

# WORK PAPERS OF SIL-AAB

## Series A Volume 5

**AUSTRALIAN PHONOLOGIES: COLLECTED PAPERS**

**Editor: Bruce Waters**

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## PREFACE

These Work Papers are being produced in two series by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Australian Aborigines Branch, Inc. in order to make results of SIL research in Australia more widely available. Series A includes technical papers on linguistic or anthropological analysis and description, or on literacy research. Series B contains material suitable for a broader audience, including the lay audience for which it is often designed, such as language learning lessons and dictionaries.

Both series include both reports on current research and on past research projects. Some papers by other than SIL members are included, although most are by SIL field workers. The majority of material concerns linguistic matters, although related fields such as anthropology and education are also included.

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## INTRODUCTION TO SERIES A VOLUME 5

The papers in this volume deal with the phonologies of Nunggubuyu, Burarra, Kala Lagaw Ya, Murinbata, and some aspects of the higher level phonology of Walmatjari. Two papers dealing with orthographic decisions are also included.

Five of the papers in this volume are by SIL authors: Glasgow, Kennedy, Street and Hudson, with the Street paper co-authored by Gregory Panpawa Mollinjin. Their papers are herein being made available in preliminary form, and reader's comments would be appreciated by the authors. These papers normally will be further revised and published more widely elsewhere. The other three papers are by non-SIL authors: M. Hore (Church Missionary Society), J. Stokes (Church Missionary Society), and G. McKay (Northern Territory Education Department). With the exception of Graham McKay, the non-SIL authors have had some interaction with SIL personnel in the writing of their papers - usually of a consulting and/or editing nature. For this reason we are pleased to include their papers in this volume.

Michael Hore's paper primarily deals with rules for stress placement and the interaction of stress and length in Nunggubuyu. He is able to show that stress placement is predictable, given the distribution of long syllables. Interestingly, Michael's analysis hangs partly on the analytical decision that Nunggubuyu has a pre-nasalised series of stops - and he shows how this is motivated by the stress analysis. There is a further point of interest to those concerned with the notion of 'simplicity' as a grammar evaluation criterion; Michael shows that the present synchronic facts motivate two rules at quite different points in the cycle; the two rules are very similar, yet neither can be eliminated.

Kathy Glasgow presents the phonemes and morphophonemics of Burarra. Kathy has given considerable attention over the years to the possibility of a geminate versus non-geminate contrast in the stop series, as well as to other issues such as the interpretation of retroflexed sounds. This paper is the fruit of that research. Kathy's analysis places the Burarra orthography within the main stream of Australian phonologies; she rejects the 'geminate hypothesis' (mainly on the basis of mother-tongue speaker's reactions) and expounds a retroflexed order of sounds. In addition, she has divided what previously was analysed as a flapped apico-alveolar stop into a flapped apico-alveolar rhotic, and an apico-alveolar voiced stop. Interestingly, with these changes the segmental inventory is now the same as that in neighbouring languages.

Kathy's second paper deals with the proposed orthography for Burarra and the factors which influenced the decisions made. It is refreshing to see that Aboriginal people were consulted and felt free to take initiative in expressing their feelings concerning their own orthography. It is SIL policy to encourage and co-operate with the initiatives of Aboriginal people.

Rod Kennedy presents an account of Kala Lagaw Ya phonology (Mabuiag dialect, Torres Strait). Kala Lagaw Ya is a language of Australian descent, but heavily influenced by its proximity to the languages of Papua New Guinea.

Judy Stokes' paper on Anindilyakwa phonology is the fruit of many years of wrestling with what must be one of the most difficult of Australian phonologies. Judy gives a good, well documented account of the segmental phonology of the language. She alludes to the difficulties of finding a simple and transparent analysis of the high vowels. This is an area of interest, for it would appear that Anindilyakwa shares some features of the phonologies of Central Australian languages - which have labialised peripheral stops and a tendency to loss of contrast in the high vowels. Velma Leeding has addressed herself to the problem of the high vowels and labialised stops in Anindilyakwa, and is currently preparing a manuscript to be published elsewhere, dealing with these and other problems. Certainly, from a purely linguistic standpoint, Anindilyakwa is a most interesting language, and Judy's high quality work is a welcome addition to the literature on it.

