

THE THURRAWAL LANGUAGE.

By R. H. MATHEWS, L.S., Corres. Memb. Anthropol. Soc.,  
Washington, U.S.A.

[Read before the Royal Society of N. S. Wales, November 6, 1901.]

THE Thurrawal speaking people were formerly spread over the south-east coast of New South Wales from Port Jackson to Jervis Bay, and extended inland for a considerable distance. For some years past I have studied the Thurrawal tongue, and now submit the grammatical outlines of its structure. Considerations of space render it necessary to touch only upon the fundamental elements of the language.

I have discovered that many of the nouns, adjectives, prepositions and adverbs—in addition to the verbs and pronouns—are inflected for number and person. This fact has not hitherto been reported, to my knowledge, in any part of Australia, although to some extent observed in certain islands of the Pacific Ocean.

In verbs, pronouns, and other parts of speech subject to conjugation and inflection, there is a double form of the first person of the dual and plural, which has also been observed in Polynesia, and among the Amarinds of North America. Two forms of the dual were noticed by Rev. L. E. Threlkeld among the aborigines of Lake Macquarie, New South Wales, but he says this did not extend to the plural.<sup>1</sup>

This paper claims to enlarge, in some degree, the circle of Australian ethnology. Exhibiting the general structure of any native tongue must be valuable to philologists, in enabling them to compare our aboriginal languages with each other, and also with those of the people of Polynesia and the East Indian Archipelago, whence the primitive inhabitants of this Continent are

<sup>1</sup> An Australian Language (Sydney), pp. 17 and 91.

copy #3  
with handwritten notes  
in vocals (Janet Lathams?)

John Gibson 15/2/2003  
from Jutta Besola  
& her Stephen Morley - ACCT  
at National Library?  
MS 88006

Nucleai - p. 157-160  
Handwritten notes  
Some new words?  
100 full - ngab  
100 words  
Handwritten is R.H. Mathews

copy with scribbles on vocals!

**Case.**—The nominative case has two forms, one of which simply names the person or thing, as Wungar, a boy. The other form represents the subject, or the instrument, in action, e.g., Wungara bumaranga kerraiba, the boy a boomerang threw. Here the name of the boy and that of the instrument each take a suffix. Again, when the instrument is in the accusative case, a suffix is employed, as, Boomeranga kerraibadya, a boomerang threw I. Moreover, these suffixes fluctuate according to the termination of the word to which they are attached.

The possessive case has two suffixes, like the Thurrawal, as, Dyingu kunungbi, a woman's child (kunung). Any article over which possession can be asserted is subject to inflection for number and person by means of suffixes, analogously to the Thurrawal and Gundungurra, examples of which are not considered necessary.

**Adjectives.**—An adjective takes the same inflection as the qualified noun, and follows it:—Ngunni kana, a flying-fox, male; Ngununbula kanaibula, a couple of male flying-foxes; Ngunun-dyarralang kanaidyyarralang, several male flying-foxes. The suffix is often omitted in one of the words, the last one generally taking the inflection.

The comparison of adjectives, and their conjugation like intransitive verbs in certain cases, is analogous to the Thurrawal.

**Pronouns.**—The following are some of the nominative pronouns in the singular—the dual and plural being passed over for want of space, in this and undermentioned examples. The simple nominative is given in the first column, and the nominative-agent in the second.

Singular	1st Person	Ngaia	Ngaia
	2nd "	Nyindi	Nyindidya
	3rd "	Nanu	Nanudyā

Examples of the possessive pronouns are as under:

Singular	1st Person	Mine	Jannunggai
	2nd "	Thine	Nyinnunggai
	3rd "	His	Nannunggai

Derivative—Jannawigu, for me, and so on. Ablative—Jannawi, with me, and so on.

The following are some interrogative pronouns:—Nominative, Nyen, who? Nyanda, who (did it)? Possessive, Nyannungai, whose is this? Dative, Nyangu, who for? Nominative, Ming, what? Dative, Mingangun, what for.

**Verbs.**—The verb has three numbers, with the usual persons, tenses and moods. There are also two forms in the first person of the dual and plural to express the inclusion or exclusion of the individual addressed. As the manner of conjugating these verbs is substantially the same as in the Thurrawal, exigencies of space compel me to omit them.

**Adverbs.**—Yellun, how? Wattunga, where? Wilgija, whither? Kabu, by and bye; Yuin, yes; Beal, no; Murruga, perhaps; Barrapur, to-morrow.

