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Series A Volume 1

FIVE PAPERS IN AUSTRALIAN PHONOLOGIES

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PREFACE

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INTRODUCTION TO
SERIES A VOLUME I

The papers in this volume are descriptions of aspects of the phonologies of five Australian Aboriginal languages. Some have been written after detailed analysis and published to make data available, e.g. Alyawarra Phonology by Nancy Turtle. Others are the result of shorter periods of field work and analysis. These are being made available in preliminary form here and may be further edited and published more widely in the future.
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A TENTATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE PHONEMES
OF THE NGALKBUN LANGUAGE
(INCLUDING A SMALL WORD LIST)

John Sandefur and David Nangangolod Jentian

0. INTRODUCTION

Ngalkbun is the language spoken by many of the adults in the
Aboriginal community at Bamyilli, Northern Territory. Different
neighbouring language groups also use the names Dalabon and Buan
when referring to the Ngalkbun language. The children, however, do
not speak this language but speak an English Creole as their mother
tongue and English as their second language.

The Bamyilli Aboriginal community felt the need for an Aboriginal
language to be taught to the children. They chose Ngalkbun as the
language to be taught and David Jentian, an Aboriginal Teaching
Officer, was asked to develop a "revitalisation" programme. In its
early stages this programme has two main thrusts. The first one is
the teaching of Ngalkbun in oral language classes for the children in
school. The second is the developing of some Ngalkbun literature and
the preparation of bridging materials, specifically some primers de-
signed to assist adults who are literate in English to make the tran-
sition from reading in English to reading in Ngalkbun. To carry out
such a programme an alphabet was needed.

Most of the phonemic analysis presented in this paper was done
at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Darwin, from 28th August to
7th September, 1973. Mick Panter and Ronny Kentea who speak Ngalkbun
as their mother tongue acted as language helpers and provided the data
used in this paper. David Jentian began the compilation of the word
list and gave invaluable help in the analysis of the data because of
his knowledge of elementary linguistics gained while at the Aboriginal
Teacher Trainees Course in Darwin.

A further two weeks were spent at Bamyilli with the same two
language helpers checking the major "problem" areas in the analysis.
Partial checking of and additions to the word list were also handled at this time by John Sandefur, Mick Panter and Ronny Kentea.

We wish to thank Miss Velma Leeding of the Summer Institute of Linguistics for her consultant and editorial advice during the analysis of the data and the presentation of this material.

The present phonemics statement is a routine data paper designed as a basis for further investigation and analysis. The conclusions are only tentative, some being only initial observations. The model used for this paper is that of K. L. Pike (1947).

1. THE SYLLABLE

The syllable has been chosen as the basic unit for description. There are three emic syllable types:

CV  /ˈɡe/  'nose'
CVC  /ˈɡen/  'tongue'
CVCC  /ˈɡuln/  'bull dust'

1.1 DISTRIBUTION OF SYLLABLES

Words most frequently consist of from one to four syllables. A few words of five or six syllables have been found to date. Distribution of syllable types in the word is unrestricted.

Word boundaries have tentatively been determined by the following criteria:

(i) isolability
(ii) native reaction
(iii) pauses between sequences of sound in slow speech

One syllable words:
CV  /ˈɡe/  'nose'
CVC  /ˈɡen/  'tongue'
CVCC  /ˈɡuln/  'bull dust'
### Two syllable words:

| CV.CV | /ˈjila/ | 'axe' |
| CV.CVC | /towel/ | 'witchetty grub' |
| CV.CVCC | /pouˈŋo/ | 'red ant' |
| CVC.CVC | /pajkliʃ/ | 'wallaby (male)' |
| CVCC.CVC | /pajkan/ | 'boomerang' |
| CVCC.CVCC | /waɾkwaɾk/ | 'red ant' |

### Three syllable words:

| CV.CV.CV | /kuˈɾula/ | 'night bird' |
| CV.CVC.CV | /kuˈtuʔno/ | 'black' |
| CV.CVCC.CV | /koʃalʔno/ | 'new leaf' |
| CVC.CVC.CV | /kunjkuɾpa/ | 'black currant' |
| CVCC.CVCC.CV | /koɾʔkoɾʔno/ | 'night time' |

### Four syllable words:

| CV.CV.CV.CV | /kuɾuˈʒatu/ | 'carpet snake' |
| CVC.CV.CV.CV | /ʔaʔwuramu/ | 'sharp stick' |
| CVCC.CV.CV.CV | /wuɾʔwurugnu/ | 'old man' |

### Five syllable words:

| CVC.CV.CV.CVC.CV | /tarpalapaʔno/ | 'afternoon' |
| CVCC.CV.CV.CV.CV | /njerʔuɾamiyl/ | 'white skin' |

### Six syllable words:

| CVC.CVC.CV.CV.CV.CV | /ŋaʔyenjyenjŋuŋyany/ | 'I will be talking' |

### 1.2 DISTRIBUTION OF PHONEMES IN SYLLABLES

All vowels may occur in any vowel position in the syllable and word.
All consonants except /ʔ/ may occur syllable initially. All consonants except /y/ and /w/ may occur syllable finally and word finally. The consonants /ŋ/ and /ʁ/ do not occur word initially.