The phonology paper by Chester Street and Gregory Panpawa Mollinjin is a re-written version of a paper on Murinbata which Chester wrote shortly after beginning study of the language. The morphophonemic changes dealt with would be of interest to anyone concerned with the idea of 'consonantal strength' in Natural generative phonology theory. Also included is a short dictionary of approximately 650 words.

Joyce Hudson's paper is a short account of some features of higher level phonology in Walmatjari. It deals with variations of intonational contours, and the grammatico-semantic parameters which correlate with such variations. The paper is partly based on text data which is included in some unpublished manuscripts on paragraph structure which Joyce wrote several years ago. The references to these texts have been left in the present paper, in the eventuality that the paragraph analysis will be published at a later date.

Finally, Graham McKay's paper gives the results of some testing of the acceptability of the digraph 'ny' as used in many Australian orthographies.

Bruce Waters  
Volume Editor

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## THE PHONOLOGY OF MURINBATA

Chester S. Street

Gregory Panpawa Mollinjin

### 0. INTRODUCTION

Murinbata ([mʊʁiɳpata]) belongs to the Garaman language family which is a member of the Australian Macro-phylum family (Voegelin and Voegelin 1977:135). It is spoken by approximately 1,000 Aborigines, the majority of whom live at Port Keats - Wadeye, Northern Territory, 250 kilometres to the south-west of Darwin. A small number live on nearby cattle stations, with the largest groups at Auvergne Station, Northern Territory, and Kununurra, Western Australia.

The basic analysis of this paper was done during a 5 week phonology workshop at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Darwin from 25 January to 1 March 1974 using data collected from two 6 week field trips to Port Keats commencing in October 1973.

The original analysis was done by Chester and Lynette Street with the help of Murinbata language consultants Harry and Irene Kolumboort. Valuable consultant help was given by Miss V. J. Leeding.

This paper is a complete revision of the original paper based upon a larger corpus of data, with all information thoroughly checked by Gregory Panpawa Mollinjin and these data put together by Chester Street. It is designed to give a description of the phonology of the Murinbata language with particular reference to the phoneme, syllable and word levels. The model used for this paper is that of K. L. Pike (1947). Thanks is extended to Bruce Waters (SIL) for his valuable help in getting this paper ready for publication.

1. THE PHONEME

There are 25 phonemes in Murinbata, of which 21 are consonants and 4 are vowels.

The consonants consist of 5 voiceless stops, 5 voiced stops, 5 nasals, 2 laterals and 2 rhotics and 2 semi-consonants.

CONSONANTS

Table 1

	Bilabial	Apico- alveolar	Apico- postalveolar (retroflex)	Lamino- palatal	Dorso- velar
Voiceless Stops	p	t	ʈ	tʃ	k
Voiced stops	b	d	ɖ	dʒ	g
Nasals	m	n	ɳ	ɲ	ŋ
Laterals		l	ɭ		
Rhotics		ɻ	ɽ		
Semi- Consonants	w			y	



The distinctive features of the vowels are the non-back and back positions with high and non-high tongue height positions.

## VOWELS

Table 2

	Non-back	Back
High	i	u
Non-high	ɛ	a

### 1.1 CONSONANTS

#### 1.1.1 CONSONANT CONTRASTS

##### Stops

The voiceless and voiced stops contrast at 5 points of articulation, namely: bilabial, apico-alveolar, apico-postalveolar, lamino-palatal and dorso-velar. The tongue tip is the articulator for the apico-alveolar and apico-postalveolar series and the tongue blade is the articulator for the lamino-palatal. (See facial diagrams Section 1.1.2.)

