḡi *N* body. *Cogn* Rith. walḡa healthy.
- (ra-/wu-)walulu *N* wind.
- (ra-)walunara *N* brolga. *Syn* guḡargu.
- (ni-/ra-)waluḡma *N* a python *sp.*, perhaps *Liasis olivaceus*. *Syn* gurujaḡbungu, gundi. *Corr* Nungg. majbarwar.
- walḡ *VIntr* (-ma-) to go around, to go in various directions.
- (ra-)walajandama *N* saltwater crocodile. *Syn* ḡaḡguru.
- walaḡawaḡala *N* suckerfish, *Remora sp.* NC unknown.
- (ra-)walaḡamagaga (transcription approximate) *N* flood. *Syn* waḡajara.

- (ra-)walaŋ *N* hill coolibah,  
*Eucalyptus tectifera*. Cf. mudju.
- (ra-)walaŋan *N* crowd or school of  
fish.
- (ra-)walgamban *N* spear with one  
hook near tip.
- wali *VTr* (-ga-) to twist.
- (ra-/ŋi-) walmaŋ *N* black duck.  
*Syn* ŋuliri.
- (na-)walya *N* man, boy. *RDP*  
walya-walya.
- waman *VIntr* (-ra-) (e.g. stingray)  
to glide along.
- (ra-/wu-/ŋi-)wambal *N* freshwater  
mussel. *Cogn* Nungg. ma:mbal.
- (wu-)wambibi *N* 1. milk.  
2. breast.
- (ra-)wambigud *N* a plant with  
berries, perhaps *Solanum sp.*
- (wu-)wanam *N* ear.
- (wu-)wanbaŋgur *N* ground.
- (ra-)wangadiyin *N* a tree,  
*Petalostigma pubescens*. *Syn*  
maŋungariŋin.
- wangani- *VInflTr* to not want,  
to reject.
- wanga-ŋi *Adv* in the other direction.  
Exact sense unclear.
- (wu-)wangubi *N* flesh, meat.
- (ra-/ŋi-)wanjimbu *N* honey bee,  
*Trigona sp.*, 'girl sugarbag'.  
*Syn* ŋulŋun. *Corr* Nungg. ŋa:nig.
- (ra-)wanuŋgu *N* hook spear with  
widely-spaced hooks on one side.  
*Cf.* mayaŋuŋgu.
- wanv- *VInflTr* a rare *AUX*. Stem-  
final vowel unknown.
- (wu-)waŋdag *N* a tree found on  
river banks; tortoises eat the  
fruits.
- waŋdaraŋ *N* Warndarang (tribe and  
language). Cf. wuyarawala.
- (wu-)waŋdiŋ *N* a tree with kidney-  
shaped nuts, *Terminalia*  
*grandiflora*. Cf. baŋdij.
- (ra-)waŋgugu *N* rock wallaby,  
*Petrogale sp.*
- (ra-)waŋgurag *N* bandicoot.  
*Corr* Mara maŋumaŋu.
- (ra-)waŋin *N* stone spear. *Syn*  
wariman, etc.
- waŋa *VTr* (-ga-) to coil up  
(rope, etc.).
- waŋgay *VIntr* (-iŋaji-, -juŋa,  
-maŋjuŋa) to wake up, to stay  
awake.
- waŋgiŋ *NAdj* one. Cf. wurwaŋgij.
- waŋguraŋja *NAdj* dark; black.
- war *VTr* (-ga-) to sing (in a  
corroboree); to call (name of).  
*Reflex*: to sing (by oneself).  
war+ŋa-gima I was singing by  
myself.
- (ra-)warabawaraba *N* spider.
- (wu-/ra-)warambal *N* a mangrove  
with roundish leaves,  
*Aegialitis annulata* (and perhaps  
others). Cf. barambal.
- (ra-)warawi *N* spinifex grass,  
*Triodia spp.*
- wari 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) to return.  
2. *VTr* (-ja-) to take back.
- (ra-)wariŋdila *N* hook boomerang,  
treated as a 'girl' in ceremony.  
*Syn* yuŋanji. Cf. mulwari.
- (ra-)warigari *N* honey-dipping  
implement.
- (ra-)wariman *N* stone spear.  
*Syn* guruwalya, ŋarŋinja, waŋin.
- (ra-)wariyaŋalayawu *N* hammerhead  
shark.

- warj 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to pick something up.  
 2. *VTr* (-iṛa-) to grab, to pick up.  
 3. *VTr* (-iṅama) to catch (a thrown object); to pick up.  
 4. *VTr* (-numi-) to pick up.  
 5. *VTr* (-ga-) to get.
- warṅgu *Adv* until, all the way to. Precedes a locative expression or a clause. ara-ṅama-ṅama warṅgu waj+gara-ya They kept eating until they finished it off. *Cf.* ḍuḍul.
- (ṅi-/wu-)warṅiwarṅi *N* sun.
- waṛ *VTr* (-wiṅḍi-) to see; to look at. *Cpd:* maṅal-waṛ to look at (on road).
- (ma-)waṛagulu *N* hook spear. *Syn* (?) mayaḷuṅgu.
- (wu-)waṛajara *N* flood. *Syn* waḷamagamaga.
- (ṅi-)waṛanbaṛaṅgar *N* young girl.
- (ṛa-)waṛgwaṛḡ *N* crow.
- (ṛa-)waṛil *N* mud crab, *Scylla serrata*.
- waṛiyi *NAdj* human; Aboriginal.
- warj 1. *N* (wu-) urine.  
 2. *VTr* (-ga-) to urinate. Object 3Sg.
- (ṛa-)waṛmur *N* sugar glider, 'flying squirrel'. *Syn* miṅbilṅin.
- (ṛa-/wu-)waṛugu *N* egg.
- (wu-)waṛwaṛ *N* (used as *Adv*) away. wu-ṅa-ṛara wu-waṛwaṛ I will go (far) away.
- wayar *VIntr* (-juṛa) to be hungry.
- wayara *NAdj* others, remaining. Only attested in *PL*: wulu-wayara-ṅu the others. *Cf.* -gayi.
- wayburi *Adv* southward. *Cf.* wagi, -yiwayi.
- wayi *N* elder brother.
- (ṛa-)wayway *N* snake (generic term).
- wi *VIntr* (-juṛa) to vomit.
- (ṛa-)wiḍaragama *N* rainbow.
- (ṛa-)wiḍiga *N* hair belt.
- (ṛa-)wiji *N* grass (generic term).
- wiḷ *VTr* (-ga-) to tie up (e.g. a spearhead, onto the shaft); to enclose, to cover up (e.g. an object associated with the victim, in a tree trunk, to magically kill him). *Cf.* wiḷḡin.
- (ṛa-)wiḷḡin *N* piece of clothing or other object of victim used in black magic. *Cf.* wiḷ.
- (ṛa-)wiḷmur *N* wire spear.
- (ṛa-)wiḷwiḷ *N* ironwood, *Erythroleum chlorostachyum*. *Syn* malbama.
- wiḍilibiḍili *N* shellfish *sp.* NC unknown.
- wiḍi- *VInflTr* 1. to go looking for.  
 2. a transitive *AUX*.
- (wu-)wiḡgir *N* milkwood, *Alstonia actinophylla*.
- wiṅi *N* ṅa-wiṅi 'my aunt (father's sister)'.  
 (ṛa-)wiṅjudu *N* a saltwater fish *sp.*
- wiṅ *VTr* (-ga-) to rest. Subject is 3Sg, object represents rest. wiṅḡ+u-ṅara-gaya I will rest.
- wirḡ 1. *VIntr* (-ṛa-, -iṅaji-) to jump; (kangaroo) to hop.  
 2. *VTr* (-wiṅḍi-, -igira-) to jump at or for.
- (ṅa-)wirjiṅ *N* spy.