Within the syllable, the first consonant of a consonant cluster is /m/, /ŋ/, /ŋ/, /ʁ/, /ʁ/, /l/, or /l/. The second consonant of the cluster is /k/, /ʔ/ or /ŋ/.

/ʃk/  /wafkwafk/  'red ant'
/lk/  /kŋאלk/  'ibls'
/ʃn/  /pɔjuʃn/  'red ant'
/lŋ/  /njeŋkněn/  'it's ours'
/mʔ/  /ŋaʔtumʔka/  'I pierce'
/njʔ/  /mənoʔkeninjʔ/  'what is it?'
/ŋʔ/  /kəŋʔno/  'night time'
/ɾʔ/  /teɾʔyaʔno/  'morning'
/ɾʔ/  /ŋaʔweɾʔmu/  'I vomit'
/lʔ/  /njilʔno/  'rain'
/lʔ/  /koɾʔkoɾʔno/  'night time'

Across syllable boundaries, all consonants except /y/ and /w/ may occur as the first consonant of the dicluster. Any consonant except /ʔ/, /ŋ/, /ɾ/ and /ʁ/ may occur as the second consonant but /ɾ/, /l/ and /l/ seldom occur in this position.

Stop plus stop:
/pokot'pokot'/  'river pigeon'

Stop plus nasal:
/ŋaʔtaʔmu/  'I break it'

Stop plus semi-consonant:
/kotwoŋ/  'frog'
Glottal plus stop:
/gaʔpaʔka/
'I break it'

Glottal plus nasal:
/pajaʔno/
'snake track'

Glottal plus semi-consonant:
/teʔlaʔyaʔno/
'morning'

Nasal plus stop:
/puyonkl/
'long way'

Nasal plus nasal:
/ponno/
'big group'

Nasal plus semi-consonant:
/punyupunyu/
'little lizard'

Lateral plus stop:
/ʃulpu/
'ashes'

Lateral plus nasal:
/pulnu/
'them'

Lateral plus semi-consonant:
/kalwan/
'goanna'

Semi-consonant plus stop:
/tarpaŋʔ/
'yesterday'

Semi-consonant plus nasal:
/taɾmuno/
'tree root'

Semi-consonant plus semi-consonant:
/paɾwe/
'blunt edge'
Semi-consonant plus lateral:

/manguloklo/  'Adam's apple'

Triclustering of consonants can only occur word medially across syllable boundaries. The following consonants have been found to occur as the third consonant. Following /ʔ/ the consonants /p/, /t/, /k/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /ɣ/ and /w/ may occur. Following /k/ only /w/ and /n/ occur, and following /ŋ/ only /n/ has been found to date.

/ʔ/ plus stop:

/ʔuʔʔuʔno/  'quick'

/ʔ/ plus nasal:

/ŋaʔmaʔmaʔʔ/  'I am shivering'

/ʔ/ plus semi-consonant:

/yiʔʔiʔʔpʔe/  'underneath'

/k/ plus /w/:

/waʔkwaʔk/  'red ant'

/k/ plus /n/:

/keʔalkno/  'new leaf'

/ŋ/ plus /n/:

/ɡoŋno/  'sky'

1.3 SYLLABLE CONTRACTION

In fast speech, the vowel /a/ occurs as only a quick transition or is omitted in the open unstressed syllable of several words. It seems to occur preceding a lateral or /ɣ/ and results in syllable-initial consonant clusters.

/ʔabale/  ['ʔab^ale]  'shoulder blade'

["ʔabele]

/ʔalaʔkarat/  ['ʔalaʔk^"arat]  'fish spear'

["ʔalaʔk"rat]
2. STRESS

Stress appears to be predictable according to the following rules:

(i) Primary stress (') normally falls on the penultimate syllable of the word.

/mo'jan/ ['mo'jan] 'wild honey (from the ground)'

/qa?run/ ['qa?run] 'I cry'

(ii) In three syllable words primary stress falls on either the initial or penultimate syllable. When the initial syllable is closed with a final /?/, stress always falls on the penultimate syllable. In fast speech, stress usually occurs on the initial syllable.

/nakomtu/j ['nakomtu\j] 'little boy'

[na"komtu\\j]

/qa?tormu/ ['qa?tormu] 'I cough'

(iii) In words of four or more syllables, primary stress falls on the penultimate syllable and secondary stress (') on the initial syllable.

/wulkunjanjan/ ['wulkun\janjan] 'my younger sister'


/qa?yjenjen\j\unj\lyan/ ['qa?yjenjen\.\j\unj\lyan] 'I will talk'

(iv) Stress falls on both morphemes of reduplicated roots.

/pa?apa\a/ ['ba\a\ba\a] 'rib bones'

/punyapuna/ ['bunya\bunya\a] 'little lizard'
3. THE PHONEME

There are 22 phonemes in Ngalkbun, of which 17 are consonants and 5 are vowels.

