

41c\*. Murinjdiminin

Means 'gravel language' (Walsh)

The second *Murinjbada* dialect. (Walsh)

## 41A\*. XXI. DJAMINDJUNGAN FAMILY

The Djamindjungan Family belongs to the northern prefixing languages and has both classifying and non-classifying dialects. Phonologically the dialects differ a little though they all have a basic Common Australian structure with stop-nasal contrast at bilabial, alveolar, alveopalatal and velar points of articulation, three vowels, CV, CVC, CVCC syllable patterns and stress tending to occur word initially.

There are probably only three dialects, *Djamindjung*, *Ngaliwuru* and *Nungali* (see comments on *Yilngali* below). *Djamindjung* and *Ngaliwuru* are non-classifying.

In recent years members of the New England University (Hoddinott, Cleverly, Bolt and Kofod) have been working on these dialects.

41A.1 Djamindjung Originally between N18 (AIAS N18)  
Fitzmaurice and  
Victoria Rivers (WGH)

*Djaamadjong* (?), *Djamundon* (?), *Djanunjun* (Robinson),  
*Djamindjung* (AIAS), *Dyamindjung* (WGH), *Jaminjang* (?),  
*Murinyuwen* (?), *Tjamindjung* (?), *Tjaminjun*

Cleverly's 1966-67 study has been extended somewhat in a paper "Pronominalization in Djamindjung" by Bolt, Cleverly, Hoddinott, (1967). Phonologically Djamindjung differs from the other dialects in that it has an interdental stop and only one 'l' phoneme. It also has other significant differences in grammar and vocabulary. Both *Djamindjung* and *Ngaliwuru* are non-classifying languages. In 1934-5 Stanner estimated the tribe to be about 200, mostly on cattle stations south and west of Victoria River. But it is estimated that now only about 30 remain, 3 at Port Keats, 3 at Bulloo River and 5-7 at each of the following: Legune, Auvergne, Carlton cattle stations, and at Kununurra

and one at Timber Creek. Stanner has done a little work on *Djamindjung* and Walsh has collected vocabulary, grammar and songs.

- 41A.2 Yilngali Below Victoria River to N44 (AIAS N2)  
Buffalo Springs in  
Legune area (Hoddinott)

Probably not a separate group. There is a tribal group called *Jilngali* in the above area but this is possibly a *Gadjerong* name for the *Djamindjung* tribe. Hoddinott's *Jilngali* is substantially the same as *Djamindjung*. Capell estimated a 52% cognate count with *Djamindjung*, but Cleverly said Capell's *Jilngali* was all either *Djamindjung* or *Ngaliwuru*. Cleverly also doubted whether it existed as a separate language.

- 41A.3\* Ngaliwuru Junction of Wickham N69 (AIAS N19)  
and Victoria Rivers,  
N.T. (not as in  
'RLS') (WGH)

*Ngaliwerra*

A typescript 'Elementary Grammar of Ngaliwuru Language of the Northern Territory' by Bolt, Hoddinott, Kofod, 1971, covers basic grammatical material and a 500+ word vocabulary. It is closely related to *Djamindjung*, being also non-classifying, but unlike *Djamindjung*, it has both an alveolar and alveopalatal 'l' phoneme. Like *Djamindjung* it is an ergative language with auxiliary-type verbs like *Ngarinjin* and *Bardi*. Tribal members are now found from Fitzroy Station (30 speakers) to the Ord River irrigation scheme at Kununurra - an estimated 200 - 300 speakers. It is spoken widely throughout the area as speakers of *Ngarinman* (59.5) and *Wadaman* are also fluent in *Ngaliwuru*.

'man' : dyumbul