- wirju 1. *NAdj* bad; skinny, lean.  
*Cpd*: maraŋuŋu-wirju insane ('bad-head').
2. *VIntr* (-ra-) to be worried, to be anxious.
3. *VIntr* (-ma-) In *cpd*: ŋanja-wirju to be unhappy, to feel bad. *Cf.* local Pidgin: him no-good binji.
4. *VTr* (-ga-) to miss (e.g. with spear); to make a mistake. *Cf.* muy.
- wiŋ *VIntr* (-juŋa) to listen, to hear. wiŋ+ŋa-juŋa I listened (to him). Also yulu-wiŋ.
- (ra-)wiŋiwiriŋa *N* various small bivalve shells with smooth, glossy surfaces (families *Mactridae*, *Veneridae*).
- wiŋj *VTr* (-ba-) to scrape.
- wiw *VTr* (-ga-) to lift.
- wiya *Part* that's all, enough. Tends to emphasise an abrupt transition between the subject matter of two clauses.
- wudjiwa *Adv* after that, then; from there.
- wudŋuy *NAdj* two. yiri-wudŋuy yiri-wuybi two women. For -ŋuy *cf.* mudŋuy, muluŋuy.
- wuḍal *NAdj* of the Wurdal (Burdal) semimoiety. *RDP* wuḍa-wuḍal.
- wuḍi *VTr* (-murgi-) to put inside.
- (ra-)wugaŋij *N* dugong. young: jawuru. female: gurwiji.
- wuj-ga- *VInflTr* see -ga-.
- (ra-)wujuja *N* hollow log.
- (ra-/wu-)wujula *N* woomera. *Syn* maŋal. *Cf.* baŋya.
- (ra-)wulbajajali *N* a marine turtle, probably the Pacific (olive) Ridley.
- wulgulya *NAdj* everyone, all.
- wulguy *Part* indeed, all right. Sometimes translatable 'although' in context.
- (ra-)wuliḍa *N* fan-palm, *Livistona loriphylla*. *Cf.* yawaŋama.
- wuljur *Adv* underwater.
- (ra-)wulugugu *N* a large, dangerous shark *sp.* or *spp.*
- wuluŋa *Adv* in the middle; part or half-way.
- (ma-/ŋi-/ra-)wuluru *N* a tree, *Melaleuca acacioides*. *Syn* gaŋiwan.
- wuŋ *VTr* (-ga-) to tell a lie. Object 3Sg. wuŋ+ŋa-gaya I told a lie.
- (ra-)wulŋin *N* man's genital cover, made from possum skin.
- (ma-)wulŋurguŋur *N* coconut.
- wun *VIntr* (-maljuŋa) to bend over.
- wunga 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to do what?; to do something.
2. *VTr* (-ja-) to do what to?; to do something to. *Cf.* mala-wunga.
- wungaŋa *N* what?; something. jabay wungaŋa waŋ+a-wiŋḍi Maybe it (the dog) found something. wungaŋa wu-nu wu-niya What is this? (aru) wungaŋa-ni What for? Why?. *Cf.* -ngaŋa.
- wungiŋa *Adv* Which way?; (to) where? *Cf.* -ngiŋa.
- (ra-)wuniŋbuniŋ *N* sea snake.
- (ra-)wunjurwunjur *N* a tree with reddish fruit in wet season, bitter-tasting.
- (ra-)wuŋiwuŋi *N* mullet *sp.* (fish).
- (ra-)wuŋuŋgulun *N* a kurrajong tree, *Brachychiton paradoxum*.



wuñ *VIntr* (-nañi-) (sun) to shine brightly.

wuñmi *Adv* wuñmi-ñi northward.  
ana-wuñmi from the north. *Cf.*  
guymi, guymaguyma.

(ra-/wu-)wungan *N* dog. NC usually  
ra-. *Syn* garwiři. *Cf.* biłgur.

wuğun *NAdj* unaware, ignorant.  
na-wuğun I do not know.

wur *VTr* (-ba-) to rub. *Cpd* maba-  
wur to rub the hands of.

(ra-)wuray *N* open plain.

(ra-)wurgmalan *N* bush fire,  
especially one set by people  
when hunting kangaroos.

(ra-)wurjulugu *N* garfish. *Syn*  
nabalaņa. *Cogn* Nungg.

wurmaņamaņa *N* ray sp. NC unknown.

(ni-)wurugayin *N* emu.

(ra-)wurugugu *N* flower (general  
term).

-wuruņ *N* 'cousin' (wife's mother  
or wife's mother's brother).

(ra-)wuruņaran *N* beach.

(ra-)wuruyu *N* devil (animated  
corpse).

wurwaņgij *Adv* once, one time.  
wurwaņgij wu-nu raņ+na-gaņi I hit  
him once. *Cf.* waņgiņ.

wuř *VTr* (-ga-) to put down.

(ra-)wuwu *N* a tree in the jungle,  
*Lumnitzera racemosa*.

-wuyal *NAdj* See guyal.

(ra-)wuyaraņa *N* painted sweetlips  
(a marine fish).

(ra-)wuyarawala *N* Warndarang  
language.

(ni-)wuybi *N* woman.

## Y

-ya- *VInflTr* 1. to bite.  
2. a transitive *AUX*.

(ra-)yabara *N* 1. leg. *Cpd: cf.*  
mud.  
2. trunk of tree.

(wu-)yabuduruwa *N* Yabuduruwa  
ceremony.

(wu-)yadayadawuļa *N* certain  
wattles, including *Acacia*  
*auriculæformis*.

yađ 1. *VTr* (-ja-) to wait for.  
2. *VTr* (-ga-, -ba-) to block  
(the path of), to obstruct.  
*Cpd: maņal-yađ* (-ba-) to block  
the path of. maņal-yađ+ņara-ba  
ma-yilgiņ-gu You blocked my  
path on the road.

