Lexicography for language revival: Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay lexicography since 1975

John Giacon ANU
David Nathan GROOTE EYLANDT LANGUAGE CENTRE

Australex 2019
ANU, Canberra, 3rd September 2019
Winangaylanha!
Lexicography or lexigenesis?

How do we say?

NRL: We are proud to represent the oldest culture

Happy Fathers Day

Recipe: bake;

Bush tucker garden

Sunburnt country, far horizons

Shower, take a

Rugby League Indigenous Stars

Recipe: bake; oven, oil

Sunburnt country, far horizons

bigibila

Sunburnt country, far horizons

Sunburnt country, far horizons

Shower, take a
GURRE KAMILAROI: OR KAMILAROI SAYINGS BY WILLIAM RIDLEY, MISSIONARY. THE ENGRAVINGS BY W. MASON.
Summary timeline to 1975

• 1850s William Ridley, Charles Greenway
• 1890s Katherine Langloh Parker, Peter Hippi, Boodha
• 1890s Robert H Mathews
• 1930s Gerhardt Laves, Norman Tindale
• 1950s Ian Sim: Ginny Rose, Willy Willis, Mrs West, Greg Fields
• 1955 Stephen Wurm – notes and tape
Summary timeline since 1975

• 1972-5 Peter Austin – basic vocabulary and expressions
• 1970s Arthur Dodd, Fred Reece, recorded by Janet Mathews, Corinne Williams
• 1980 Corinne Williams’ Grammar of Yuwaalaraay ~1500 words (wordlist, Yuwaalaraay)
• 1991-3 Peter Austin (with Bill Reid) – published dictionary ~500 words
• 1995-6 Austin, Nathan – WWW dictionary 1996
• 1995- John Giacon – reconstitution of old materials
• 2014 John Giacon, PhD Grammar of Yuwaalaraay Gamilaraay
• (ongoing) including community-based. Huge expansion in use of simple language
Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay Web Dictionary

The Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay language belongs to the Kamilaroi people and to Kamilaroi country, northern New South Wales, Australia

http://bit.do/gamdict
Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay Dictionary

Table of Contents

1. Dictionary

   How to use the dictionary: choose a first letter from below and/or use the Finderlists.

   Hint: Use your browser’s FIND function in the Finderlists to search for any English or Kamilaroi word. Then click on any Kamilaroi word to look up its main entry.

   Go to first letter ... B D G M N T W Y

   (Kamilaroi words can only begin with these letters; see Sounds and spelling)

2. Finderlists: WORDLIST or THESAURUS

3. Other information

   Preface
   How to use the Kamilaroi dictionary

   The Kamilaroi language
   The Kamilaroi dictionary
     Kamilaroi word
     The type of word
     Translation
     Additional information
     Sounds and spelling

   Vowels
   Consonants
   Syllables and stress

   Kamilaroi bibliography and resources

http://bit.do/gamdict
maal n

- one
- see also bulaarr, guliba

maala adv

- once

maal-duul n
  - none
  - see also marrayirr

maang n

baby gaayinggal
back bawa, guRiya
bad gagil
bag mangga
bag, string gulay
Baime baayama
bandicoot guru
bark nganda
bark of tree tharraa
bark, to gula-li
be ill, to wiibi-li
be sick, to wiibi-li
be, to gi-gi
beard varray
bedroll djaagarri

Home/Reset
Contents

Dictionary:  B  D  G  M  N  T  W  Y

Finderlists:  Wordlist  Thesaurus

http://bit.do/gamdict
Extensive negotiations included action on ...