The consonants consist of six stops, five nasals, two laterals and four semi-consonants. The active articulator for the apico-alveolar and retroflexed series is the tongue tip but the lamino-palatal is articulated with the tongue blade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Apico-Alveolar</th>
<th>Lamino-Palatal</th>
<th>Retroflex</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
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<td>n</td>
<td>nj</td>
<td>q</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>r</td>
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The distinctive features of the vowels are the back and non-back positions with high, mid and low tongue height.

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Non-back</th>
<th>Back</th>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>u</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>o</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>a</td>
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3.1 CONSONANTS

Stops:

The stops contrast at six points of articulation. The phonetic description is as follows:
/p/ [p] Devoiced bilabial unaspirated stop. Occurs in all positions. /pono/ 'river'.

/t/ [t] Devoiced alveolar unaspirated stop. Occurs in all positions. /toluk/ 'witchetty grub', /mat/ 'ankle'.

/ʂ/ [ʂ] Devoiced lamino-palatal unaspirated stop. Occurs in all positions. /ʂabale/ 'shoulder'.

/ʈ/ [ʈ] Devoiced retroflexed unaspirated stop. Occurs in all positions. /wuʈuʈ/ 'piccaninny'.

/k/ [k] Devoiced velar unaspirated stop. Occurs in all positions. /kekek/ 'grandmother'.

/ʔ/ [ʔ] Voiceless unaspirated glottal stop. Occurs only syllable final. /woʔ/ 'yes', /ŋiʔpəʔ/ 'north'.

Contrasts can be seen in the following sets of examples:

Word initial: /paŋno/ 'knee'
   /takun/ 'knife'
   /tapaale/ 'shoulder'
   /katam/ 'tooth'

Word medial: /kuʈupu/ 'plains kangaroo (male)'
   /ŋutuno/ 'feelings'
   /kuʈuŋ/ 'big lily'
   /wuʈuʈ/ 'piccaninny'
   /tukula/ 'possum (male)'

Word final: /mat/ 'ankle'
   /ŋaŋxaŋ/ 'white cockatoo'
   /paŋ/ 'knee'
   /ŋaŋkak/ 'I am clearing my throat'
   /pakaʔ/ 'big group'
Voiceless and voiced stops tend to vary freely in all positions. Aspiration can also occur on devoiced stops, mainly in word initial and final positions. One informant had a tendency to substitute the voiceless labio-dental fricative [f] for [p] in the stressed syllables of a word which he was emphasizing. Another informant had a tendency to substitute the alveo-palatal affricate [ts] for [t] in slow, emphasized speech.

The glottal stop has several allophones. When the glottal stop precedes another consonant it tends to assimilate to the point of articulation of the following consonant, and is phonetically an unreleased stop. This occurs most frequently preceding bilabial and velar stops. It has also been noted that it can assimilate to the point of articulation of the preceding consonant but data is not sufficient to allow a concise statement to be made.

/mel?pe/  [mePpe]  'wallaby (female)'

Nasals:

Nasals contrast at five points of articulation. The phonetic description is as follows:

/m/  [m]  Voiced bilabial nasal. Occurs in all positions. /numumut/ 'eyebrow'
/n/  [n]  Voiced alveolar nasal. Occurs in all positions. /na?a?pon/ 'we go'
/nj/  [nj]  Voiced lamino-palatal nasal. Occurs in all positions. /nja?mu/ 'good'
/ŋ/  [ŋ]  Voiced retroflexed nasal. Occurs in all positions except word initial. /pa?ama?/ 'black cockatoo'
/ŋ/  [ŋ]  Voiced velar nasal. Occurs in all positions. /na?aʔ/ 'white cockatoo'

Contrasts can be seen in the following sets of examples:

Word initial:  /maʔu/  'hair'
/najaʔpon/  'we go'
Laterals and Semi-consonants:

Laterals contrast at two points of articulation and semi-consonants contrast at four points. The phonetic description is as follows:

/l/ [l] Voiced alveolar lateral. Occurs in all positions except post-consonantal. /toluk/ 'witchetty grub'

/l/ [ɭ] Voiced retroflexed lateral. Occurs in all positions except post-consonantal. /połuŋ/ 'red ant'

/w/ [w] Voiced high close back rounded non-syllabic vocoid. Occurs only syllable initial. /paɾwe/ 'blunt edge'

/k/ [ɭ] Voiced mid close central unrounded flapped vibrant. Occurs in all positions except word initial and post-consonantal. /maɾu/ 'hair'

/y/ [ɭ] Voiced high close front unrounded non-syllabic vocoid. Occurs only syllable initial. /ŋeʔpuyan/ 'I hit him'
/ɾ/  [ɾ] Voiced mid close central unrounded retroflexed resonant. Occurs in all positions. /namaɾunkiŋ/ 'god'

Contrasts can be seen in the following sets of examples:

Word initial: /liʃka/ 'to pinch'
/ɾiʃkino/ 'stony ground'
/laŋkano/ 'water bug'
/ɾaʃa/ 'sandy ground'
/yaʃaman/ 'horse'
/waruŋku/ 'nulla nulla'