(wu-)yađbin *N* fish trap.

yagar *VTr* (-ja-) to tell.  
Object is addressee.  
yagar+u-ņa-jaņa I will tell you.

-yagu 1. wu-yagu *Int* No! Also  
used as emphatic negative.  
wu-yagu gu-raņ+ñiri-gi We killed  
no-one.  
2. *NAdj* missing, absent.  
ni-yagu wu-nu wu-niya She is  
absent from here, she is not  
here.

yaguļ 1. *VIntr* (-juņa) to be  
frightened or scared.  
2. *VTr* (-wiņđi-, -igira-) to be  
scared of. Pronounced yagur by  
another informant (Elizabeth).

(wu-)yaguņ *N* a tall sedge in  
clay in swamps, *Scirpus*  
*litoralis*. *Cogn* Nungg.

yagur see yaguļ.

yaja *VTr* (-ba-) to hunt for.  
Object optionally takes *Purp*  
cases: yaja+wu-ņa-buņa  
ra-waluņama-ni I will hunt for  
pythons. *Cpd: maņal-yaja*  
to hunt by following tracks or  
trail.

- yaji *VInflIntr* *Recip* of -ya-.  
Cf. dawj.
- yal *VTr* (-murgi-) to knock down.
- (ra-)yalanu *N* bark of stringybark tree (bambuja). *Syn* yulway.
- (wu-)yalara *N* a wattle, *Acacia sp.*
- (wu-)yalbir *N* a mangrove with inedible 'apples', *Xylocarpus australasicus*.
- (wu-)yalijali *N* death adder.
- yalja *Adv* early, earlier, previously. *Syn* jalji.
- yalya *NAdj* aware, knowing.  
na-yalya *I* know.
- yal 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) to go past, to slip away.  
2. *VTr* (-murgi-) to miss (with spear); to cause to go past.  
Cf. yaljal. *Cogn*: Nungg. -yalɟa- (\*-jalɟ-ɟa-), etc.
- (wu-)yalbun *N* 1. black fruits of water lilies (*Nymphaea gigantea*). *Syn* guɟuɟu.  
2. edible portions of water lilies (general term).
- yalburi *Adv* downward, downhill, downriver, toward the coast.  
*Cogn* Mara walburi.
- yalinnga *N* uncircumcised.
- (wu-)yaliriyaliri *N* woollybutt tree, *Eucalyptus miniata*. *Syn* mangaɟa.
- yaljal *VIntr* to slip away. Probably the *RDP* (\*jalɟ-jalɟ-) of yal (\*jalɟ-)
- (ra-)yaminji *N* 1. gecko lizard.  
2. thunder and lightning (caused by gecko in myth).
- (ra-)yanambur *N* a paperbark tree, *Melaleuca sp.*, found along river banks, similar to yirimal.
- (wu-)yandawan *N* long-necked tortoise, *Chelodina rugosa*.
- yana *VIntr* (-juɟa) to be asleep to sleep well.
- yani *V* *PaIrr* of -ra-.
- yangar 1. in front, ahead.  
wulu-nu yangar those (who are) ahead.  
2. *VIntr* (-ra-) to go in front.  
3. *VTr* (-ga-) to take forward.
- yangarmanja *Adv* before, formerly.  
Cf. yangar, jalji, yalja.
- (ra-)yangawuma *N* whale. *Cogn* Nungg. yangawu.
- yar 1. *VIntr* (-inaji-) to fall  
wu-maba-wala yar+Ø-yinaji  
It fell out from (my) hands.  
2. *VIntr* (-maljuɟa) to lie around (in a crowd).  
3. *VTr* (-ba-) (sun) to come out, to rise. Usually with *CEN* ya- in this sense. Object 3Sg. yar+ya-Ø-buɟa it (sun) has risen. In *cpd*: guɟa-yar (-ba-) to get/kill plenty.  
guɟa-yar+niri-ba We got/killed plenty (fish).  
4. as initial of *cpds*, cf. gi.
- (ra-)yaraman *N* horse.
- yaramba *NAdj* dangerous, harmful, 'cheeky'.
- (wu-/ra-)yaraɟal *N* wild grape, perhaps *Ampelocissus sp.*
- (ma-)yarbij *N* thigh.
- yar *VTr* (-ga-) to become daylight. Object is 3Sg.
- (wu-)yarigu *N* shade, shadow.  
wu-yarigu-nu-yana wu-nu  
wu-na-maljuɟa We two will sit in the shade.
- (ra-)yawaɟama *N* (apparently) fan-palm, *Livistona loriphylla*.  
*Syn* wullɟa.
- yaygi *N* wuyagiba-yaygi a person from Wuyagiba. Exact sense unclear.

- (wu-/ra-)yibar *N* 1. sinew, tendon.  
2. string.
- yibaṛa- *N* spear shaft. Attested only in a *cpd*, cf. !u!u!u. Cf. ṅgalin, ṅgumul.
- yibi *N* mother (with 1st pers. poss.). Cf. -gara, -bibī.
- (wu-)yidma *N* foot; footprints. Also yinma.
- yigu *NAdj* small. *Syn* maṅagu.
- yij *VIntr* (-maljura) to stay for good. Cf. yijiri.
- (ra-)yija *N* large game animals (e.g. kangaroos, crocodiles, emus).
- yijiri *NAdj* for good. ṅa-yijiri I (will stay here) for good.
- yil 1. *VIntr* (-ra-) to be tired.  
2. *VIntr* (-ma-) to attack. Exact sense unclear.
- (wu-)yilba *N* hole; burrow.
- (ma-)yilgiṅ *N* road. *Syn* maṅaṅ. maṅal-.
- yilal 1. *VIntr* (-ma-) to be angry.  
2. *VTr* (-wiṅḍi-) to be angry at. Cf. ṅari.
- (ra-/ṅi-)yimayiri *N* Queensland groper (rock-cod).
- (ra-/wu-/ma-)yimbidi *N* cypress, *Callitris intratropica*. *Syn* maṅuṅgurun. *Cogn* Nungg.
- (wu-)yingiri *N* a tree used for boomerangs, *Hakea arborescens*. *Syn* ḍilyar.
- yini *Adv* yini-ṅi eastward. ana-yini from the east. Cf. gaṅu.
- (wu-)yinma *N* foot; footprints, tracks. Also yidma. Cf. baraṅ.
- yiṅa *V* PaActPun of -ra-. The base-form is /-iṅa/.
- yiribala *Adv* inside. *Cogn* Nungg. !iribala.
- (ṅa-)yirididi *N* a tree, *Planchonia careya*. *Corr* Mara wuḍuḍa.
- (wu-)yirimal *N* a paperbark, *Melaleuca sp.*, along rivers, similar to guru!uwul.
- (ṅi-)yirmaṅa *N* echidna, porcupine. *Cogn* Nungg., etc.
- (wulu-)yirwa-yirwan *N* (RDP) (my/our) sisters. Pl of ṅa-!ali.
- yirḡ *VTr* (-ga-) attested only with BEN: ma-yirḡ+a-gaya They loosened its covering.
- yiw *VIntr* (-ra-) (fire) to die out.
- (wu-)yiwal *N* a tree, *Pemphis acidula*.
- (wu-)yiwanguḷubuju *N* a tree, similar to ma!a!aṅga.
- yiwayi *Adv* ana-yiwayi from the south. Cf. wayburi, wagi.
- yiwṅ *VIntr* (Reflex of -ja-) to splash, to make ripples (in water).
- (ra-)yiwur *N* penis. Cf. giṅḍir-.
- yo *Int* 1. Yes!  
2. untranslatable particle in narratives.
- yu *V* FutNeg of -ra-.
- (wu-)yuḍmungi *N* short time. As *Adv*: briefly. With Diminutive: wu-yuḍmungi-gaṅa a very short time.
- yugul *N* Yugul (tribe and language).
- yugulmaṅgi *N* Yugulmanggi (tribe), a Yugul-speaking group who lived in 'billabong country' south of the Roper River.
- yul- *N* an initial in *cpds*,

