

Productive Morphological Processes for Language Rejuvenation of Goldfields Aboriginal Languages

Sue Hanson
CEO / Senior Linguist
Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre



Wangka kanyira ngalipirniku
PRESERVING OUR LANGUAGES FOR ALL OF US



Languages Under Rejuvenation

Mirniny

Ngadju

Kaalamaya

Kuwarra



Morphological Processes

1. **Verbalisation** – creation of a verb from a morpheme of another word class.
2. **Verb paradigm** – inflection of a verb root according to a verb paradigm.
3. **Reduplication of complete nominal root.**
4. **Compound words** – two words compounded to create a new lexical item.
5. **Nominalisation** – creation of a nominal from another word class.
6. **Derivation and Inflection** – derivation – a process for creating a new word in a different word class, and inflection – creation of a new morpheme of the same word class.

1. Verbalisation

-rri- / -arri Verbaliser

yaltarrini

yalta-rri-ni

cold verbaliser present
to become cold

work-arriku

work-arri-ku

work verbaliser future
will work.



1. Verbalisation

1.1 Reduplicated Descriptors Verbalised

kampa	<i>burnt</i>
kampa-kampa	<i>burnt to a cinder</i>
kampa-kampa-rri-ngu	<i>became burnt to a cinder</i>

1.2 Additional of a Verb to a Nominal

tipinyjula	
tipiny-ju-la	
skewer-close-past	
<i>used to close up the stomach incision in the game</i>	

2. Verb paradigm

past	yalta-rri- ngu
past serial	
past continuous	yalta-rri- \emptyset
past habitual	
past characteristic	
present	yalta-rri- na
present causative	yalta-rri- nyi
present continuous	yalta-rri- ji-njangka
present habitual	
past characteristic	
future	yalta-rri- ku
future serial	
future continuous	
future habitual	yalta-rri- naku
future, cusp of	yalta-rri- njangka
characteristic	yalta-rri- \emptyset
future causative	yalta-rri- jilku
imperative	yalta-rri- wa
hortative	yalta-rri- lanyi
imperative continuous	yalta-rri- karri-la
imperative causative	yalta-rri- jila
sequential	yalta-rri- kayi
irrealis	
intent	yalta-rri- wa
inchoative	
prevent	yalta-rri- jaku
non finite	yalta-rri- nja
possibility	
simultaneous	yalta-rri- kayi-nyi



3. Reduplication of complete nominal root

3.1 Semantic Reduplication

mara	<i>hand</i>
mara-mara	<i>crawl</i>

3.2 Intensifier Reduplication

japu	<i>small</i>
japu-japu	<i>tiny</i>

mulju	<i>deep</i>
mulju-mulju	<i>very deep</i>

4. Compound words

jinakujarra
jinapika
marakujarra
mulyamaru

jina-kujarra
jina-pika
mara-kujarra
mulya-maru

foot-two
foot-sore
hand-two
nose-black

twenty
sore footed
ten
black goanna

5. Nominalisation

Martu Wangka

-nyja nominaliser

ngarrinyja

liar

pupanyjanpa

pupa-nyja-n-pa

squatt-nominaliser-2sg-EMPH

squatter (the one who squats)

Cundeelee Wangka

-nytja nominaliser

katjilyarranytja

runner

mularrkulinytja

believer

alpamankunytja

helper

muku-mukunytja

persuader

Tjupan

-nyja nominaliser

nintinyja

teacher

wangkapayinyja

talker

pungkunya

fighter

5. Nominalisation

Cundeelee Wangka

-payi / -lpayi

katjilarral**payi**

always running

runner

mularrkulil**payi**

always believing

believer

alpamanku**payi**

always helping

helper

muku-muku**payi**

always persuading

persuader

pungkup**payi**

always fighting

fighter

wangkapi**payi**

always talking

talker

6. Derivation and Inflection

6.1 Inflection

Tjupan

yaltaka	with use of the cold	comitative
yaltanku	by use of the cold	instrumental
yaltayingku	caused by the cold	caused
yaltalku	cause to be cold	causative
yaltalakula	next to the cold, still cold	associative
yaltapa	for the cold	dative
yaltangka	in the cold	locative
yaltanpa	is the cold	emphasis
yaltayiku	like the cold	semblance
yaltalkula	for the purpose	purposive
yaltaku	belongs to the cold	genitive
yaltatu	the cold I'm talking about	ergative
yaltanguru	the cold side	indicative
yaltajarnu	from the cold	ablative
yaltajala	talking about the cold	topicaliser
yaltapuru(la)	cold time	characterising
yaltawiya	there is no cold	negation
yaltarti	the aim is the cold	terminal
yaltakarna	the aim is to make it cold	target
yaltayumu	the cold has finished	completive
yaltawala	with the cold	ablative
yaltajarra	along with the cold	perlative

