

SECTION ONE

A. NORTHERN PREFIXING LANGUAGES OF ARNHAM LAND (Nos. 1 - 33)

1. TIWIAN FAMILY

Because of its isolation, Tiwi has the lowest percentage of C.A. words and few cognates with other Australian languages, but structurally is typically Australian. Phonemically it has stop-nasal contrasts at bilabial, interdental, alveolar and velar points of articulation, a velar fricative, the usual *l*, *r* and three semi-vowel phonemes and four vowels. The predominant syllable patterns are CV and CVC and stress is usually on the penultimate syllable (Osborne).

It is a dual classifying prefixing language with noun incorporation in the verb and is highly agglutinative (witness *purruwunuwuntingimarrawurriyangkuluwunyani* 'they were watching them eating'). It also has specific tense markers as in *Wiradjuri*.

1. Tiwi * Bathurst and Melville N85 (AIAS N20)
Islands

Means 'people' (Hart & Pilling)

Nguiu (not *Ngui* as in 'RLS' - Catholic Mission, who say this is the correct language name), *Tiwi* (Hart & Pilling, T, AC, SAW, O'G, 'RLS', SIL, AIAS), *Wunguk*, *Wunuk* (*Jiwadja* name), *Yeimbi* ('RLS')

Osborne has recently studied in depth (*Tiwi Grammar*, AIAS, 1974) and is also being studied by Godfrey (SIL) and Sims (Catholic Mission). The vowel system has not yet been fully analysed, nor the ritual language with its different vocabulary. Osborne says the language was originally subdivided into 14 different regional groups or sub-tribes, some up to 100 miles distant from others. This fact may provide scope for a dialect study. The language is completely viable. Estimated numbers of speakers in 1972 were 1400 in the following places: Bathurst Island (923), Melville Island (455), 185 at Garden Point, 250 at Snake Bay and 20 at Pikatarrimoor, others at Bagot, Darwin and one at Port Keats. (Sims)

'person, human being': *tiwi*; 'aboriginal man' :
awurini (Osborne)

II. YIWAIDJAN FAMILY

A. YIWAIDJIC GROUP

a. *Wargbi* Subgroup

Phonemically *Yiwadja* is a regular Australian language with five linear stop-nasal distinctions, but a velar fricative like *Tiwi* and five vowels which are atypical. Stress tends to occur in the syllable initial position as is common in most Australian languages. Syllables are V, CV, CVC and CVCC.

This is a prefixing non-classifying language with many points of similarity to the multi-classifying *Maung* including a realis/irrealis distinction in verbs. There are a number of important differences however.

2. Yiwadja * Coburg Peninsula N45 (AIAS N39)

Eaewandja, *Eaewardja*, *Eewardja*, *Eawaitja*, *Eiwaja*, *Idjduwa* ('RLS'), *Iwaiji* (Morris), *Iwaitja* (Moyle), *Jiwadja* (AC, Berndt, orig. AIAS), *Iwaidji* (Spencer, T, O'G, 'RLS', SAW), *Iwardja* (Spencer), *Jiwaidja*, (SAW), *Jowitcha*, *Juwadja* ('RLS'), *Limba Karadjee* (Pasco in C), *Limbakaraja* (Schmidt), *Unalla* (Foelsche) *Uwadja* (Harney), *Yiwadja* (AIAS), *Oidbi* (42Nr. 'RLS', N80, AIAS N46)

Major study recently commenced by SIL. It is fully viable, being spoken by all age groups.

'people' : *arargbi* (AC); 'aboriginal man' : *wargbi*
(Osborne)

b. *Maung** [*Arargbi*] Subgroup

Wurm's 1970 classification has changed the name of this subgroup from *Arargbi* to *Maung*. It has a similar phonemic structure to *Yiwadja* with stop-nasal contrasts at