- referring to the nose, *cf.* mud.  
*Cf.* also *njiṛiba*, *jiṛi-*.
- (wu-)yula *N* leg.
- (wu-/ṛa-)yulba *N* tree; stick.
- yulbaj *Adv* truly, indeed.  
yulbaj bindi wu-nu ṅa|ṅa-mama  
It was the truth that I spoke.  
*Cf.* *yunḍaṛa*.
- (ṛa-/wu-)yulmanji *N* various large,  
dark-coloured, edible sharks.  
*Corr* Nungg. *lamaḷguru*.
- yulu- *N* in *cpds*, referring to the  
ear, hearing, or mind. *Cf.* *mug*,  
*wad*, *wiṛ*.
- (ṛa-)yulway *N* bark of stringybark  
tree (*bambuja*). *Syn* *yalanu*.
- (ṛa-)yulwu *N* green tree frog.  
*Cf.* *ṅaḍi*.
- (ṛa-)yuḷanji *N* hook boomerang,  
treated as a 'girl' in ceremony.  
*Syn* *wariḍila*. *Cf.* *mulwari*.
- (ṛa-)yuḷarṅu *N* dolphin *sp.*,  
dark-coloured. *Cf.* *miṛiyi*.
- (ṛa-)yumaṅi *N* freshwater long-  
tom fish.
- yumar 1. *NAdj* good, good-  
smelling, fragrant.  
2. *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to be happy.  
*Cf.* *yumaryi*.
- yumaryi *Adv* properly. *Cf.* *yumar*.
- (wu-)yunduḥuga *N* green turtle.  
young: *ṛujuru*.
- (wu-)yuni *N* ochre. *Cogn* Nungg.  
*ḷuni*, Rith. *ḍuni*, etc.
- (ṛa-)yunju *N* oyster.
- yunḍaṛa *Adv* truly (?). Exact  
sense unclear. *Cf.* *yulbaj*.
- yunguḍ *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to be  
smoking, to be emitting smoke.
- (ṛa-)yunguwan *N* (any) ceremony.  
*Cogn* *Yuulngu jungguwan*.
- yur 1. *VIntr* (-ṛa-) to come out  
(from camp).  
2. *VTr* to pour out (liquid).

LEXICAL DOMAINS: FLORA-FAUNA AND (HUMAN) BODY PARTS



## FLORA (wiji, yulba)

(a) *yams and edible roots:*

ba|ajal|ba|ajal, ba|n|ba|ngari,  
 du|ja|du|ja, du|y|man|ji, ga|bir,  
 ga|la|na|nda, gu|lu|nur|wa, ja|ma,  
 ja|rgu|l, ma|di|ga, ma|ja|la|di,  
 ma|mbu|bu, mu|la|lu, na|mbi|da|na|mbi|da,  
 nga|ra|bi, ya|gu|n.

(b) *water lilies (and their parts):*

bu|na|la, ga|na|ya, gu|lu|lu, ja|da|bul,  
 ja|gi|ri, ji|ri|gi|li|l, ma|ra|yu|lu|yu|lu,  
 mb|i|la|l, na|ja|gi|ri, nga|wu|ja,  
 nga|lu|ru|nga|lu|ru, ya|bu|n.

(c) *grasses and herbs:*

bi|lin|ji|ri, bi|ri|r, da|rin,  
 di|r|ngi|l|di|r|ngi|l|g, ga|la|mba|r,  
 ga|ra|n|bi|li|li, gi|ngi|ra (wild rice),  
 ma|ja|na|ma|ja|n, ma|ra|n|ma|ra|n, mi|la|wur,  
 mu|la|wa|ra|w|a|r, wa|ra|wi (spinifex).

(d) *aquatic herbs, algae, etc.:*

bi|ma|bi|lin|in, ji|la|gi|ji|la|g, ma|ja.

(e) *vines:*

di|ng|a|di|ng|a|l, gu|lu|mbi|gu|lu|mbi|l,  
 gu|na|lu, ja|ra|bur, la|gu|r|ja (wild  
 cucumber), ma|n|di|wa|ja, ma|ni|wi,  
 ma|ri|wi|li|n|bi|li|n, ru|ri|di|n (wild  
 banana), ri|l|ga|ra, wa|mbi|gu|d,  
 ya|ra|na|l (wild grape).

(f) *eucalypts:*

ba|mbu|ja (stringybark), bi|n|mi|ri  
 (river red gum), gu|r|ja|da, ja|da|n|in  
 (bloodwood), ji|ru|ju|ga, ma|nga|da  
 (woollybutt), ma|wa|r (ghost gum),  
 mu|d|ju (coolibah), na|na|na|l  
 (bloodwood), ru|ru|du, wa|ja|wu|l, wa|lan  
 (hill coolibah), ya|li|ri|ya|li|ri  
 (woollybutt).

(g) *paperbark trees:*

ga|li|wan, gan|dar, gu|ru|lu|wu|l,  
 ja|ma|na|ba, ra|mba|na, ra|nga, wu|lu|ru,  
 ya|na|mbu|r, yi|ri|mal.

(h) *kurrajong trees:*

ba|ru|ba|ru|r, na|di|lan, wu|nu|ng|u|lu|n.

(i) *fig trees:*

ma|na|gu, ma|ya|ra|na|ja.