**Prepositions, Conjunctions and Interjections.**—Space will not admit of examples of these.

**Numerals.**—One, waguilwai; two, buler; three, burilai; four, waguilwurri, apparently a derivation from "one-three."

Every part of speech which can be inflected for person and number in the Thurrawal language can be treated in a similar manner in the Dharruk.

#### VOCABULARY OF DHARRUK WORDS.

##### The Family.

##### The Human Body.

A man, dhulli	wre	Head, kobbara	dharruk
An old man, kaiaanyungai		Forehead, ngurran	welun
Husband, mullaming	galube	Hair of head, gitan	kilundun
Clever man, kuraji	wungun	Beard, yarring	yurui
Child, kunung	lindidye	Eye, mibberai	wel
Small boy, wungar	kunadidye	Nose, nuga	wunye
Boy carried in bag (on mother's back), wungara	jungama	Neck, kungga	wunye / (beak)
A woman, dyin	waw	Ear, kuri	uclun
Old woman, wiring	wamigulla	Mouth, mundu	ngail
Wife, dyimang	galu	Lips, willin	ucl
Girl, durungaling	wadyl	Teeth, Yira	ucl
Father, bianya	ladyer	Breast (female), ngubung	ngummo
Mother, waianya	gundyer	Naval, numbirri	wirigal
Deceitful old person, harabundi		Belly, blidhi	
His brother	dhawar	Rump, kurpa	
Young	Kallaminga	new skin	
Old	Saki Boadli	after late	ngalin
Young	Boamirga		

1. Dust storm, massive

R. H. MATHEWS.  
1 Sandhill Gumboard

Camp, ngurra  
Fire, kwiang  
gareme  
dhu.

Bark shed by gum and other

trees, kurrung-durrung  
Hole in a tree known

Leaves of trees, jirang *ganil*  
Bird's nest, *ganil*

✓ Skates & many Mammals.

Native bear, kulamañ *gudca*  
Dog, mirri *madhara*

Native-cat (black and yellow),  
muzzling

Dandaicool, *dufraga fugu*  
Flying squirrel, bangu

Wallaroo, bithang or wolara  
*small. hat*

Laughing jackass, kukundi  
Curlew, warhun

Water hat Sumar  
Pempine digidika  
Kangasoo, bawer

THE THERIAVAL LANGUAGE. 159

Mosquito, dyura mung.  
Scorpion, dundi gure.

Green-head pine, Redwoods  
Redwood  
Trees and Plants.

Any dead tree, kwibul

Ti-tree, (soft bark), bu  
Ti-tree (prickly), buny

Apple-lice, saws  
Stringbark, buran

Ironbark (broad leaf), dirrabari  
(narrow leaf), murrarri

Cherry tree, kwigan  
Gum-tree, yarra

a Corkwood, kulgarri  
Bullrushes haraba

*Yam, midin*

Tomahawk, mogo Kumb o  
Koolamin, kungun of word  
Kumb o, mogo Kumb o

Spear, of wood, kummal  
Spear wood wani

Spear-thrower, womra  
Spear-shield, hila-mong

Club with knob, kuburra

Boomerang, bumarañ  
Net bag, juma

*Adjectives.* Alive, muthung mat

Deau, Oalelli *various*  
Large, mari, *few*

Tall or long, kurare gugu  
Low or short, muna

Good, ngubaty kwisic  
Bad, kuraji kwisic

Red, jarmi *Kuonibara*,  
White, burrakutti *Kullu*.

- made or early. or similar
- image = yin-yang

158  
Anus, bungading  
Flank, binning  
Back, buyu lara  
Tennis, winji dhuur  
Erection, wathuk gharu  
Testicles, karau  
Valva, mundura  
Hair on pudenda, nguruguri  
Urine, yillabii kile  
Excrement, kuni gura  
Sexual desire, kuthaling  
Copulation, ngutatha  
Masturbation, gammitatti  
Venereal, midjung  
Arm, nurung lungin  
Hand, dhummar maw  
Thigh, dhura mabun  
Knee, kuruk dhuur  
Foot, duna lullur  
Paunch, kuruma  
Blood, mala so-o  
Fat, kurai wanno  
Bone, jara luia

158

ellu, ngunge

ludhe  
nging  
wadha  
kandilla  
kandilla  
kandilla

R. H. MATTHEWS

And storm, mairu  
And wind, bali  
Sand hill, gombogandul

Camp, ngura gawma  
Fire, kwang dhu  
Hut, gunji dhu  
Smoke, kufal wungil kuma  
Food, ngunnu dhu  
Day, burrang dhu  
Night, minne kuma  
Morning, burpigel kuma  
Evening, waragal kuma  
A splinter, dhuwaga mungadhu  
Hill, bulga dhu  
Grass, durwai kuma  
Bark shed by gum and other trees, kurung-durung

