

29-30. XIV. DJINGILI-WAMBAYAN (O'G: TJINGILUAN) FAMILY

The O'Grady et al composition of this family has, with the possession of more information, been changed quite a deal. The 'AL' classification had *Djingili* and *Wambaya* as belonging to two separate families, not one as Wurm now classifies, with each as a separate group within that family. Chadwick's investigations in the Barkly Tablelands area have produced much new information on which the present comments are based. Chadwick assesses the linguistic picture in the Barkly Tablelands as follows: in the north and east, a cluster of three closely related dialects, *Wambaya - Gudandji - Binbinga*; in the west, one language, *Djingili*, closely related morphologically but not lexically to the eastern group; and in the centre a separate group, *Ngarngu*, more closely related to the eastern group than to *Djingili*.

There are a number of erroneous comments or faulty details in 'RLS' which this revision wishes to correct, notably the comments under both *Djingili* and *Gudandji* that the language is rapidly breaking up and further study is not justified. The information below based on Chadwick's research show these statements are not correct, and were mistakenly attributed to him in the first place.

This family, unlike those prefixing families preceding it in this classification, is completely suffixing, but its members are all multiple classifying (4 classes), the nouns being suffixed for number, class and case and the adjectives take concord agreement. Other examples of suffixing and multiple classification combination are found in *Wagaya*, 63, *Warluwara*, 63A.la*, *Bandjalang*, 92 and *Djirbal* 113*.

29. A.* DJINGILIC GROUP*

Chadwick lists stop-nasal contrasts in bilabial, alveolar, retroflex, alveopalatal and velar positions, and a palato-velar stop, *gj*, 3 laterals, flap, trill, rhotics, 2 semi-vowels and 3 vowels plus length. Vowel harmony is a feature of the language.

29. Djingili * From Daly Waters south- C9 (AIAS C22)
wards for c. 120 miles
towards Powell Creek,
just south of Lake Woods,

and east of the Stuart
Highway for c. 100 miles
into Barkly Tablelands (Chadwick)

Chingalee (RHM), *Chingalli*, *Chingilli* (both 'RLS'),
Djingili (AC, SAW, AIAS, Hale, Chadwick), *Tjingili*
(T), *Tjingilu* (O'G, 'RLS')

Chadwick has studied the language and written a description which includes phonology, grammar and a 1,200+ word dictionary - see *A Descriptive Study of the Djingili Language*, (typescript, 1968; AIAS 1975)

'man', 'person', 'aborigine' : *baja* (AC, Chadwick)

30.

B.* WAMBAYAN GROUP*

As well as the characteristics mentioned above as typical of this family, *Wambaya*, *Ngarngu* (and *Djingili*) have verb suffixes which function for tense, aspect and direction. *Wambaya* phonology is similar to *Djingili* except that it has no palato-velar stop. *Ngarndji* does have the palato-velar stop and length on just one vowel, a. Chadwick was the first to record *Ngarndji* (1967). He says it is very similar to *Gudan-dji* and *Wambaya*, morphologically "half way" between these eastern dialects and western *Djingili*.

30.1a* Wambaya * Barkly Tablelands, C24 (AIAS C19)
around Eva Downs,
Anthony Lagoon and
Brunette Downs (Chadwick)

Wambaya (Hale, O'G, 'RLS', SAW, Chadwick, AIAS),
Wambaia (T), *Wambaja* (AC, orig. AIAS), *Umbaia*, *Yumpia*,
Wombya (all 'AL')

Chadwick is studying in depth. AIAS files list 80 speakers at 8 different stations including 48 at Brunette Downs. Chadwick's figures are more than 20 fluent speakers, and about 40 with a limited knowledge, half of whom would be at Brunette Downs. Breen discovered one speaker at Alexandria in 1970.

'man' : *djua* (Chadwick)