(j) *plum trees:*

gu|lin|ja, ma|la|wal, mu|nju|j,  
 wa|ma|na.

(k) *mangroves:*

ba|gan, bu|lu|gi|ja, gu|di|j|ba|l,  
 ma|la|mba|na|in, na|mi, wa|ra|mba|l,  
 ya|bi|r.

(l) *wattles:*

ba|la|ra, da|nga|ga|ra (lancewood),  
 ju|gu|l, mi|ya|ri|ga|ri, mu|di|di,  
 ra|mu|bi|ya, ya|da|ya|da|wu|la, ya|la|ra.

(m) *cypress and whistling trees:*

ma|nu|ng|u|ru|n, nga|ra|ra, wa|gu|wa|gu,  
 yi|mbi|d.

(n) *pandanus:*

bu|ru|lu, ma|yi|ga|l (nut), mu|ga|ra,  
 wa|gu|ru.

(o) *palms:*

ma|na|ju (cycad), wu|li|da (fan-  
 palm), wu|lu|ng|u|gu|lu|ru (coconut),  
 ya|wa|la|ma (fan-palm).

(p) *other trees and shrubs:*

ba|ma|na, ba|nar (marble tree),  
 ba|n|mi|ra, bi|ri|wi|ri, bu|du|ga, bu|gun,  
 bu|la|ng|an|ga, di|ly|ar, du|ba|l,  
 du|mbu|yu|mbu (sandalwood), ga|ba|l,  
 ga|da|bu|ra|y, ga|li|ji|ri, ga|n|da|ni|li|li,  
 ga|ra|la|la, ga|ri|ma|la, ga|ra|ba|ga|r|ma|ba,  
 gu|lu|bi|n|da|ma, gu|nu|bul, gu|yi|ya,  
 ji|n|di|ji|n|di, ji|ng|u|li|li  
 (conkerberry), ji|rg, ji|ri|ma,  
 ji|ri|ji|r, ji|wu|ru (wild cassava  
 tree), li|bu|lu (gutta percha),  
 li|ri|li|ri, ma|l|ba|ma (ironwood),  
 ma|la|a|na|nga, ma|lu|ng|a|ri|ni|n (quinine  
 bush), ma|wu|lu|gu, mi|ga|l,  
 mi|ni|ja, mu|n|gu, mu|nu|r|wi|la,  
 na|ga|gu|l, na|di|n, ru|gu|mi|r, wa|d|ba|r,  
 wa|da|ra|yu, wa|da|wa|da, wa|lan|ju|rga,  
 wa|ng|a|di|yi|n (quinine bush),  
 wa|n|da|g, wa|n|di|n, wi|wi|l  
 (ironwood), wi|ng|ir (milkwood),  
 wu|n|ju|r|wu|n|ju|r, wu|wu, yi|ngi|ri|ri,  
 yi|ri|di|di, yi|wa|l, yi|wa|ng|u|lu|bu|ju.

MAMMALS (including yija *large game animals*)

(a) *kangaroos and wallabies:*

garjambal (antelope kangaroo), gaḅalburu (female garjambal), girimbu or girmu (euro), luḅbam (young girimbu), malurunguruna (female ḅargulamba), ḅargulamba (agile/sandy wallaby), ḅulumuru (nail-tailed wallaby), waḅgugu (rock wallaby).

(b) *cattle:*

bulugi (bullock), manabaru or wali (buffalo), yaraman (horse).

(c) *canines:*

biḅgur (dingo), garwiḅi or wuḅgan (dog).

(d) *small mammals:*

gujaḅi (possum), miḅbilḅin or waḅmur (sugar glider), ḅaliḅali (native cat), waḅgurag (bandicoot), yirmaḅa (echidna).

(e) *bats:*

biḅbinjaḅa, guryala (red flying fox), madjur (black flying fox).

BIRDS

(a) *hawks:*

ḅiliyagḅiliyag, gargaḅ, ḅagḅag.

(b) *owl:*

mugmug.

(c) *ducks and geese:*

ḅiwaj, jirḅiyug, ḅaḅḅuḅa, madiwaj, ḅuliri, waḅmaḅ.

(d) *others:*

balubalu (pelican), bidiliriliri (plover), bugbana (pheasant), buḅunbuḅun (spoonbill), ḅiḅibawaba (lotusbird), ḅilḅilgururu (peewee), ḅiḅmanjar (kingfisher), gaḅawadḅiri, garaggarag (darter), garinji (jabiru), gaḅḅunja (nankeen night-heron), guḅargu (brolga), ḅulanbiri (pelican), guralḅḅuralḅ (koel), gurbuḅugurbuḅu, gurgur (kookaburra),

guwiḅu (curlew), jaguḅudjaguḅud (pigeon), jambirina (turkey), jaraḅadbuwa (chestnut rail), jarag (gull), jarḅiḅiḅarḅiḅi (wren), jigjig, jiriḅḅiḅ (quail), jiriḅirgu (kookaburra), juḅir, juḅyar (friarbird), ḅiraḅuma (black cockatoo), miliḅmar (parrot), ḅinin (finch), ḅilili (corella), ḅirḅḅirḅ or ḅirwula (sulphur-crested cockatoo), walunara (brolga), waḅḅwaḅḅ (crow), wurugayin (emu).

REPTILES (including wayway *snakes*)

(a) *goannas:*

baḅmunu, ḅarabu, waḅabir.

(b) *other lizards:*

bagmanjar (snake-lizard), ḅadba or ḅalḅunji or gabaḅa (frilled lizard), gabilili (skink *sp.*), gaḅaḅgaḅaḅ (skink *sp.*), ḅirga (blue-tongue), yaminji (gecko).

(c) *freshwater tortoises:*

buruḅandiḅ, jabaḅa, yandawaḅ.

(d) *marine turtles:*

jaḅiwaḅḅi, maḅawururu, ḅaluwa, ruḅuru, wulbajajali, yunduḅuga.

(e) *crocodiles:*

ḅaḅajara, ḅaḅguru, waḅajandama.

(f) *pythons:*

bubunara, gaḅḅir, gundi, gurujadḅungu, waluḅma.

(g) *deadly snakes:*

bandiyan (king brown), garimaḅa (taipan), maraḅḅaḅa or ḅuluḅ (black whip), yaliḅali (death adder).

(h) *others:*

jaḅmiḅaḅmi (file snake), wuniḅbuniḅ (sea snake).



FISH (ḡuḡu), RAYS (ḡuyḡuy), SHARKS,  
SEA MAMMALS

(a) *rays*:

gambuma, jiriyiri, maḡgalgal,  
mirḡaḡu, walanaga, wurmaḡamaḡa.