Sun, kuu yai  
Moon, jillak kulu  
Stars, kimpewali gharu  
Onion's Belt, dhuwagali  
Pleiades, dhuwuri me-mi  
Sunshine, bunnel  
Thunder, murrung dhuwuri  
Lightning, jerrald dhuwuri  
Rain, murrku wu  
Dew, gillabii gusil  
Fog, kurpuu dhu  
Frost, dalara dhu  
Hail, kuruwiliang dhu  
Fresh water, bado gungin  
The ground, dubbar dhu  
Mud, millu dhu  
A stone, kiber malaru  
Sand, marang gumbagan  
Light, killi dhu  
Darkness, minne kuma  
Heat, yuroka kuma  
Coldness, duggara kuma

Inanimate Natural Objects.

Native bear, kulama gada  
Dog, mirri madhu  
Opossum, wali wade  
Kangaroo-rat, kanaming guma  
Native-cat (black and white) bulungga  
Native-cat (black and yellow), murrang  
Rock wallaby, wollabi  
Flying fox, ngunnu  
Bandicoot, burraga gung  
Flying squirrel, bangun  
Sugar squirrel, ohubi  
Ringtail opossum, butkari  
Kangaroo, burru  
Wallaroo, bithang of wolara

Birds.  
Birds collectively, buyan dhu  
Crow, wagan wagan  
Laughing jackass, kukundi gung  
Curlew, warebun w-i-dan

Water, kulu guma  
Presque diggillila  
Kangaroo, kuma

Gold, gell  
Silver, gell  
Iron, gell  
Copper, gell  
Tin, gell  
Lead, gell  
Zinc, gell  
Mercury, gell  
Glass, gell  
Crystal, gell  
Rubber, gell  
Wool, gell  
Silk, gell  
Cotton, gell  
Linen, gell  
Paper, gell  
Cloth, gell  
Leather, gell  
Wood, gell  
Stone, gell  
Metal, gell  
Glass, gell  
Crystal, gell  
Rubber, gell  
Wool, gell  
Silk, gell  
Cotton, gell  
Linen, gell  
Paper, gell  
Cloth, gell  
Leather, gell  
Wood, gell  
Stone, gell  
Metal, gell

THE TERN

159

Quail, mombi  
Eaglehawk, burthuring  
Emu, marang dhu  
Common magpie, karuk buragallu  
Black magpie, wibung  
Black duck, yurungai kuma  
Mopoke, binit  
Night owl, budhawa  
Bronze wing pigeon, kutung  
Lark, murrjaldi  
Rosella parrot, bunduluk  
Blue Mountain parrot, warin  
Greenleek parrot, kuma  
Parakeet, jirang  
Common hawk, kuthawai  
King-fisher, jiranga  
Pee-wee, birerik burwudin  
Plover, burrang dhu  
Crane, durai gung dhu  
White cockatoo, kirrawe mung  
Black swan, jiranga  
Porch, wugara  
Sparrow, kumbura  
Bel, burra  
Gudgeon, duru  
Turtle, kutakung wanda  
Muscle, jugung mung  
Mussel, jugung mung

Reptiles.  
Lizard, wurriga mung dhu  
Water lizard, bijiwong  
Sleepy lizard, muggadung dhu  
Small lizard, bunburra gada  
Black snake, jirabity  
Frog, kung gung dhu  
Brown snake, murrugan  
Snake, kuma  
Insects.  
Large locust, bulang dhu  
Small locust, jirabity  
Blow fly, murrugan  
Louse, bundya murr  
Nit of louse, jagara gura  
Jumper ant, juljil dhu  
Bull-dog ant (red), kut-mut  
Bull-dog ant (black), wugara  
Centipede, jingring gura

Adjectives.  
Alive, muthung murr  
Dead, baletti kuma  
Large, mari kuma  
Small, ngurrang kuma  
Tall or long, kurare gung  
Low or short, munnal kuma  
Good, ngubaty kuma  
Bad, kuraji kuma  
Thirsty, durral kuma  
Red, jetti kuma  
White, burrakutti kuma

