

XXV. DJERAGAN FAMILY

All languages have dual classifying systems with concord and a trial number. The tense systems are fairly elaborate, employing auxiliary type verbs as in *Bardi* and *Ngarinjin*. Phonetically they have six stop/nasal contrasts, three *l* and two *r* phonemes.

A. GIDJIC GROUP

O'Grady et al names three dialects of this group, but it is now generally agreed (Capell, Taylor, etc) that *Lungga* is an alternate name for *Gidja* and that *Guluwarin* is very closely connected to it. Dialect differences are certainly not significant today and all speakers refer to themselves as *Gidja*.

The language has the full range of six linear stop/nasal phonemes, three *l* and three semi-vowel phonemes, and a central high vowel ϵ as well as the three C.A. vowels. It has the basic CV, CVC, CVCC consonant-vowel patterns and stress is usually syllable initial though occasionally it falls on the second syllable. Grammatically its most outstanding feature is the verb formation which consists of a free verb form followed by a declined auxiliary form, similar to that found in *Ngarinjin*, *Bardi* and other Kimberley languages.

- 42.1 Gidja * West from Turkey Creek to K10 (AIAS K20)
Bedford Downs Station,
south to Hall Creek and
east to Lissadell Station
(Taylor)

Gidja (T, AC, SAW, O'G, 'RLS', Peile), *Kidja* (?), *Kitja* (Kaberry), *Kisha* (RHM), *Djerag* (means "say" or "talk") (RHM), *Loonga*, *Lunga* (T, Kaberry), *Lungga* (AC, T), *Lungar*, *Lungka*; *Baiambal*, *Burnana* (*Lungga* names for themselves - Kaberry)

Gidja is most closely related to *Miriwun*, an estimated 45% lexical overlap. Taylor of the United Aborigines Mission continues to study in depth; "An Introduction to *Kitja* Phonology" is in publishable form. A dictionary of about 1,400 items has been collected as well as stories and traditional narratives.

The language is still in daily use in its original territory and is spoken by approx. 300 people with c.100 others who know it as a second language. A few children still use it.

'aboriginal man' : *tji:linj* (Taylor)

- 42.2 Guluwarin * Dunham River, Bow River, K10 (AIAS K33)
Tate Creek, Mabel Downs,
Bedford Downs, Halls
Creek (SIL)

Name probably derived from *kulu* 'water', *waring* 'two' (Taylor)
Guluwarin (AC, O'G, SAW, 'RLS'), *Guluwarung* (SIL)
Kuluwarin (Taylor)

The dialect spoken in the above area is known as 'light *Gidja*' and may be the *Guluwarin* dialect. The only difference Taylor found between the eastern and western dialects is that eastern speakers use more high fronted vowels (more often *i* than *ɨ*). SIL recorded a word list in 1970.

B. MIRIWUNIC GROUP

There has been little published information on this group but Kofod is doing a depth study of *Miriwung* and salvaging *Gadjerong*.

- 43.1 Miriwung * Country bounded by Lissadell K5 (AIAS L29
in S., Newry in E, Carlton
Hill Station in N., and
approx. to Halls Creek Road
in W. It becomes *Wuladya*
country when the Ord R.
becomes salty at Carlton
Crossing (WGH)

Miriung (SIL, Peile), *Mirung* (Harrison), *Miriwun* (AC,
SAW, O'G, 'RLS'), *Miriwung* (Cooling, FMK)