(b) *sharks*:

barga (sawshark), jinma (whaler),  
wariyaḡalayawu (hammerhead),  
wulugugu, yulmunji.

(c) *dugong*:

gurwiji, jawuru, wugaḡij.

(d) *other sea mammals*:

miḡiyi, yaḡawuma, yuḡarḡu.

(e) *fork-tailed catfish*:

bilimar, mijuruḡu, ḡalaḡaḡa,  
ḡulumidin, walmagara.

(f) *eel-tailed catfish ('nailfish')*:

giḡigiḡi, ḡiwaray.

(g) *mulletts*:

gayawuwu, wuḡiwuḡi.

(h) *perch*:

gaḡbi, ḡunaḡaḡa, mawurugu.

(i) *other fish*:

baḡurga (marine long-tom),  
gilibirma, gulduru (bony bream),  
gundir (toado), gurujgu,  
jabinmuru, jalbijalbij (rainbow-  
fish), jimbijamba, ḡiringiḡiḡ,  
milgiwiri or miriji (barramundi),  
muḡḡin, mururuḡu (barracuda),  
ḡabalaḡa or wurjulugu (garfish),  
ḡalaḡara (archer fish), ḡarabuḡa,  
ḡarayaḡ (Saratoga), ḡubari  
(queenfish), ḡuljun (sleepy cod),  
ḡalyi (eel), ḡanuga (butterfish),  
walagari, waḡaḡawaḡaḡa (suckerfish),  
wiḡjudu, wurjulugu (garfish),  
wuyaraḡa, yimayiri (groper),  
yumaḡi (long-tom).

SHELLS AND CRUSTACEANS

(a) *crabs*:

jamulmulanja (hermit crab),  
maḡarara (soldier crab), murarḡu,  
walmaraba (blue swimmer), waḡil

(giant mud crab).

(b) *other crustaceans*:

jimbalaḡ (crayfish).

(c) *shells*:

biribiri, buḡubunḡu,  
buruḡuburuḡu, gamba, jamiḡanba,  
jawuruḡalayi, ḡiyaga, mindiwaba,  
ḡagamba, ḡagulunju, wambaḡ  
(freshwater mussel),  
windiḡibindiḡi, wiḡiriḡiga,  
yunju.

INSECTS

(a) *honey bees* (ḡubari),  
*Trigona spp.*:

ḡulbari, ḡaḡamuru, ḡabi or  
ḡimaradji, ḡuluḡun or wanjimbun.

(b) *others*:

ḡabururu or ḡajbiḡajbi (grass-  
hopper), ḡunḡil (fly),  
magurmagur (dragonfly), maḡur  
(witchetty grub), muḡa  
(mosquito), warabawaraba  
(spider).

OTHER FAUNA

(a) *frogs*:

ḡaḡi, yulwu.

(b) *others*:

bambaḡ (sea-sponge; coral),  
muraḡbu (scorpion), ḡarambili  
(centipede).

HUMAN BODY PARTS AND EXCRETIONS

(walḡi *body*)

balara (buttock), baḡḡij  
(kidney), biḡbar (neck, throat),  
bulbul (heart), gaḡḡar (anus),  
giḡḡir (penis), giwgiw (lung),  
ḡululu (head), ḡuluḡal (brain),  
ḡunḡi (ankle), ḡuḡa or ḡuḡa  
(semen), jaḡul (testicle),  
jaminjamin (eyebrow), jaḡamba  
(forehead), jaḡda (back),  
jaḡaḡu (menstrual blood), jaḡal  
(jaw), jaḡaḡḡa (beard), maḡa  
(hand), maḡaḡar (chest), maḡur

(face), mala (abdomen, area around navel), malir (back), maɭabaŋu (clitoris), mangal- (head), maraŋuru (head), maɽbur (hand), miliɖiɖi (rib), miyirbaɽbaɽ (head), mudurmudur (head hair), muɭiriŋ (skeleton), mundur (backbone), muŋɖa (muscle), murji (hand), murunji (elbow), ndagi (nape), ndula (leg), nduru (shin), njagaɽ (saliva), njalɓar (vulva), njiɽiba (nose), njiyilŋ (tongue), ŋaɽuma (brisket), nunguŋa (arm), ŋaɖin (skin), ŋabaɭa (shoulder), ŋalimur (collarbone), ŋaŋɖal (mouth),

ŋanja (belly), ŋaralɓa (eye), ŋaraŋgaɭŋin (ankle), ŋarmaɭ (armpit), ŋaɽaŋaɽa (knee), ŋayala (jaw), ŋayigan (bone), ŋgurya (excrement), ŋguɽa (see guɽa), ŋuliji (blood), ŋulumurun (pubic hair), ŋuruwaŋin (sweat), ɽaba (nail, tooth), wadamuru (head), waɖuwaɖu (liver), wambibi (breast), wanam (ear), waɽj (urine), yabara (leg), yarbij (thigh), yibar (sinew), yidma or yinma (foot), yiwur (penis), yul- (nose), yula (leg), yulu-ear.

ENGLISH INDEX



## A

*Aboriginal* See 'human'  
*absent* yagu  
*accuse* See 'blame'  
*afraid* giṛi, yagu  
*afternoon* miṛmiṛya  
*again* jiñi  
*ahead* yanggar  
*aim* miñ  
*alive* ḡad  
*almost* ḡala-ḡala  
*always* gudagaya  
*angry* ḡari, yiḷal  
*antmount* guṇur, jidiḡara  
*appear* See 'go out'  
*armband* manba, ṛilgara  
*arrive* ḡaṇi (See also 'go out')  
*ashes* buḷḡu  
*ask* ḡiḷ  
*attack* ṛambi, yil  
*awake* wanggay  
*away* waṛwaṛ  
*axe* badanga

## B

*baby* baḡaḡa  
*bad* wirju  
*bank* ḡurja  
*(tree) bark* ñaḡin ('skin')  
*bathe* See 'go into water'  
*beach* wuruḡaran

*because* aru  
*before* jalji, yalja, yanggarmanja  
*begin* garig  
*behind* ḡaṇaṇaṇa  
*belt* See 'hairbelt'  
*bend, bent* See 'crooked', 'lean'  
*big* balwayi, ṛuḡgal  
*billabong* ḡargu  
*bite* ḡawj, gal, ḷir, -ya-  
*bitter* balgiñ  
*black* wanguranja  
*block* jad, ñil, yaḡ  
*bloom* baṇ  
*boat* barawu  
*boil* jaḡ  
*boomerang* guyabiri, mulwari, wariḡila, yuḷanji  
*born* baḷa  
*boss* wabalu  
*bounce* gaburg  
*branch* maṛbaṛba, ḡuḡḡuḡa  
*break* maṇaḡ, mud  
*break off* ḡi  
*breakfast* jagaṛ  
*breathe* ḡiṛ  
*briefly* yuḡmuḡḡi  
*bubble* murñmurñ  
*burn* bu, guṇij, -ḡaṇi-  
*burp* maṇḡar  
*bury* See 'cover'  
*bush* ḡalaḡin  
*bushes* ḷarin