Contrast in word initial position:

/pamam/	'they (pl) said/did'
/bamam/	'white'
/taktakma/	'bush passionfruit'
/dama/	'eastern golden plover'
/ʃamam/	'we (du incl) said/did'

/pekpek/	'well groomed (hair)'
/bekmamaða/	'open expanse of sea/land'
/tek/	'red-tailed black cockatoo'
/deʔe/	'bull ant'
/ʔek/	'paperbark tree (spec)'
/ʔe/	'ear'
/qe/	'blue-swimmer crab'
/kekε/	male and female middle-aged grade classification
/piyemanu/	'they (pl) will say/do'
/biyepupnu/	'I/he/she will listen'
/tiwunku/	'wedge-tailed eagle'
/diyepupnu/	'you (sg) will listen'
/ʔiyip/	'neap tide'
/ʔiyunyun/	'tiny sea shells (spec)'
/ʔi/	'over there'
/kiyemanukun/	'they (pl) might say/do'

Contrast in word medial position:

/ʔapak/	'fog, dew'
/ʔabaŋ/	'you (sg) stab it in!'
/ʔatʔat/	'jungle fowl'
/ʔade/	'saliva'
/ʔaʔalnɔ/	'you (sg) will bite it off'
/ʔadək/	'silver-crowned friar bird'
/ʔaʔapnu/	'you (sg) will taste it'
/ʔadapnu/	'you (sg) will shut it'
/ʔakatnu/	'you (sg) will cut the bark from the tree.'
/yaguʔ/	'sand goanna'
/kapa!/	'sleep from eye'
/kabat/	'yellow/orange ochre'
/katan/	'native fruit tree (spec)'

/wadɛyɛ/	place name
/maʃanʉ/	'I/he/she will catch it'
/maɖa/	'abdomen'
/maʃaʎ/	'sickness'
/maɖaʎknu/	'I/he/she will tie a knot'
/kaka/	'mother's brother'
/kuragaɖa/	'boomerang'
/kupaɪnukun/	'he/she might name him/her'
/kubatnukun/	'he/she might hit him/her'
/kutuɪ/	'curly (as of hair)'
/tiduk/	'behind'
/kuʃaɪnukun/	'he/she might cut it'
/kuɖuʎnukun/	'they (pl) might depart'
/kuʃapnukun/	'he/she might touch it (with instrument)'
/kaʃu/	'from, towards'
/kaɖuknukun/	'he/she might chew it'
/kukatnukun/	'they (pl) might go the short cut'
/kugaɪŋ/	'kurrajong tree'

Contrast in word final position:

/kanapʉ/	'he/she is residing'
/putput/	'pregnant'
/mawʉʃ/	place name
/panpuʃ/	'I/he/she swept it'
/mukmuk/	'brains'
/ŋuʎanpap/	'I departed early'
/kanawat/	'he/she habitually goes'
/kanampaʃ/	'he/she left it'
/waʃ/	'kentia palm'
/wak/	'torresian crow'

/kʊɟintipip/	place name
/kalampitpit/	'Australian magpie lark'
/pitpit/	'fast'
/pɛlpiɟ/	'head'
/mik/	'possessions of the deceased'

### Nasals

The nasals contrast at five points of articulation, namely: bilabial, apico-alveolar, apico-postalveolar, lamino-palatal and dorso-velar. The tongue tip is the articulator for the apico-alveolar and apico-postalveolar series and the tongue blade is the articulator for the lamino-palatal. (See facial diagrams Section 1.1.2.)

Contrast in word initial position:

/miɲɟil/	'sail'
/niɲɟi/	'large black bat (spec)'
/ɲiɲi/	'you (sg)'
/ŋiniga/	'I was sitting'
/mimpi/	'lice'
/nimpi/	place name
/ɲini/	'that (previously referred to)'
/ŋimalmin/	'tree root'
/meɲɟinap/	'I/he/she smelled it'
/neɲɟinap/	'you (sg) smelled it'
/ɲɛ/	'crab (spec)'
/ŋɛk/	'little corella'
/ŋɛn/	'meat'
/mapuɟnu/	'I/he/she will wash it'
/napuɟnu/	'you (sg) will wash it'
/ŋapuɟnu/	'I will sharpen it to a point'