Water, kulu guma  
Presque diggillila  
Kangaroo, kuma

And storm, mairu  
And wind, bali  
Sand hill, gombogandul

Mosquito, dyura mung  
Scorpion, dandi guma  
Green-head ant, kuma  
Any leaning tree, bulbi  
Any dead tree, kwibul  
Any hollow tree, birreko  
Ti-tree (soft bark), bujior  
Ti-tree (prickly), bunya  
Apple-tree, bunda  
Seringy bark, buran  
Wattle, watungulle  
Ironbark (broad leaf), dirrabari gung  
" (narrow leaf), muggargu  
Cherry tree, kwigan  
Gum-tree, yarra  
Jeelung, mambara  
Corkwood, kulgaru  
Bullrushes, baraba  
Yam, midli  
Tomahawk, mogo kumt o  
Koolamin, kungun wad  
Yamstick, kumt dhu  
Spear, of wood, kummai  
Spear, of reed, wari  
Spear-thrower, woma werra  
Spear-shield, hilamung dhu  
Waddy-shield, millathunth  
Club with knob, kubarra dhu  
Club, plain, bundi mulla  
Boomerang, bumara kuma  
Net bag, juguma

Adjectives.  
Alive, muthung murr  
Dead, baletti kuma  
Large, mari kuma  
Small, ngurrang kuma  
Tall or long, kurare gung  
Low or short, munnal kuma  
Good, ngubaty kuma  
Bad, kuraji kuma  
Thirsty, durral kuma  
Red, jetti kuma  
White, burrakutti kuma

Water, kulu guma  
Presque diggillila  
Kangaroo, kuma

Black, batu <i>bulur</i>	Make, bungawura <i>gumalli</i>
Full, buruck <i>ngaito</i>	Break, kidjikane <i>gumalli</i>
Quick, boro <i>lawar</i>	Strike, dabara <i>gumalli</i>
Slow, wutral <i>allua</i>	Wound, baiwura <i>gumalli</i>
Blind, mutung <i>ngar</i>	Arise, bora <i>gumalli</i>
Deaf, kumbarobalong <i>wunba</i>	Fall down, butfali <i>gumalli</i>
Strong, bulwari <i>wilant a</i>	Observe, nea <i>ngumalli</i>
Valiant, mutong <i>gel</i>	Hear, ngarra <i>gumalli</i>
Afraid, jerran <i>gel</i>	Give, nguyangun <i>wunba</i>
Right, budyer <i>mau</i>	Love, ngubaty <i>lawalla</i>
Wrong, kura <i>jil walmu</i>	Sing, buria <i>lawalla</i>
Tired, wunal <i>ingit</i>	Weep, danga <i>ngit</i>
Blunt, as an edge, munda <i>gud</i>	Cook, as food, kumama <i>alamu</i>
Fat, kurai	Steal, karama <i>wumamalli</i>
Lean, jarra, jarra	Request, kullea <i>daibilly</i>
Cold, tuggara <i>wt dlabian</i>	Blow, with breath, bumbi <i>buliti</i>
Angry, kular	Climb, kalua <i>gulle</i>
Sleepy, nungga	Conceal, duba <i>dhurimalli</i>
Glad, mujar <i>lala yil gunt</i>	Jump, karuka <i>lawa</i>
Sorry, ngandu	Laugh, jandiga <i>gudawara</i>
Greedy, jira	Scratch, jiranga <i>ngangiti</i>
Grey-headed, warungat	Forget, duba <i>wumamalli</i>
Sick, budjil	Stare at, mutibundun <i>ngumalli</i>
Stinking, kujja	Send, yenna <i>wumalli</i>
Bald-headed, ngurranbulba	Shine, kilil <i>widlamu</i>
[lit. forehead bare]	Suck, witama <i>ngubung, lit., ngumalli</i>
Pregnant, bindhiwura	to drink from the breast
Hollow, as a tree, etc., birreko	Swim, waringa <i>gubigun</i>
Verbs.	Search for, pitama <i>ngawillama</i>
Die, boi	Spit, juki <i>dhulay</i>
Eat, patama	Smell, kunda <i>ngawar</i>
Drink, witama	Throw, kurraib <i>wumung a</i>
Sleep, nungara <i>durdungun</i>	Roast, kumama <i>dhumalli</i>
Stand, dharrage	Whistle, woinga <i>wile</i>
Sit, ngulawa	Pretend, wangit <i>waga</i>
Talk, paialla	Kiss, bong <i>ngagale</i>
Tell, goayyi	Vomit, muli <i>gawidigun</i>
Walk, yanna	Dance, dungara <i>gawine</i>
Run, wumera	Dive, mulbari <i>wy: ay</i>
Bring, yalingen	Sing, windhurame <i>dhumi</i>
Take, maiian	So <i>naia</i>
	Come <i>dhainiaia</i>

ngandhan, bat, minjins.

dhun, gaidamulla