• ‘rude’ (anatomical) words
• extent of country shown on map
Launch event, Moree NSW, 16th Feb 1996

The launch video:
News item | YouTube | Local

Elders
Kids
Attendees
bit.do/gamdict

Average users:
~1,000 per month

Lifetime > 200K
Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay Yuwaalayaay Dictionary
2003

For article about development, see:
https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/6919
Launch of Gayarragi Winangali

• Koori Centre, Sydney by Prof Larissa Behrendt March 2009
Welcome

Yaama, Hello

Gayarragi, Winangali – Find and Hear: Search over 2000 Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay words and listen to them. Hear over 1000 sentences spoken by traditional Yuwaalaraay speakers, listen to 30 songs and 13 stories, or do Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay crosswords.

John Giacomo & David Nathan

Gayarragi, Winangali is dedicated to all the Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay people who have helped record and preserve the language, to those who are working to rebuild it, and to those who will speak it in future.

Gayarragi, winangali live
**GY words**

Click a first letter to begin

A B D G L M N P R U W Y

---

**barran**

npln*, placename
Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaaraay, Yuwaalayaay

---

**a. boomerang**

**b. Burren Junction (GR)**

barranbaa npln*, placename Yuwaalaaraay, Yuwaalayaay
a. brigalow wattle *Acacia harpophyila*

> A medium- to large-sized wattle which grows in large thickets known as ‘brigalow scrub’.

b. location (YR)

> A place for collecting timber for barran (boomerangs) near Goodooga. Probably from barran (boomerang) and -baa (place of, time of).

barranbuu noun Yuwaalaaraay nickname

> Said to refer to an old stockman who had bow legs. Based on barran (boomerang) and, possibly, buyu (leg).
Sentences for barran

56. **Gaalaighbila nhamaharran!**
   Galaanbi-li -la nhamaharran!
scratch -command that, the boomerang
Scraper that boomerang!

69. **Giirr nhamahubbaay gilay dhurralaanhatharrangiirr.**
   Giirr nhamahubbaay gilay dhurrala -li -laa -y -nha, barran -giirr.
   really that, the small moon come -moving -Present boomerang -like
That new moon is rising, (it's) like a boomerang.

174. **Baayambaharrangabala ngay barran.**
   Baayamba, gaba -bala ngay barran.
   friend good -contrast my boomerang
Hey mate, my boomerang is better. [than yours]. [From Wuulaa and Gila story]
English words

Click a first letter to begin

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

machinery: iron; machinery gumbadhaa
Macintyre River: Boobera Lagoon or Macintyre River
Gawubuwan Gunigal
mad, crazy, stupid, silly; eccentric wamba
mad, silly, mad; pretending! yaambul
maggot, blowfly camugarnuu
magic stone muulliyay
magpie goose dhawudjardjmu
magpie berrugarrbu, mugarrabaa
magpie-lark: peewee, magpie-lark barrindilii, biritnabiruga
Major Mitchell cockatoo: pink cockatoo, Major Mitchell
cockatoo gaalarr
make (construct) djurra-li
make (force) buyawila-li
make (something) happen -ma-li
make a corroboree: dance dhan.qurrarama-y
make a fire, light a fire wil wiima-li
make better: fix, heal, make better maaruma-li, maavuma-li

2 sentences found for wamba

Go to sentences

wamba

noun Yuwaalayaay
Canopus (star)

> This word is still widely used.

Wamba noun Yuwaalayaay

> The Wamba story tells that 'he went mad and is running away', the two green parrot sisters chased him across the sky. An associated phrase is wamba bagaarr. banagawaanha, from wamba (mad), bagaarr (shortcut) and banaga-y (run).
wamba

- mad, crazy
- stupid, silly
- eccentric

This word is still widely used.