Contrast in word medial position:

/kumusʉŋ/	'blood'
/kunuɟunu/	'old woman'

/muŋu/	'bone'
/puñu/	'liver'
/muŋuwak/	place
/mami/	'no food'
/mani/	modal word
/maŋipu/	'I/he/she washed his/her tooth/teeth'
/mañimanpinu/	'I/he/she will help you (sg)'
/maŋini/	'like, similar'
/pami/	'trevally'
/paniwupnu/	'he/she will sit down'
/paŋiwupnu/	'they (pl) will sit down'
/pañiwaŋu/	'he will spear you (sg)'
/paŋiwaŋu/	'he will spear me'
/kama/	'eye/face'
/kanam/	'he/she is'
/kaŋam/	'they (pl) are'
/peŋimkañam/	'they (du sb) are afraid'
/kaŋamkaŋuy/	'they (du sb) have possibly arrived'

Contrast in word final position:

/piřimur/	'it is shining (light)'
/kikmur/	'beeswax'
/dařimur/	'sand, beach'
/lamuñ/	'green tree ant'
/demmurmur/	'it has melted'

The nasals /m/ and /n/ also contrast with a sequence of nasals in the medial position:

/mamay/	[ 'ma.may ]	'child (male or female)'
/mammay/	[ 'mam.'may ]	'he/she is sated'
/pumaŋanaŋ/	[ 'p <sup>h</sup> u.ma."ŋa.na <sup>t</sup> ]	'they (pl) got it'
/pumaŋannaŋ/	[ 'p <sup>h</sup> u.ma."ŋan."na <sup>t</sup> ]	'they (pl) got it for him'

/pinaʃinu/	[ 'p <sup>h</sup> i.na."ʃi.nu]	'he/she will cook it'
/pinnaʃinu/	[ 'p <sup>h</sup> ɪn.'na."ʃi.nu]	'they (pl) will cook it'

Notes regarding nasal sequences:

1. Stress appears to be different from the norm (see Section 4) when a sequence of nasals occur. As shown above, the syllable in which the second nasal is the initial consonant has a similar degree of stress to that of the previous syllable.
2. Native reaction to syllable boundaries breaks the sequence as shown above, which conforms to the syllable patterns of the language.

### Laterals

The laterals contrast at two points of articulation, namely: apico-alveolar and retroflexed. The tongue tip is the articulator for both.

Contrast in word medial position:

/malawuʃu/                    'fish fin'

/maʃaŋ/                        'naked'

/malu/                         'wattle sap'

/maʃuk/                       'didgeridoo'

/ŋala/                         'large'

/ŋaʃaʃ/                        'policeman'

/malay/                        'stone axe'

/kaʃay/                        'fishing net'

/malyɛ/                        'water goanna'

/yaʃyɛ/                        place

/pilpun/                        'spear with ironwood head'

/piʃpiʃmam/                'fast'

Contrast in word final position:

/ʃamʊl/	'spear'
/muʃ/	'common house fly'
/ŋaŋʃinŋiŋʃawaʃ/	'we (du f) carried him/her on our shoulders'
/damŋiŋʃawaʃ/	'they (du f) speared him/her'
/wakaʃ/	'child'
/kaʃ/	'water lily root'
/wʊʃ/	'shadow'
/wʊɖawʊʃ/	'he/she returned'

The lateral /l/ also contrasts with a sequence of laterals in the medial position:

/kala/	[ 'k <sup>h</sup> a.la ]	'tree (spec)'
/kalla/	[ 'k <sup>h</sup> al.'la ]	'bandicoot'
/ŋʊlamatʃ/	[ 'ŋʊ.la."ma <sup>ʔ</sup> ]	'I ate it'
/ŋʊllamatʃ/	[ 'ŋʊl.'la."ma <sup>ʔ</sup> ]	'we (pl) ate it'

Notes regarding lateral sequences:

1. Stress appears to be different from the norm (see Section 4) when a sequence of laterals occur. As shown above, the syllable in which the second lateral is the initial consonant has a similar degree of stress to that of the previous syllable.
2. Native reaction to syllable boundaries break the sequence as shown above, which conforms to the syllable patterns of the language.

