

Creating Language Within a Generations

Irene Jimbidee

We have our mother tongue, the language we grew up with (for those who were, or are, lucky to have that).

- I am Walmajarri.

- Ask what other language groups are in the room. Maybe even ask for which area that language belongs.

Then there's the new type of language that are short term, developed by a specific group for the specific group. This new language may still be used amongst this group years down the track whenever they meet.

- provide example and history on my own experiences.

NSW Aboriginal Languages

Animated Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuSwVoQT8mw>

Yakanarra Film

Animated Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yT3JR-qr81M>

Walmajarri Word

Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMfu3ZTTSD4>

Mum's generation

Mum and her cousins and friends twisted their Walmajarri words so that us kids wouldn't understand. Perhaps maybe it was girl talk and didn't want their husband's to understand.

1. Ngajukura paji nyanarti warrantu. Warntarni paji nyanarti-ngu marnintu.

Ju-kura paji narti warrarntu, tani paji narti-ngu nintu.

My older sister's generation.

They spoke in a way where the first letter of a word was put at the end with an "ay" sound. We used Kriol and our mother tongue.

1. Mella go shop bah? - Ellamay ogay opshay abay?

2. Manga that boy looking at you. - Angamay at-thay o-bay ookin-lay ar-lay ou-yay

-My daughter's generation speak using Kriol and mother tongue.

1. Mella go shop bah? - Ma-bala-ba g-bo sh-ob-op ba-ba.

2. Manga dat boy lookin la yu. Ma-bang-abah da-bat ba-boy loo-boo-ki-bin la-ba yu-bu.

3. Obolla passem thud ngapa.

O-bob-ba-lob-ba-ba pa-bas-se-bum tha-bud nga-bup-a-ba

Other examples

1. Kaka (Uncle) – gugs

2. Wartu (sister in law) Wud, wurd, wart.

3. Yagoo (brother in law and this is not Walmajarri language - yugs