Word medial: /toluk/ 'witchetty grub/
/poʃuŋ/ 'red ant'
/namaɾunkiŋ/ 'god'
/marũ/ 'hair'
/najakayen/ 'teenage boy'
/kaʃala/ 'spoonbill'
/mulmu/ 'paper bark tree'
/ŋuʃmiyŋ/ 'dark colour'
/paɾmiyŋ/ 'white'
/ŋuʃmiyŋ/ 'red'
/yawokyaŋok/ 'school age girl'
/waɾkwark/ 'red ant'

Word final: /mimai/ 'fire'
/kumakai/ 'goose'
/ŋaɾmar/ 'I want to go'
/namaɾ/ 'rock kangaroo (male)'

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The phoneme /i/ may have an allophone, viz. an alveolar flapped lateral [ʃ]. This sound tends to occur in fast speech in variation with [ɛ] preceding a word medial [ʔ]. The identification of this sound is difficult and no satisfactory statement can be made as yet.

/wa?njilʔo/ [wa?njilʔo] 'rain'

[wa?njilʔo]

/palʔkiʃ]/ [palʔkiʃ] 'wallaby (male)'

[palʔkiʃ]

3.2 VOWELS

The five emic vowels contrast, as shown in the following sets of examples:

Word medial: /tʃiʔmu/ 'to paint oneself'
/tʃelʔ/ 'red ant'
/tʃaluo/ 'mouth'
/tʃoʔuk/ 'witchetty grub'
/tʃuʔ/ 'tree'

Word final: /kulyampi/ 'bark boat'
/melʔpa/ 'wallaby (female)'
/kunjkuʔpa/ 'black cockatoo'
/jopo/ 'butcher bird'
/kuʃupu/ 'plains kangaroo (male)'

The allophones of each vowel, together with a phonetic description, are as follows:

/i/ [i] Voiced high close front unrounded vowel. Occurs in all vowel positions. /mimi/ 'grandmother'

/e/ [ɛ] Voiced mid open front unrounded vowel. Occurs in all vowel positions. /ŋalmɛɾɛŋ/ [ŋalmɛɾɛŋ] 'teenage girl'
[e] Voiced mid close front unrounded vowel. Tends to occur word-finally in fluctuation with [e]. /keʔke/ [kaʔke] [kaʔke] 'nothing'

[e'] Voiced vowel gliding from mid open front to high front position. Occurs preceding lamino-palatal consonants. /boyen/ [boye'n] 'big'

[a] Voiced low close front unrounded vowel. Tends to occur contiguous to lamino-palatal consonants in fluctuation with [e] and [a]. /jaʔununo/ [jaʔununo] [jaʔununo] 'new'

/a/ [a] Voiced low close central unrounded vowel. Occurs in all vowel positions. /kaʔak/ 'grandmother'

[a'] Voiced mid open central unrounded vowel. Tends to occur in unstressed open syllables in fluctuation with [a]. /nakomtu]/ [nakomtu]/ [nakomtu]/ 'little boy'

:a] Voiced vowel gliding from low close central to high front position. Occurs preceding lamino-palatal consonants. /maʔjun/ [maʔjun] 'carpet snake'

[u] Voiced high back rounded vowel.Occurs in all positions. /muʔmuʔ/ 'eyebrow'

[u'] Voiced vowel gliding from high back to high front position. Occurs preceding lamino-palatal consonants. /nakomtu]/ [nakomtu]/ [nakomtu]/ 'little boy'

/o/ [o] Voiced mid open back rounded vowel. Occurs in all vowel positions. /koʔno/ [koʔno] [koʔno] 'hard soil'

[o] Voiced mid close back rounded vowel. Tends to occur word-finally in fluctuation with [o]. /poʔo/ [poʔo] [poʔo] 'river'

[o'] Voiced vowel gliding from mid open back to high front position. Occurs preceding lamino-palatal consonants. /koʔno/ [koʔno] 'his head'
The phoneme /l/ has a voiced high open front unrounded allophone [l]. No satisfactory statement regarding its occurrence can be made at this time.

It will be noted that [ə] has been tentatively considered to be an allophone of two separate phonemes. It tends to be slightly fronted when it is an allophone of /e/ and slightly backed when it is an allophone of /æ/.

The allophone [ʌ] also tends to occur as a transition vowel following [r] in a consonant cluster.

/paɾwe/ [bəɾwe/baɾwe] 'blunt edge'

Vowels preceding retroflexed consonants may be retroflexed. The occurrence and degree of such retroflexion may be idiosyncratic.

/məɾen/ [məɾen] 'spotted goanna'

/kiŋalŋ/ [kĩŋalŋ] 'ibis'

Vowels contiguous to nasal consonants may be nasalized. The occurrence and degree of such nasalization may also be idiosyncratic. No satisfactory statement of its occurrence has yet been found.