### Rhotics

The rhotics contrast at two points of articulation, namely: apico-alveolar and apico postalveolar, both of which are articulated by the tongue tip.

Contrast in word medial position:

/ŋuʎunu/	'I will go'
/ŋuɽunu/	'we (excl pl) will go'
/kaʎmi/	'straw-necked ibis'
/liʎwi/	'a sore'
/ŋaɽwi/	'mangrove tree (spec)'
/piʎabaɽnu/	'he/she will watch it'
/piɽabaɽnu/	'they (pl) will watch it'
/kaʎak/	'blue-winged kookaburra'
/kaɽaŋuk/	'blow fly'
/maʎimaʎi/	'knife'
/maɽikeɽeknu/	'I/he/she will finish it (handywork)'

### Semi-consonants

The semi-consonants contrast at two points of articulation, namely: bilabial and lamino-palatal.

Contrast in word initial position:

/wi/	'white-necked heron'
/yi/	'dilly bag'
/wilan/	'a flood'
/yilan/	'priest'
/waʎa/	modal word
/yaʎa/	place
/warrgi/	'mangrove worm'
/yarrwa/	'cobbler' (fish spec)



Contrast in word medial position:

/wuwu/                    'tall grass (spec)'  
/muyu/                    'small hole'

/puwunu/                'it will flow'  
/puyuwuwupu/        'they (pl) will die'

/wudanniñtawiw/      'they (du m) continually blew'  
/demniñtayiyi/        'they (du m) are in a hurry'



1.1.2 CONSONANT VARIATIONS

CONSONANTAL ALLOPHONIC VARIATION

Table 3

	/p/	/t/	/t̚/	/t̚̚/	/k/	/b/	/d/	/d̚/	/d̚̚/	/g/	/m/	/n/	/ŋ/	/ñ/	/ŋ/	/l/	/l̥/	/ʃ/	/ç/	/w/	/y/	
Word initial	* [p̚]~[p <sup>h</sup> ]	[t <sup>h</sup> ]	[t̚ <sup>h</sup> ]		[k <sup>h</sup> ]	[b]	[d]				[m]	[n]			[ŋ]	[l]				[w]	[y]	
" " preceding /a/ & /u/				[t̚]																		
" " preceding /ε/ & /i/				[t̚̚]					[d̚]					[ñ]								
Word medial	[p <sup>h</sup> ]	[t <sup>h</sup> ]	[t̚ <sup>h</sup> ]		[k <sup>h</sup> ]	[b]	[d]	[d̚]		[g]	[m]	[n]	[ŋ]		[ŋ]	[l]	[l̥]			[w]	[y]	
" " preceding /a/ & /u/				[t̚]					[d̚]						[ŋ]							
" " preceding /ε/ & /i/				[t̚̚]					[d̚]					[ñ]								
Word final	[p̚]	[t̚]	[t̚̚]	[t̚̚̚]	[k̚]						[m]	[n]	[ŋ]	[ñ]	[ŋ]	[l]	[l̥]	[ʃ]			[y]	
Syllable final	[p̚]	[t̚]	[t̚̚]	[t̚̚̚]	[k̚]		[d̚]				[m]	[n]	[ŋ]	[ñ]	[ŋ]	[l]	[l̥]	[ʃ]			[y]	
Following nasals	[p̚]	[t̚]	[t̚̚]		[k̚]																	
" " preceding /a/ & /u/				[t̚]																		
" " preceding /ε/ & /i/				[t̚̚]																		
Preceding consonants	[p̚]	[t̚]	[t̚̚]	[t̚̚̚]	[k̚]													[ʃ]	[ç]			
Intervocally									[g]									[ʃ]	[ç]			
" between identical vowels									[g]									[ʃ]	[ç]			

\* only for a small number of words  
 † [ŋ] only precedes [t̚] in this position

NOTE: raised stop symbols indicate unreleased stops.