## C

*call* namba  
*call out* gaw  
*camp* ɾadbur, ñim (verb)  
*canoe* najan  
*carry, take* bid, biray, dib, -ga-,  
 gi, gudid, maɭ, niŋdal  
*carve* jar  
*catch fish* jaw  
*cease* !arañ  
*ceremony* diɭdil, maŋdiwa,  
 yabuduruwa, yunguwan  
*charcoal* njiwa  
*chase* See 'follow'  
*chew* jag  
*child* See 'small'  
*chop* gal, jadba  
*circumcised* maŋur  
*circumcision* maŋdiwa  
*clay* gilwir, maŋunga, ŋalabura  
*clean, clear* gaɾayara, ŋalwaɭa  
*cloud* mala  
*coffin* !urgun  
*coil* !uñ, waŋa  
*cold* ɟag  
*come* See 'go;  
*continue* ɟirg, jaɾi  
*cook* ɟiwan, guŋij  
*cooked* gabul  
*cooliman* ɾandaga  
*copulate* -ŋulwaya-  
*corroboree* !aŋur

*cough* gurgur  
*cover, bury* !ara, !urg, ñil  
*crawl* gil  
*crooked, bent* gunduggundug,  
 ŋarwuɭg  
*cry* jililij, !u!  
*cut* -ilama-, jar, !ar

## D

*dam up* See 'block'  
*damper* janguyaɭa  
*dance* See 'play'  
*dangerous* yaramba  
*dark* ŋimug, wanguranja  
*dawn* See 'morning'  
*day* marjaŋaŋa, ŋalbum, ŋalwar  
*defecate* -iɟaŋa  
*defend* maŋ  
*desert* See 'bush'  
*devil* wuruyu  
*diarrhoea* gaɟiɾa  
*die* nabaɾ, yiw  
*dig* gaɭ, ŋur  
*dillybag* marwaɟaga  
*dirty* buɾŋgur  
*dive in* See 'go into water'  
*do that* -ma-  
*down* yaɭburi  
*draw* bal  
*drink* guɭ  
*drown* ŋambud  
*dry* bunji

## E

*east* gaŋu, yini  
*eat* jalbij, ñab, -ŋa-  
*egg* waɾugu  
*end, tip* njiɾiba ('nose')  
*enjoy* See 'like'  
*enter* biɿi  
*every* wulgulya

## F

*face punishment* buwa  
*fall* ɗalag, yar  
*far away* ñanay  
*fart* ɗir  
*fast* garjaɿ  
*fat* ŋajbaŋajbaya, ɾaŋajba  
*feather* ɾaman  
*feathered stick* ɗilɗil  
*feel sorry* See 'pity'  
*few* See 'several'  
*fight* -janayajima (verb), ŋari  
 (noun and verb)  
*find* ɗud  
*finish* biŋ, waj  
*fire* ŋambur, wurgmalan  
*firestick* buɗalar, buju (verb)  
 jiwuyiwulya  
*firewood* malaŋin  
*fish* See 'catch fish'  
*flash* See 'lightning'  
*flat country* See 'plain'

*flee* ɗay  
*flip over* See 'turn over'  
*floater* mawaɿ  
*flood* walamagamaga, waɾajara  
*flower* marayuɿuyuɿu, wurugugu  
*fly* ɗiw  
*follow, chase* jaj, ɿuɿuj, munji  
*food* See 'meat', 'vegetable food'  
*forever* yij, yijiri  
*forget* mug, wad  
*fork in tree* balangar, galagala  
*full* bir, ŋalgañan  
*full-grown* gabubulya

## G

*gather* guɾngur  
*genital cover* madamada, wuɿñin  
*get, pick up* ɾud, warj  
*get up* ɗuŋ  
*girl* maɿamaɿaba, waɾanbaɾangar  
*give* -wa  
*glide* See 'slide'  
*go* gi, juy, -ɾa-  
*go across* ɿaw  
*go around* baɿabaɿa, waɿ  
*go down* jub  
*go into water* ɗirwu, ɿib  
*go out* ɗar, yur  
*go past* yaɿ, yaɿjaɿ  
*go through* raj

*go up* bij, mal, ɲab, yar  
*good* gabaja, yumar  
*grab* jabi, jaɖ, mud  
*grope* jaɾud  
*ground* wanbaɭgur  
*grow* ɖud, gal

## H

*hairbelt* wiɖiga  
*hang* ɖad  
*happy* yumar  
*harpoon* ɾaɖar  
*head for* waɖara  
*headdress* guɖaɾi  
*hear* -gayama, wiɾ  
*heavy* guɭgmin  
*hiccup* jalgaɖubɖub  
*hide* ɖar  
*hit* -bu-, ɖa, ɖabur, ɲan, ɾaŋ  
*hold* ɖil, jaɭ, -nija  
*hole* yilba  
*hollow tree* wujuja  
*hook up spear* ɾal  
*hop* See 'jump'  
*hot* ɖaɖ  
*howl* garaɾ  
*hungry* wayar  
*hunt* bulub, -wuj-ga- (see -ga-),  
 yaja

## I

*ignorant* wuŋun  
*injure* maŋaɖ  
*inside* yiribala  
*island* ɭuɭga (ɭulga)

## J

*jealous* mirg  
*jump* wirg  
*jungle* jilbi, ɭirjal

## K

*keep* See 'hold'  
*kick* -ba-  
*knock down* yal  
*know* yalya

## L

*land* ɖil (verb)  
*later* baɖa, galɲi  
*leaf* mbiɭal, ɾimbiɾ  
*lean, bend over* mun, wun  
*learn* maɭ  
*leave* bad  
*lie (untruth)* wuɭ  
*lie down* biɖ, (guɭa-)ŋaw, yar  
*light (fire)* ɖay  
*lightning* yaminji  
*lightweight* bulbuldu  
*like, enjoy* bur



*long, tall* ɾugalara

*long time* gayari

*look* ɳalwaɾ

*look back* baɾa

*look for* -wiŋɖi-

### M

*make* jaɾaɟ

*make trouble* gul

*man* ɳaŋgiwar, ɳjalguyi, waɳya

*many* See 'much'