/yəʔpən/ [yaʔpən] 'two'

/ʒeŋurname/ [ʒeŋurname] 'foot'

/wəʔmüʔ/ [wəʔmüʔ] 'to vomit'

All vowels seem to centralise to a high or mid position, sometimes retaining their round or unrounded quality. No satisfactory statement can be made yet as to the environments conditioning centralisation. The following observations, however, can be made:

(a) Retroflexed or nasalised vowels tend to be centralised.
(b) A central vowel tends to vary with [u] when contiguous to [ɾ].

/luʔmɪlɪ/ [luʔmɪlɪ] 'khaki'

/muʔuk/ [muʔuk] 'hard'
4. INTERPRETATION

Vowel Length

The high front lengthened vowel [i:] contrasts with its short counterpart in word final position.

/mimí/  [mimí]  'grandmother'
/gulmiyi/  [gulmi:]  'dark colour'

It is being interpreted as the sequence /l/yi/ because:

(1) No other vowels except this one have contrastive length.
(II) Native reaction and slow speech indicate two syllable peaks on the lengthened vowel.
(III) There is no non-suspect V syllable type in the language and no non-suspect VV clusters.

Vowel Glides

When high vowels /i/ and /u/ occur as offglides they are tentatively interpreted as semi-consonant plus vowel sequences, /yi/ and /wu/ respectively.

/woyi/  [woɊ]  'come here'
/majawuk/  [majaɊuk]  'honey-eater'

Such an interpretation was based on the following criteria:

(1) Native reaction and slow speech indicated both elements of the glide were syllabic.
(II) No non-suspect V syllable types occur in the language, and no non-suspect VV clusters.

Lengthened Nasals

At morpheme boundaries two identical nasals can occur. These are perceived as a lengthening of the nasal and are in contrast to a single nasal.

/ʃen/  'tongue'
/ʃenno/  [ʃenːo]  'his tongue'
/ṭe/  
\(\text{'nose'}\)

/ṭenə/ [ṭəno]  
\(\text{'his nose'}\)

5. PRACTICAL ORTHOGRAPHY

The immediate purpose of this study of Ngalkbun phonology is to provide an alphabet for use in the language "revitalization" programme. There are three main considerations involved in the selection of a practical orthography. The first two are outlined in Velma J. Leeding and Sarah C. Gudschinsky (1974):

(i) "The orthography should be chosen to make learning to read as easy as possible for the beginner and also to allow the experienced reader to skim and to read new materials smoothly."

(ii) "... the vernacular orthography should facilitate transition into English."

(iii) Some Aborigines in the Banyilli community are bilingual in Ngalkbun and Malali, a dialect of Gunwinggu. Gunwinggu has an established orthography and reading materials. It is preferable for the Ngalkbun orthography to parallel that of Gunwinggu so that interference between the two is minimised and reading facilitated for the bilinguals.

It is felt that the orthography selected meets the three considerations above. The only difference between the Ngalkbun orthography and the Gunwinggu is where vowel glides have been interpreted differently because of differences in the structures of the two languages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phonetic Orthography</th>
<th>Practical Orthography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṭ</td>
<td>dj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṭ</td>
<td>rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṑ</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nj</td>
<td>nj</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

73
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phonemic Orthography</th>
<th>Practical Orthography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ə</td>
<td>r n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ð</td>
<td>ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>rl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŋ</td>
<td>r r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i e a u o</td>
<td>e a u o</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOTNOTES

1. This does not include clusters word final with /ʔ/ as the second consonant. The distribution of /ʔ/ in that position has not been thoroughly checked out.

2. The phoneme /ʧ/ may have an allophone, viz., voiced retroflexed flapped resonant [ʃ]. It is possible that the phonetic quality is more accurately described as [ʒ]. This allophone varies with [ʧ] between vowels, but no satisfactory statement about its distribution can be made at this time. /kuʧu/ [kuʧu/kuʧu] 'plains kangaroo (male)'
BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPENDIX

NGALKBUN TO ENGLISH WORD LIST

The practical orthography is used in the following vocabulary items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ngalkbun</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>babka</td>
<td>to hit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>badbelum</td>
<td>short rock snake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>badunno</td>
<td>cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bahka</td>
<td>to break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baladj</td>
<td>little leech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balak</td>
<td>cousin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balang</td>
<td>skin group (male)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balayi</td>
<td>further away, long way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balhno</td>
<td>snake track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balk</td>
<td>pimple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bang</td>
<td>to bite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bangardi</td>
<td>skin group (male)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bangarrang</td>
<td>wet season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bangirn</td>
<td>skin group (female)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bararrkun</td>
<td>small stone axe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bardakalamun</td>
<td>small water goanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bardirrun</td>
<td>to rub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bardu</td>
<td>mosquito, March fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barlahno</td>
<td>snake track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barlina</td>
<td>crooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barlkan</td>
<td>boomerang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barmiyi</td>
<td>white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barnabarna</td>
<td>rib bones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