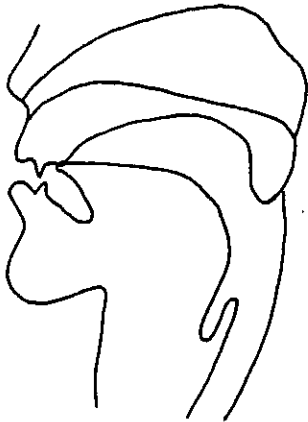
Notes to Table 3:

1. The degree of tongue retroflexion with the five apico-postalveolar consonants varies according to the preceding vowel. For example, apico-postalveolar consonants preceded by the non-high vowels have a greater degree of retroflexion than those preceded by the high vowels.
2. The five apico-postalveolar consonants do not normally occur in the word initial position, nor is there any contrast with their apico-alveolar counterparts in this position. However, in fast speech there is a tendency towards retroflexing the initial consonant of a word if the following consonant is retroflexed. (In slow precise speech there is no word initial retroflexion.)

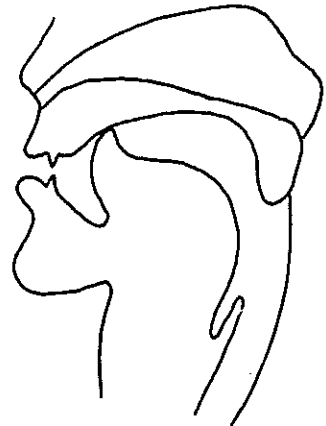
Examples:

/tɛɾɛʈ/	[tɛɾɛʈ]~[ʈɛɾɛʈ]	'many'
/dɑɾɑ/	[dɑɾɑ]~[ɾɑɾɑ]	'mangrove swamp'
/nɑʈɑ/	[nɑʈɑ]~[ɾɑʈɑ]	'you (sg) catch it'
/lɑʈɑʈ/	[lɑʈɑʈ]~[ɾɑʈɑʈ]	'to dig for small yams'

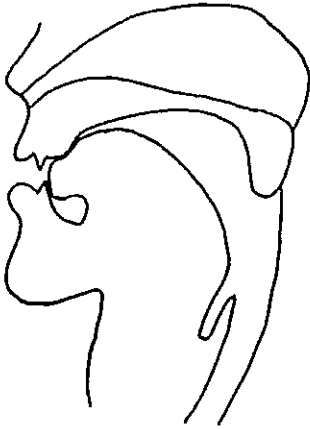
Facial Diagrams



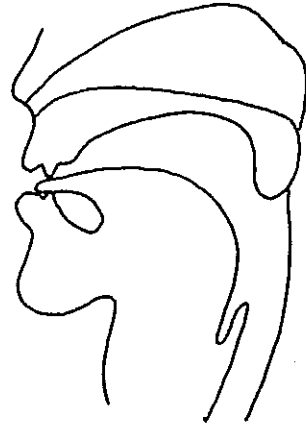
Tongue position for apico-alveolar series



Tongue position for apico-postalveolar series



Tongue position for lamino-palatal allophones [t̪], [d̪] & [ɲ]



Tongue position for lamino-palatal allophones [t̪̠], [d̪̠] & [ɲ̠] (lamino-interdental)

## 1.2 VOWELS

### 1.2.1 VOWEL CONTRASTS

The four vowel phonemes /a/, /u/, /ɛ/ and /i/ contrast as shown in the following examples.

