

Conventions and Abbreviations

Language Styles

Ja **Jalnguy** [jalŋju] speech style, which you had to use in the presence of anyone who was in an ‘avoidance’ relationship to you, in terms of the classificatory kinship system, dubbed by speakers as ‘mother-in-law language’. The avoidance style was called Jalnguy in all dialects of Dyirbal, and also in Yidiñ, the language to the north.

Ev The **everyday** speech style, which was used in all other circumstances. It was called Guwal in southern dialects (J, G, A, U, and Y) and Ngirrma or NgiRma in northern dialects (M, W, and N).

Dialects

Full details of dialect names and location are in section 2.1. Information on Ja was available for only three dialects. The following codes are used:

J Jirrbal everyday style (Guwal) Jja Jirrbal avoidance style (Jirrbal Jalnguy)
M Mamu everyday style (Ngirrma) Mja Mamu avoidance style (Mamu Jalnguy)
N Ngajan everyday style (Ngirrma) Nja Ngajan avoidance style (Ngajan Jalnguy)

- If some feature occurs in the Ev style of several dialects, their codes are simply juxtaposed. For example, ‘NJ’ indicates ‘N and J’.
- However, reference to several Ja’s—such as ‘Nja, Jja’—is never abbreviated.
- For dialects beyond these three (see section 2.1) only Ev information is available but this may be useful for cognate identification (in chapter 6). The following codes are used for these dialects:

G Girramay A Gambil-barra Jirrba L Walmal
U Gulngay W Wari-barra Mamu Y Jirru

Cross-over and double cross-over

If a Ja term in one language/dialect corresponds to an Ev term in another, this is called a **cross-over**. For example:

Nja yumi N **buyu** scrub

Jja **buyu** J wabu

Nja **mirrañ** N gañjuu black bean

Mja Jja dirraba MJ **mirrañ**

Having a cross-over in each direction is a **double cross-over**, as in:

NJa **bibiya** N **gubungaRa** palm tree

Mja **gnbungara** M **bibiya**

See section 4.10 for the rhotic variation in N and Nja.

Gender

Each occurrence of a noun belongs to one of the four genders, I, II, III, or IV. This can be shown by an accompanying noun marker or demonstrative; see section 3.2.1, where the semantic scope of each gender is outlined.

The Ja noun corresponding to an Ev noun will have the same gender.

General abbreviations and conventions

intr intransitive verb

tr transitive verb

NP noun phrase

A transitive subject function

O transitive object function

S intransitive subject function

[...] encloses the words in a multi-word NP, if they are contiguous if the NP is a core argument, its function is generally shown with a subscript _A, _O, or _S.

{...} encloses the Ev correspondent of a phrase or clause in Ja, which has been supplied by me, rather than by a speaker.

Abbreviations used in glossing examples, etc.

-	affix boundary
=	clitic boundary
1	1st person
2	2nd person
3	3rd person
I	gender I
II	gender II
III	gender III
IV	gender IV
ABL	ablative
ABS	absolutive
ACC	accusative
ALL	allative
APASS	antipassive
APPLIC	applicative
C	consonant
CA	common argument
CAU	caution
CAUS	causative
COM	comitative
CONS	consequence
DAT	dative
DL	<i>The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland</i> (Dixon 1972)
du	dual
EG	<i>Edible gender, mother-in-law style, and other grammatical wonders</i> (Dixon 2015)
EMPH	emphasis, emphatic
ERG	ergative
FUT	future
GEN	simple genitive
IMM	immediate
INCH	inchoative ‘become’
INST	instrumental
LOC	locative
NGoD	<i>A new grammar of Dyirbal</i> (Dixon 2022)
NOM	nominative
NON.VIS	non-visible
pl	plural
POT	potentially
PRES	present
REDUP	reduplication
REFL	reflexive
REL	relative clause
sg	singular
V	vowel

The standard abbreviations for kinship categories, used in sections 2.4 and 2.5 are listed in section 2.4.

Terminology

The labels used can best be explained in terms of the methodology followed. In the first stage of verb elicitation a Ja correspondent was obtained for every Ev verb. Typically, one Ja verb, X, would be given for several Ev verbs; we can call this set Y. The second stage of the investigation was to ask what would be the Ev correspondent of X. Just one Ev verb, Y₁, would be given, consistently by several speakers; this is termed a **nuclear** verb. The other verbs of set Y are **non-nuclear**; each is a hyponym (or semi-hyponym) of Y₁, and can be assigned a **definition** in Ja, in terms of X. A **tableau** consists of a Ja verb and the nuclear and non-nuclear verbs relating to it, plus their definitions.

Most verbs belong to a tableau but there are some fairly uncommon verbs—often with intricate or culture-specific meanings—which do not. These **singletons** are typically rendered in Ja by a **narrative**, consisting of a full clause (or, sometimes, two clauses). For non-nuclear verbs or singletons with a range of senses, different speakers may in their Ja focus on different **facets** of this meaning. Jalnguy verbs, and their everyday style correspondents are presented as 16 tabular instalments in chapter 8.

Noun is the largest lexical class and shows varied semantic profiles; these are discussed, in chapter 9, through a set of thirty **arrays**. Adjective is even more semantically diverse. This class is home to the expression of abstract concepts referring to ‘human propensity’. These, together with the referring adjectives are, in chapter 10, discussed in terms of a dozen **clumps**, this also being used for the small class of time words.

Conventions

I. Verbals divide into a *-y* conjugation and an *-l* conjugation, each with its own set of suffixal allomorphs—see section 3.3. This is shown in NGoD by quoting the verb root plus ‘conjugation marker’ *-y* or *-l*; for example *bani-y* ‘come’, *wuga-l* ‘give’. This was a rather abstract representation since *bani-y* and *wuga-l* are not forms which can be pronounced.

A different convention is adopted throughout the present volume—**each verb is quoted in its past tense form** (which is the citation form in J): thus *bani-ñu* and *wuga-n*. However, **stem-forming suffixes** cannot be pronounced on their

own and **are quoted with the conjugation marker**. Thus, the inchoative verbaliser is quoted as *-bi-l*, rather than *-bi-n*, and antipassive (on *-l* conjugation roots) as *-na-y* rather than *-na-ñu*.

II. Noun phrases in Dyirbal do not mark definiteness or number. Thus *jaja* 'child' could be rendered as 'the child', 'a child', 'the children', or '(some) children'. The translations provided for example sentences select the sense appropriate for its textual context. That is, I prefer 'The child ate some. grubs' to the literal 'Child ate grub'.

English translations are by me, based on what bilingual speakers said, and on my understanding of the language. Sometimes a speaker's words are quoted directly, and these are enclosed in quotes. For instance, in section 10.4, clump K, adjectives relating to human characteristics, we read:

Mja gajirra M yirrin talk jokingly/in fun, tell joking lies, 'acting the goat'

This indicates that 'talk jokingly/in fun, tell joking lies' was my definition, with M speaker (George Watson) explaining 'acting the goat'.

III. In J and G the *-ñu/-n* tense inflection refers to past or to present time. In N, W, and M the *-ñ/-(:)ñ* tense inflection can refer to future or to present time. Glosses are provided as appropriate to the context of use. Thus, in J and -G, *-ñu/-n* is glossed as PAST when plainly referring to a previous time, and as PRES when referring to on-going activity (rather than invariably glossing it as NON-FUTURE).