77
barnaburlibara
barnamarr
barnboyen
barndahno
barndjoko
barngo
barrakbarrak
barrdanging
barrdidjho
barrh-
barrmon
barrwe
bedu
beduhmu-
beke
belhbelh
belnj
bengkan
benuk
berna
berruh
bidjirri!
bidjurdu
blm
birrhbirrh
biyi
bud
bodhno
bokodjbokodj
bokorrhkonj
bolk
bololo
bolung

small magpie
black cockatoo
wide
tree root
narrow
salty, bitter, cheeky
diver duck (land living)
two, four (?)
kidney
they (dual)
sharp
blunt edge
chest
to walk towards, come
smoke, tobacco
water bug
skin group (female)
to know
turkey
big black butterfly
to come towards
brown file water snake
whirlwind
white clay, paint
rib bone
black person, Aborigine
fly
honey bee
river pigeon
last year
footprint
mulga
rainbow
bon
bono
bonominiburru
bordok
bored
borloko
borlurrg
bornorrong
borok
borroborroh
boyenj
budardbangkunj
buduurruhmu
buhdu
buhmu
bukarn
bukorrehkun
bulanj
bulanjjan
bulah-
buldjarn
bulka
bulkidj
-buling
bulnu
bulnukun
bulu
bunukun
bunyubunyu
burduylna
burlhbarreh
burluk
burrarama
to go, come
river
big river
hook of woomera
to turn
yellow belly water snake
red ant
broiga
water yam
rock pigeon
big
two days ago
to wipe
cradle, cot of paperbark
to blow
navel
before, long time past
male skin group
female skin group
they (plural)
middle
to go down
to be sick
their (plural)
them
theirs (plural)
father
theirs (dual)
little lizard
blood scab
lily root
cotton for body decoration
good

79
burrkun
-burrng
buyan
buyongki
dabhka
dabuno
dadhbu
dadhkiyan
dadhno
dadjmu
dahang
dahno
dakano
dalukurlahno
daluno
danj
darbahngo
darbangh
dardjhno
darrmuno
darru
dawadak
dawurr
deddhed
dadhno
delhdelh
dembukarr
dengukudjkudjhn
dengukuno
dengumurango
dengunadhno
two
their (dual)
to hit
further away, long way
to shut
egg
king brown snake
to cut
firewood
to be tired
to get
short
saliva
lips
mouth
spear
afternoon
yesterday
dress
tree root
leg
beard, whiskers
rock kangaroo (female)
blue parrot
tall part, men's clothes
big red ant
day time
hot weather
sole of foot
ball of foot
big toe
denguyayaruno  little toes
Darrihyahno  morning
Derrno  tomorrow
dilh  to paint
djadherlhbelh  green parrot
djadhmono  upper leg
djah-  you
djahbon  come here!
djahdeyhldeyih  grasshopper
djahmiyan  to stab
da lagi  fish spear
djalak  cold
da la madawuk  wild passionfruit
da lawayl  salt water
da la miyan  to split
da nan  death adder
da nanayi  little goanna
da ngerak  jaw
da nki  turtle
da jarra  here
da jarridj  ashes
da jarrka  water goanna
da jayldj  digging stick
da je  nose, nose part
'djeh-'  we (dual inclusive)
djekun  coolamon
djemudno  moustache
djen  tongue
djenj  fish
djorrungkuno  new
djihi  north
dhnbulhngo  to be wet
djihdorrhng

djika

djikerdj

djila

djingadarr

djirlbirninj

djirrblyuk

djohbo

djomono

djongok

djorhmu

djowok

djudjuyih

djudno

djuhmu

djulibu

djulong

djuludomldj

djulu

djuluh

djumu

djung

djurrddjurro

djurrrerk

djurrhdjurrhno

djurrubuk

dohkan

dohmin

dolkan

dolkuno

dolkuyu

doling

straight
milk, breast
little black bird
axe
diving water, diver duck
fingernail
whistle duck
butcher bird
track, path
aunt
to cough
black night bird (male)
to push
nape of neck
to split
ashes
dust
midday
shade
smoke
to swim, bathe
over there
heavy
big bird
quick
round
to wake up
to spew
to get up
backbone
to lay down
smoke
doluk
donj
dorrngboyanj
dorrung
dubmi
dudhmi
dudjhu mu
duhkan
dukula
dulh
dulhmun
dulmu
duln
dulumno
dumhka
dunno
duvo
kabumarda
kada
kadjedh
kah-
kahburla
kahburramo
kahdjingkurl
kahke
kahmayihka
kahmon
kahnum
kahroko krok
kahwehno
kahylbhka

witchety grub
to die
fat
body, to be alive
today
today
to return
to tie
possum (male)
tree, stick
to be cold
to swell up
string, rope
hill, mountain
to pierce
hole
night bird (female)