6. Derivation and Inflection

6.2 Derivation Tjupan

past
past serial
past continuous
past habitual
past characteristic
present
present causative
present continuous
present habitual
past characteristic
future
future serial
future continuous
future habitual
future, cusp of
characteristic
future causative
imperative
hortative
imperative continuous
imperative causative
sequential
irrealis

yalta-yumu-**rri-ngu** *the cold was finished*

yalta-yumu-**rri-** ∅ *the continuous cold has finished*

yalta-yumu-**rri-na** *the cold finished now*

yalta-yumu-**rri-nyi** *the cause for the cold finishing*

yalta-yumu-**rri-ji-njangka** *the cold is continuing to finish*

yalta-yumu-**rri-ku** *the cold will finish in the future*

yalta-yumu-**rri-naku** *the cold habitually finishes*

yalta-yumu-**rri-njangka** *the cold is about to finish*

yalta-yumu-**rri-** ∅ *the cold finishes*

yalta-yumu-**rri-jilku** *causes the cold to finish*

yalta-yumu-**rri-wa** *cause the cold to finish!*

yalta-yumu-**rri-lanyi** *encourage to make the cold finish*

yalta-yumu-**rri-karri-la** *make the cold stop, continuous*

yalta-yumu-**jila** *make the cold finish*

yalta-yumu-**rri-kayi** *(from warm to cold)*

6. Derivation and Inflection

6.2 Derivation

Tjupan

intent
inchoative
prevent
non finite
possibility
simultaneous
past
past serial
past continuous
past habitual
past characteristic
present
present causative
present continuous
present habitual
past characteristic
future
future serial
future continuous
future habitual
future, cusp of
characteristic

yalta-yumu-rri-wa	<i>I intent to make the cold finish</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-jaku	<i>prevent the cold finishing</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-nja	<i>the cold will finish sometime</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-kayi-nyi (ya)	<i>the cold will finish at the same time</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-ngu	<i>the cold was finished</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-∅	<i>the continuous cold has finished</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-na	<i>the cold finished now</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-nyi	<i>the cause for the cold finishing</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-ji-njangka	<i>the cold is continuing to finish</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-ku	<i>the cold will finish in the future</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-naku	<i>the cold habitually finishes</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-njangka	<i>the cold is about to finish</i>
yalta-yumu-rri-∅	<i>the cold finishes</i>

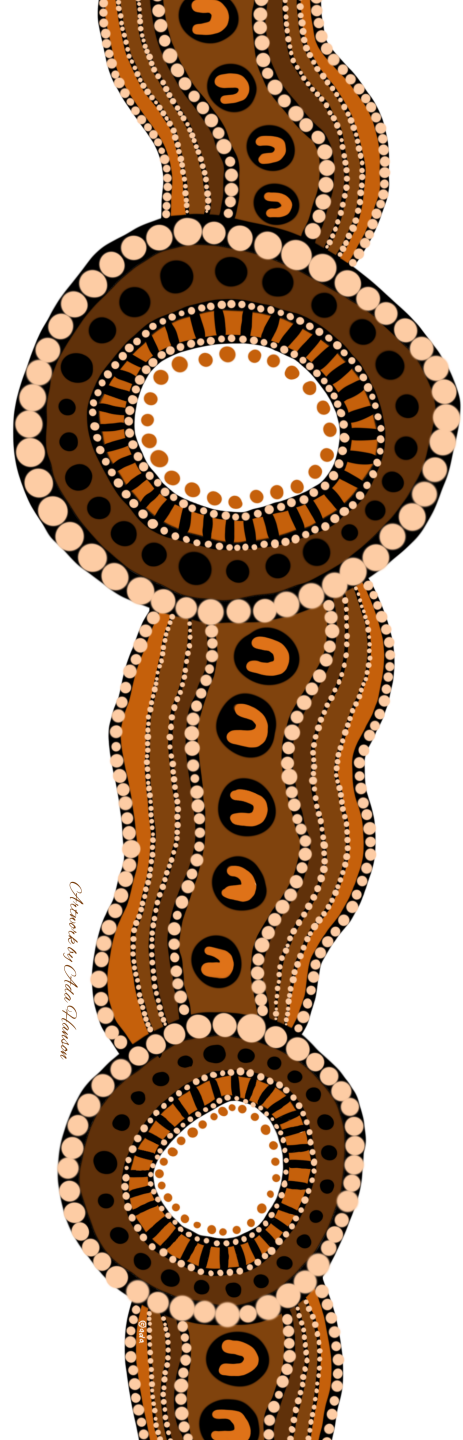
Languages Processes are Used

7. Languages which use these morphological processes

Process	Kaalamaya	Ngadju	Kuwarra	Mirniny
1. Verbalisation	yes	yes	yes	yes
2. Verb Paradigms	limited	yes	yes	yes
3. Reduplication	semantic	semantic	semantic	semantic
-semantic intensifier	intensifier	intensifier		intensifier
4. Compounding	yes	yes	yes	yes
5. Nominalisation				yes
6. Derivation inflection	limited	inflection derivation	inflection limited derivation	limited

Conclusion

1. These 6 morphological processes can be used to rejuvenate the language.
2. Existing lexical items will be used.
3. Workshops will be held with speech communities to make decisions about using these processes.
4. New lexical material will be identified in future dictionary productions as 'contemporary'.
5. New editions of dictionaries will marked either as 'traditional' or 'contemporary'.
6. Research is underway to identify with each of the 4 target languages, the new lexical creation processes used by the language, to inform future word creation processes.



Conclusion – Decolonising

Morphological rejuvenation increases speaker's productivity of a language and leads to greater language purpose, use, retention and inter-generational transmission.

People disempowered by language loss will again experience feelings of reconnection, empowerment, pride and capability.

Using these morphological productive processes decolonises language loss and places speakers back in charge of their language, its use, development and future

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Abor. Corp.

2 Burt St, BOULDER WA 6432

info@wangka.com.au

(08)9021 3788

Wangka Youtube

www.wangka.com.au

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Wangka.com.au/>

Goldfields

Aboriginal Language Centre

Wangka kanyira ngalipirniku

PRESERVING OUR LANGUAGES FOR ALL OF US