Wamba noun Yuwaalayaay
Canopus (star)

The Wamba story tells that ‘he went mad and is running away’, the two green parrot sisters chased him across the sky. An associated phrase is wamba bagaarr, banagawaanha, from wamba (mad), bagaarr (shortcut) and banaga-y (run).
Miyay Garunggay: The Girl Will Drown

- Karen Flick

"Garungga-y gi-yaa-nha, barraay banaga-ya
garungga-y -y gi-yaa-nha barraay banaga-ya -ya
drown -Future going.to quickly run -command

dhuwima-li-gu-nha gungan-di."
dhuwima-li -li -gu -nha gungan -dhi
remove -Future -purpose -that water -from

Gunidjarr nhama bamba banaga-nhi.
gunidjarr nhama bamba banaga-y -nhi
mother that.the hard run -Past

Bundaa-nhi gungan-da-bula.
bundaa-gi -nhi gungan -ga -bula
tail -Past water -in,at,on -also

"She is going to drown, run and pull her out from the water."
Her mother ran there quickly.
Then she fell into the water too.
Memory game

Gamilaraay, Animals, GY sound & GY spelling

Player 1
0

Player 2
0

burrugarrbuu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration data and user survey 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• stats from download registration form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st 3 years: 20 per month, 2nd 3 years: 25 per month, now: 20 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number of learners served: 16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• main distillations from survey, implemented in version 2.0 (2014):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• MacOS version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• all sentences connected to their speakers (incl photo)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Browse sentences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Galaanbila nhama barran!</td>
<td>scrape that boomerang!</td>
</tr>
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<td>Giirr nhama bubaay gilay dhurralaanh, barrangiirr.</td>
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‘Ma! Gamilaraay’ app

• data programmed and exported from Gayarragi Winangali
• valuable for word finding and spelling – for iOS users
Indigenous dictionary may save the Miriwoong language from extinction

Phone app helps save indigenous language

DYING indigenous languages could be saved with the help of modern technology - smartphone applications.
A graveyard of apps?
**barran** noun*, placename* Yuwaalaraay, Yuwaalayaay
a. boomerang
b. Burren Junction GR

**barranbaa** noun* placename* Yuwaalaraay, Yuwaalayaay
- A medium- to large-sized wattle *Acacia harpophylla*
  - A place for collecting timber for **barran** (boomerangs) near Goodooga. Probably from **barran** (boomerang) and **baa** (place of, time of).

**barranbuu** noun Yuwaalaraay
nickname
- Said to refer to an old stockman who had bow legs.

**barran giiba** noun Yuwaalaraay
boomerang maker

**barran giirr** adjective Yuwaalayaay
new moon
- Used to describe the moon in its early phase.

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Gayarragi, Winangali legacy

• its authoring platform nears end-of-life
• ... developed new interfaces, methods
• ... aided over 10 years of vigorous revitalisation
• ... data was corrected and improved
• ... its computational environment aided subsequent app development

• quality, dedication, responsiveness, appropriate engagement with technology are key (not technical or other criteria)
Revival lexicon as “crossroads”

♫ audio

♫ sentences

♫ phrases

♫ learning materials

♫ discussions (online, events)

♫ cross-refs

sources

web lookup

language development community

ew new language

waliindiya li

be lonely

Gurrum nhana-laa beralu-djuw waliindiya-kulu bingabas-dhu nguangu yuwa nginya. ‘The baby will be lonely when his mother goes away.’

walingay adjective

a. out of place
b. lonely, sulky

*The term walingay is used to describe a range of negative emotions, occurring in compounds such as murrurwalingay (state) and gana walingay (sud). Also waliindiyal.

wahuwaal noun

tree lizard

*Also called sleepy lizard and tree skink *Egerton arralata. Fred Reece said that it is about 6-8 inches long and lives in the bark of trees.
The new resource will appear late this year at:

bit.do/gamilaraay

Also under development: Gaaygaray app
Aims of language revival

• Identity, control of one’s life, language

• Reclaim, rebuild, reuse a traditional language
Aims of language revival

• **Identity, control of one’s life, language**
  Emphasis: ‘community’ control
  What is the community structure?