stone axe
morning star
knife
he
very old man
correct
fresh green growth
nothing
lightning
good
that's it.
same
not good
sunset
kahyin
kaladjidji
kalakala
kalhmui
kalidjan
kaliyi
kaljarawuk
kalwan
kamanj
kan
kandji
kanghno
kanjno
kanum
karadjh
kardabun
kardanj
kardu
karduno
karlh
karnarruk
karndakunj
karndayi
karnrdinj
karr
karrala
karrandal
karri
karrumono
karrwohno
kedjalkno
kela
not to know
little dillybag
white hawk
to climb
skin group (female)
married person
night bird
big goanna
skin group (female)
to take
jabiru (bird)
night time
meat
ear
sugar
long, high, tall
ground fog, dew
not to know
old
five
mosquito
dingo
plains kangaroo (female)
barramundi
up
spoonbill (bird)
spinifex
west
lower leg
on top of
new leaf
skin group (male)
kenbo  after, any time
kereh black stone spear
ermindo hook of womera
kernalk ibis
killirri yellow
kin to cook, burn
kingiyan to cook
kinhkin star
kiyerrh chin
Kobol bandicoot
kodj head, hook of womera
kodjan skin group (female)
kodjngol cloud
kodjoburl turtle (male)
kodjok skin group (male)
kohmale temple (of head)
kolharngno salt water
kolhungun to drink
kolhno water
kolno bird's nest
kolokolo white gum tree
konborlo white gum tree
konno neck
kondono hard soil
konjbam big flying fox
konjdja smooth ant hill
konono flower
kono brogga
kordawo night time
korihkorihngo peewee (bird)
korliblib pelican
korikorik little pigeon
koriodok

85
korrokorro
korrwan
korrwongkorrwong
kowuk
kubud
kuduburuk
kuhdjung
kukah
kulhka
kulmungono
kuluyambl
kumakari
kumurduk
kunan
kung
kungan
kungurruru
kunhmon
kunhwanang
kunhwe
kunj
kunjhmon
kunjkurlba
kunkunno
kurangarrh
kurbud
kurdhkurdhno
kurdu
kurdukurd
kurlbano
kurlhkurl
kurndal
kookaburra
white currant
green frog
bark, house
black antbed
true
big water lily
skin
to go and look
inside of a house
bark boat
geese
black currant tree
long yam
wild honey
stomach
eucalyptus tree
good country
to think
bad country
kangaroo
smooth
black currant
heavy
to sweat
antbed
emu hair
to be mixed up
single girl
dried blood
to run
black plum
kurndjilk  sugarcane
kurnh       place, country
kurnhweh    rough
kurumono    upper arm
kururrkururr budgerigar bird
kurra       wind
kurradh     grapes
kurralk     magpie
kurrhkurrh   vein
kurrmurlu   blue tongue lizard
kurrnga     moon
to work
kurru       upper arm
kurrudjardu  brown snake
kurruk      mussel (fish)
kurrungarr  moon
kurrungku   strong man
kurruru     sawfish
kurruwila   night bird
ladjmimj    to be dry
lahlayi     beside
lakayen     teenage boy
langano     waterhole
languno     hand
to scratch
liirmurrunj  to be hot
lirwuh      long lizard
loklok      running water
lolo        empty
to make bark for painting
lorrhno     to wash oneself
lowuhmang   khaki colour
lurrkuhmurrng
lurrmiiyi
madhdjurn
madhmer
madjno
madno
mak
malanj
malaworr
malhngobalayl
malhno
malhdrarnki
malhwanang
malnganarra
mambai
mambard
mang
mangkulorrlorr
manjh
manjhkeninjhh
mararrakhun
mardawuk
marla
marhno
marliyomu
marnarrh
marnbun
marnu
marranguyi
marrhmarr
marrkidj
marru
marrumah
mayorrh
melbe
carpet snake
to be hungry
swag
heel
no, don't
fingernail
dead leaf, bushes
very long way
country
long way
to think
young flying fox
bush coconut
big billycan
to get, pick up
Adam's apple
meat
what is it?
from last week
honey-eater (bird)
scorpion
liver
collar bone
red ochre
to make
bush gum
stringy bark tree
to shiver, shake
very good
hair
where
wind
mud

88
male
maleyak
merdumerdu
meren
merlemerle
merlerberno
merlhbe
morni
meyi
midjhnno
mihbarr
mimal
mini
minih
miyan
moban
modjarn
modjhnno
molono
mongorrorro
mono
morlmorl
morlmorl
morlu
moyi
muda
mudhno
mudumani
mudumudulan
mukha
mulungu
mumu
mumudjamud
blanket, bed
widow, widower
chest
spotted goanna
butterfly
hips
wallaby (female)
shoulder
food
burrow
eagle hawk
fire
grandmother (father's mother)
devil, first people
to get
mud codfish
wild honey taken out of the ground
to be sick
tail
blanket lizard (female)
bone
corroboree stick
blue fly
didjeridu
green plum
sun
feather
hook boomerang
hollow-tree snake
to bury
elbow
eye
eyelashes
89
mumumalu
mumumud
munanga
munayin
murndurdu
murlyurrunj
murruk

naderr
nahbu
nahgan
nakomudj
nakornhko
nahal-
nalakayen
nalward
namarunkidj
namarr
nan
nanyird
narah-
naworrkori
nayunghyungki
ngadjinno
ngadunglyan
ngah-
ngahbun
ngahdji
ngakerd
ngalkerd
ngalmeren
ngalyurr
-ngan