*maybe* jabay

*meat* jalbij, wangubi

*meet* mad

*middle* ɳalwar, wuluɳa

*milk* wambibi

*Milky Way* guŋɖuru

*miss (not hit)* muy, wirju, yaɳ

*month* ɖaŋaɖaŋa

*moon* waɖaŋarin

*morning, dawn* jilgɳi, ɳiliŋiliwayi, yaɾ

*much, many* jiribi, ɳiŋ, maɳgayayi, ɳjaɾi

*mud* wajaɳɟ

*muster* ɖuɾuɾ

### N

*name* ɳiyin

*nearby* ɖigay

*nest* jangar, mbirmbir

*night* ɳamiri

*no!* awayi

*north* guymi, wuɳmi

*now* miŋi, ɳala

### O

*ochre* baruwa, yuni

*old person* ganuŋ(gu), jawulba

*one* wangiɳ, wurwangij

*open* gaɾay

*other* -gayi, mawurgayi, wayara

*oven* guŋuɾ, ɳgaɳɳar

### P

*paddle* jaɳab (verb)

*pain* ɳiri, ɳumba

*paint* See 'clay', 'ochre'

*paperbark* ɳiba

*path* maŋal-, mangan, yilgiŋ

*person* waɾiyi

*pierce* See 'puncture'

*plain (flat country)* mayamaya, wuray

*play, dance* ɖiduŋ

*plunge in* See 'go into water'

*point, spike* jimiŋɖi, maɳbi

*poison* mangar, maɾawuriŋa

*poke* jid

*pollen* gungaŋɖa

*pound* bal

*pour, spill* yur

*pull* jaꝛ  
*pull up, pull out* jab, juyub  
*puncture* jalꝛ  
*push* juꝛuꝛu  
*put down* -ja-, wur  
*put in, put on* wuꝛi

## R

*rain* gubijiji, njuꝛa  
*rainbow* wiꝛaragama  
*raw* gangima  
*really* bindi, yulbaj  
*red* buꝛilbuꝛil  
*reject* -wangani-  
*remember* miꝛ  
*remove* gaꝛ  
*rest* See 'sleep'  
*restless* bara  
*return* wari  
*ridge* !iꝛ!iꝛ, malmalwana  
*ripe* maramara  
*rise* See 'go up'  
*river* balba  
*road* See 'path'  
*roast* See 'cook'  
*rope* See 'string'  
*rub* wur  
*run* ꝛad

## S

*sacred* maj, ñugur, -ꝛgira  
*sad* (ꝛanja-)wirju  
*salt* miꝛijar  
*saltwater* maꝛuruꝛuru  
*same* -ñi  
*sand* gujan  
*say* See 'do that'  
*scar* burgun, minjigawugawu  
*scare* !ir  
*scrape* wiꝛj  
*scratch* gaꝛj  
*season* ꝛguꝛday  
*see* waꝛ  
*send* ꝛuꝛ  
*(sun) set* bur  
*several* muluꝛuy, murgu  
*shade* yaꝛigu  
*shaft of spear* ꝛgalin, ꝛgumul,  
 yibaꝛa-  
*shake* giyagiya, ji  
*shift* biꝛ  
*shine* ꝛuwa, wuñ  
*shoo away* jaꝛar  
*short* babꝛalan  
*shortcut* gaꝛar  
*shut* See 'close'  
*sick* njanur, ꝛay  
*silent* ꝛayab  
*sing, song* ꝛubal, war  
*sit* ꝛaj, -maljuꝛa, -na-, ꝛaldud

*sleep* miññaña, mulg, wiñ,  
 yaña  
*slide* waman  
*slow* maṛamaṛa  
*small* mañagu, yigu  
*smell* ñuñ, ŋarwa  
*smoke* ŋḍuḍar, yunguḍ (verb)  
*sneak away* See 'flee'  
*sneak up* baḷ  
*sneeze* jiri  
*soak* gul, gur  
*soon* ṅalaymaryi  
*sore* bubu  
*sound* guñ, ṅurṅurṅur  
*south* wayburi, wagi, -yiwayi  
*speak* ṅaḷ  
*spear* (noun) ḍuṅal, gaṅḍurba,  
 guruwalya, jagaḷmara, jaṅuḷ,  
 ḷarṅinja, ḷuḷumara, maḷugundu,  
 mawaṛayimbirjimbir, mayaḷuṅgu,  
 ṅaṛñṅaṛñ, ṛaragal, waḷgamban,  
 wanungu, wañin, wariman,  
 waṛagulu, wiḷmur  
*spear* (verb) gal, -walmida-  
*spill* See 'pour'  
*spirit* malṅuñ  
*spit* ṅaljug  
*splash* yiwiñ  
*spread* bij  
*spring* jilbi  
*spy* wirjin  
*stand* bay  
*star* gamirinji  
*stay* buliñ  
*steal* gur

*step on* wal  
*stick* biñbiñ (see also 'tree')  
*sting* -muña-  
*stone* ḷigar, maḷigar, manuga  
*straight* mañjurjur  
*string* ṅaḍugu, yibar  
*stringybark* yalanu, yulway  
*strong* galgalgaṛa  
*sun* warṅiwarṅi  
*surround* jawj  
*swallow* jul  
*swim* ṅuy

## T

*tail* njigur, ṛabara  
*take* See 'carry', 'get'  
*take out* See 'remove'  
*talk* See 'speak'  
*tall* See 'long'  
*tapstick* jamaḷag, jandayi  
*tell* -ja-, yagar  
*think* waḍara  
*thirsty* ḍaṅ  
*throw* ḍiw, ḍub  
*tie* ḍira, wiḷ  
*tired* yil  
*today* See 'now'  
*tomahawk* See 'axe'  
*tomorrow* See 'morning'  
*track, trail* baṛan  
*trap for fish* yaḍbin

*tree, wood* ḡabaliya, yulba  
*trunk of tree* ḡaṅul, yabara  
*turn on* guwiḡ  
*turn over* guḡid  
*twist* waḡi  
*two* mudḡuy, wudḡuy

## U

*uncircumcised* yaḡiṅga  
*underwater* wuljur  
*up* arajay, arajiyi, arwaḡ,  
 ḡagiḡagi  
*urinate* waḡj

## V

*vegetable food* mariya  
*vomit* wi

## W

*wait for* yaḡ  
*walkabout* jalaḡa, manjawumanjau  
*walking stick* gaṅḡina  
*want* ṅal

*warrior* galga  
*water* ḡalmi, ḡaḡaja  
*wax* maṅaṅar  
*weak* bilg  
*well (of water)* ḡajal  
*west* argaḡi  
*wet* waja  
*white* buralgmin  
*White* munṅa  
*wind* bara, maḡun, walulu  
*witch doctor* gulun  
*woman* wuybi  
*wood* See 'tree'  
*woomera* baḡya, maṅal, wujula  
*word* ndaway  
*wrap* ḡab

## Y

*yamstick* ganayi, jaraji  
*yes!* anga  
*yesterday* See 'afternoon'  
*young* See 'small'

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