

106* B. DJIRBALIC GROUP* (Originally Yara Subgroup)

(Tully-Innisfail area)

The eight dialects listed below formed the core of the O'Grady et al Yara Subgroup. The present reclassification is based on Dixon's intensive work on these dialects. His criteria for classification is grammatical and geographical as well as phonological. The first six dialects are a close-knit complex forming one language; *Wargumay* and *Bandjin* are somewhat different. *Mamu-Djirbal-Giramay* are the three dialects Dixon calls the *Djirbal* language; they are almost grammatically identical with over 70% shared vocabulary. To these three have been added *Djiru* and *Galngay* (geographically and linguistically between *Mamu* and *Djirbal*), and *Ngadjan*, the most northerly and possibly the most divergent of the six. Dixon produces evidence to suggest all six were descended from a common ancestor tribe.

All dialects have two speech forms: everyday, known as *Guwal* (in *Djirbal* & *Giramay*) or *Ngirma* (in *Mamu*), and a taboo or avoidance language known as *Djalnguy* characterized by a completely different vocabulary but fewer items since a single taboo term covers a number of everyday terms. *Mamu* and *Djirbal* "Guwal" have 87% common vocabulary; their taboo languages have only 50% in common.

The dialects are phonologically simple with only four linear stop-nasal contrasts, *l*, *r*, 3 semi-vowels, and 3 vowels (16 phonemes all told). Syllable patterns are CV, CCV, CCVC, with stress word initial. This structure is similar to that of the Yalngic Group. Grammatically the dialects are noun classifying (four classes) - another example like *Djingili-Wambaya*, 29-30 and *Wagaya*, 67*, of a suffixing, multiple-classifying system.

Dixon's study in depth of *Djirbal-Mamu-Giramay* has been published in his 'The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland' (C.U.P., 1973), and an earlier work, 'Languages of the Cairns Rain Forest Region' (Pacific Linguistics, C.13, 1970) discusses language affiliations of the whole area.

106.1a* Djirbal * Tully River, Ravenshoe, Y40 (AIAS Y123)
(10lg,
17Yr.)
Herberton area (RMD map)

Chirpol, *Chirpal-ji* (Herberton, Scrubby Creek - both R),
Djirbal (AIAS), *Dyirbal* (RMD, SAW), *Djirbaldi* (AC, orig.)

AIAS), *Djirubal* (T, O'G, 'RLS'); tribal name: *Dyirbalngan* or *Dyirbaldyi* (RMD); hordes: *Yabulumbara* (foot of range in S.E. of territory), *Gambilbara* (Upper reaches of Tully River) (RMD); *Njirma* (*Nyirma*), 'RLS' 17Yr. (not 70Yr. as on p. 184) is a mis-hearing of *Ngirma* (see comment above) meaning 'language' (RMD).

Has 46% cognates with *Warungu*. Dixon's Grammar mentioned above is based on 40 texts, over 3,000 lexical items and 500 words in *Djalnguy*. He estimates 30-50 speakers in the Murray-Upper Kennedy region, at least two dozen of whom are fluent; some children are still learning it as a first language. Sutton contacted speakers at Mt. Garnet, Minnamoolka Station, Hot Springs and Palm Island in 1970 when he recorded songs and some *Djalnguy*.

'man' : *yara* (RMD)

106.lb* Djiru * Coastal area north of Y41 (AIAS Y124)
(10lf) Tully (RMD map)

Djiru (T, O'G, 'RLS', AC, AIAS), *Dyiru* (RMD, SAW); tribal name: *Djirubagala* (RMD); *Djirubal* (T)

Dixon's data consists of some words, texts and commentary. Sutton may have recorded this dialect on Palm Island. Only 1 or 2 known remaining speakers.

'man' : 'jar:s (T)

106.lc* Gulngay * Mouth of Tully River Y52 (AIAS Y126)
(10le) (RMD map)

Gulngay (RMD, SAW), *Gulngai* (orig. AIAS), *Gulnggai* (AC), *Gulngai* (T), *Gulngui* (O'G, 'RLS'); tribal name: *Malanbara*

Dixon has recorded salvage portions of words, sentences and texts. Just one or two remaining speakers.

106.ld* Mamu * Coastal area between Millaa Y83 (AIAS Y122)
(10lh) Millaa and Innisfail, round
(68Yr.) the North and South Johnstone
Rivers (RMD map)