tears
eyebrow
white person
before dawn
caterpillar
ironwood tree
hard
devil
to dance
mother
little boy
god
you (plural)
teenage boy
stone
father god
rock kangaroo (male)
to look
small kangaroo
you (dual)
green ant
first generation of man
throat
to go to the toilet

to give
to sneeze
old man
old woman
little girl
lightning
my

90
nganjdjarrmarli l
ngankol duck
garlahdjaj urine
garlanno shell, tin
garlbak chin
ngarra- we
ngarradj white cockatoo
ngarrarh- we (plural inclusive)
ngarrarla porcupine
ngarrkunno baby
ngarridj skin group (male)
ngarridjan skin group (female)
ngarrinjno fingers
ngarrngarr long yam
ngekun my, mine
ngel plum tree
ngerhno heart
ngyi me
-ngokorrng ours (plural inclusive)
ngolnq sky
ngongno large group/amount
ngongyavuno small group/amount
ngordokordhno ankle
ngorr us (plural)
ngorrkan to bring
ngorrkarn ours (dual)
ngorrkun ours (plural inclusive)
-ngu your
nguhlorrhno guts
ngulmiyi dark color
ngun to eat
nguridul thunder
ngurlno heart

91
ngurrdung to hate
ngurrkuno honey
ngurrimiyi red
ngurrri big catfish
ngurruru emu
ngurrudu rotten
ngurrundo emu
ngurrurdud fire, matches, electric light
nguyi to sit
nl big dillybag
nlibirr to see
niyi toilet
njamkah to play
njehkun ours (dual inclusive)
njel we (plural exclusive)
njelkun ours (plural exclusive)
njerhmanu our (plural exclusive)
njerhygumouriyi to be hot
njerrnherrumilyi white skin, white person
njerrhno raw, uncooked
njerrkun ours (dual exclusive)
njerrng our (dual exclusive)
njing your
njingkun yours
njinguyu to sleep
-njung our (dual inclusive)
njuridj small honey-eater (bird)
-nom his
-nokorrng your (dual)
nokun his
tol you (plural)
no1 yours (plural)
nolt yours (plural)
noiny
noo
norrkun
nolndo
numa
nurrungurry
nurruno

radja
radjanoka
rahkan
ramono
ramberambu
rawala
redjkhun
redjing
rididjino
roilhngo
rolu
rorrnga
rolhngo
rumu
run
rung

wadan
wadangu
wadjanon
wadung
wah
wahdong
wahdu

three
to smell
yours (dual)
dingo
this one
gcko
rotten

sandy ground
cooking sand
to fall down
hips
pandanus snake
stone axe
close
to laugh
stony ground
maggot
dog
east
bush, scrub
river pigeon
to cry
to burn

blanket-lizard (male)
camp, home
lung
to crawl
water
to be thirsty
devil
wahka
wahnjilkno
wakwak
walarrkmurrng
waldjenno
walum
waluno
wamud
wamudjan
wan
wanan
wanjh
wanjing
wanjno
wanumono
wardabidj
warlang
warnlrr
warnkano
warnuno
warrakurl
warrdjird
warrkwarrk
warruhku
wawurd
wayling
wehno
weiyi
welno
weredj
werhbon
werhmu
werrno
urine
sprinkling rain
crow
to wash things
flame, burn
south
ripe, cooked
skin group (male)
skin group (female)
to follow
to hear
looks alike
one
armpit
lower arm
billy-goat plum
big bat
dry season
wing
arm, wing
possum (female)
butcher bird
red ant
nulla nulla
big brother
to sing
bad
rosella
wing
small fish
to walkabout
to vomit
shed skin
wirl hardly
wily
wodhnan
woh
wohrdī
wolono
wombanno
womoro
worrīmbam
worrhko
worrīn̂g
worrno
worro̱k
woyl
wulhno
wulkundjann̂gān
wulkunngān
wurdurd
wurr
wurrka
wurrmadhmore
wurrku̱rd̲uk
yabokngān
yahbun
yakngarra
yelankuḵhu̱d̲u
yamarr̂h
yamiyan
yangno
yarl
yarr

galah
to follow
to throw
yes
to stand up
cooked, ripe
not heavy
pandanus (plains type)
three
rain water
full
tea leaf
to jump
come here!
fat
little sister
little brother
piccaninny
grass
to blow
thin
black snake
older sister
two
pandanus
wood with white ants,
tooth
to speak
language, talk
string, rope
crayfish

95
yerraman
yawan
yawokngo
yawokyawok
yaworri
yawun
yawurri
yeku
yenjdjung
yerinj
yibung
yibungkarn
yibungkun
yldjnhjan
yninj
yrrbiyrrbl
yrrhylrrhbe
yirringkan
yol
yorrom
yorryorh
yu
yudhmu
yulubing
yuluno
yunkurro
yurrmom

horse
to look for
schoolgirl
little schoolgirl
single man
small
young man
cold weather
to talk
white owl
him, he
his
his
to wait for
to have said
straight
underneath
to pull
feelings
water from a soak
specific bird
to rest
to run
to dig
ground, dirt
sandhill
cheeky, silly, stupid