• **Reclaim, rebuild, reuse a traditional language**
  Emphasis: linguistic continuity – lexicon, grammar.....
  What structures, team is needed?
Revival dictionaries (cf most dictionaries)

• Emblematic

• One dictionary

• One or few authors

• Source of information rather than the collector

• Greater standardising influence
Revival dictionaries (cf most dictionaries)

• (Extremely) limited, old sources

• Gaps
  • Recorded information
  • Because it is in a new world

• Revival protocols; distribution control

• Nearly the sole language source
Uses of the Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay Dictionary

• It has been used to develop many resources;
  • Songs: Head, shoulders, knees, toes,
  • Books: Trees of Yuwaalaraay country
  • Wordlists
  • Gayarragi Winangali
  • Apps
Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay Dictionary and lexical expansion and semantic change

• Chosen
  • Gunii (‘mother’)
  • Wiyayl (extended; echidna quill > ‘pen+’)
• Modified by usage
  • Bandaarr (grey kangaroo > kangaroo)
  • Bumali (‘hit’: replaces other words)
Recent lexical development - numbers

balan  zero
maa   five
yuli  six YR, YY, GR
guulay seven YR, YY, GR
galay eight YR, YY, GR
mirraal nine YR, YY, GR
banay ten YR, YY, GR
barriga hundred YR, YY, GR
dhawadha thousand YR, YY, GR
wiwurra million YR, YY, GR
Māori examples: centralisation

“differential equation model” = tauira whārite pārōnaki
Aims of language revival

• Identity, control of one’s life, language
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Revival: hybridity and fragmentation

• Hybridity:
  • revived language is a mixture of the traditional language and the reviver’s first language (here, English)

• Semantic hybridity:
  • traditional form, English meanings

• Fragmentation:
  • reviving language can develop in fairly small, linguistically insulated spaces, each of which develops its unique version of the language
Current lexical development: example

Days of the week:
• Request from child care centre
• Discussion document
• Posted on blog, Facebook,
• Feedback
• Words suggested by a Gamilaraay woman and language teacher adopted
Use of one traditional language feature in lexical development: two element verb roots

dha- ‘test’

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>dha.ma-li</td>
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</tr>
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Recent ‘traditional’ lexical development using **biyuu** 'far' and the verb suffix **-ya-li** 'talk’:

- **biyuuyla-li** *verb transitive*. telephone - from YR
- **biyuuyal** *noun*. Telephone
- **biyuuuyalduul** *noun*. mobile telephone (-duul ‘small’)
- **yalduul** ‘mobile’

(in app *Ma! Gamilaraay*)
Verb roots in closely related languages

- Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay; Wangaaybuwan
- **dha/nga ‘test’** – first element of verb root

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Choices in lexical development

• Would GY developing calques of the Wangaaybuwan words which are not recorded in GY be a way of maintaining more of the traditional language? Even if these are not recorded in any GY source?

• Is the alternative to develop new words, which are semantic equivalents of English words?

• These to go into dictionary/blog/Facebook for discussion?
## Transitive verb roots in Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay, and Wangaaybuwan (closely related)

**dha/nga**  
‘test’

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<td>pierce</td>
<td>nga.ngga-li</td>
<td>test (poke hole)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>do.away</td>
<td>nga.mbi-li</td>
<td>test-do.away</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dhina ‘foot’</td>
<td>nga.nhdhi-li</td>
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<td>mouth</td>
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<td>manu.nhdha-li</td>
<td>steal (dog)</td>
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<td>move away</td>
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<td>manu.mbi-li</td>
<td>steal?</td>
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<td>steal ball?? soccer</td>
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Aims of lexical development

• Has community involvement, support, approval
• Expands language use
• Maintains traditional patterns
• Is easily distributed and maintains language coherence
Structures for lexical development

• Organisational
  • For another time
    • Long-term team; funding

• Lexicographic
  • Online dictionary which has multiple layers:
    • The usual fields
    • Discussion and survey material
    • Very clear semantic and syntactic information
    • ...

Uncle Ted Fields 1936 - 2006
Yuwaalaraay / Ularoi Elder and language champion
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