Contrast in word medial position:

/maŋɛ/	'hand'
/mɔŋampa!/	'I/he/she broke it'
/mɛŋaɖa dini/	'he/she was saying to me'
/miŋaɖa/	'he/she nearly said to me'
/nam/	'you (sg) said'
/numi/	'one'
/nem/	place
/nimalak/	place

/pana/	'there, that'
/pununu/	'he/she will go'
/penu/	'they (du sb) will sit'
/pinu/	'he/she will sit'
/ʔamam/	'we (du incl) said/did'
/ʔumampaʔa/	'we (du incl) made it'
/ʔema/	'he/she knows it/understands it'
/ʔimu/	'nose'
/waŋgi/	'mangrove worm'
/wuŋ/	'arise, get up' (non-conjugated verb)
/weŋk/	'sulphur-crested cockatoo'
/wiŋ/	'burnt-out country'

Contrast in word final position:

/mampa/	'I/he/she said to you (sg)'
/lumpu/	'buttocks'
/ʔiʔimampe/	'fan fern'
/mimpi/	'lice'
/manangka/	negative
/peɭmuŋku/	'bristle worm'
/ŋuɖeŋke/	'calf'
/wuŋki/	'termite'
/kala/	'tree (spec)'
/malu/	'wattle sap'
/kale/	'mother'
/ʔali/	'kelp shell'
/nawa/	'isn't it?'
/wuwu/	'tall grass (spec)'

/wɛ/	'paper bark (spec)'
/wi/	'white-necked heron'

### 1.2.2 VOWEL VARIATIONS

- /a/ [a<sup>ʰ</sup>] Voiced vowel gliding from low open central to high open front position. Occurs preceding [y] across a syllable boundary and also preceding [ʈ] and [ɳ] when in closed syllables.
- |         |                        |                    |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------|
| /mayɛŋ/ | [ma <sup>ʰ</sup> .yɛŋ] | 'track'            |
| /nabaʈ/ | [na.ba <sup>ʰ</sup> ʈ] | 'you (sg) take it' |
| /laɳ/   | [la <sup>ʰ</sup> ɳ]    | 'fish scales'      |
- [a<sup>ʊ</sup>] Voiced vowel gliding from low open central to high open back position. Occurs preceding [w] across a syllable boundary.
- |         |                        |         |
|---------|------------------------|---------|
| /lawam/ | [la <sup>ʊ</sup> .wam] | 'flour' |
|---------|------------------------|---------|
- [a] Voiced low open central unrounded vowel occurs elsewhere.
- |          |                         |                 |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| /kaŋkaʔ/ | [k <sup>h</sup> aŋ.kaʔ] | 'above, on top' |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|
- /ʊ/ [ʊ<sup>ʰ</sup>] Voiced vowel gliding from high open back to high open front position. Occurs preceding [y] across a syllable boundary and also preceding [ʈ] and [ɳ] when in closed syllables.
- |                      |                                     |                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| /muʊy/               | [mu <sup>ʰ</sup> .yʊ]               | 'small hole'                |
| /lu <sup>ʰ</sup> ʊʈ/ | [lu <sup>ʰ</sup> .ʊ <sup>ʰ</sup> ʈ] | 'strong'                    |
| /puɳ/                | [pu <sup>ʰ</sup> ɳ]                 | 'final initiation ceremony' |
- [ʊ] Voiced high open back rounded vowel occurs elsewhere.
- |            |               |                      |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|
| /walumuma/ | [wa.lu.mu.ma] | 'blue-tongue lizard' |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|
- /ɛ/ [ɛ<sup>ʰ</sup>] Voiced vowel gliding from mid open front to high open front position. Occurs preceding [y] across a syllable boundary.
- |        |                       |                         |
|--------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| /peɛɛ/ | [pe <sup>ʰ</sup> .ye] | 'black shouldered kite' |
|--------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
- [æ] Voiced low close front unrounded vowel occurs occasionally in closed syllables in fluctuation with [ɛ].
- |         |                   |                    |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| /menti/ | [men.ti]~[mæn.ti] | 'hawksbill turtle' |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|

[e] Voiced mid close front unrounded vowel occurs word finally in words of two or more syllables except in reduplicated words.

/maŋɛ/ [ma.ŋɛ] 'hand'

/pɛpɛ/ [pɛ.pɛ] 'below, down'

[ɛ] Voiced mid open front unrounded vowel occurs elsewhere.

/wɛŋtɛk/ [wɛŋ.tɛ<sup>k</sup>] 'coral'

/i/ [ɪ] Voiced high open front unrounded vowel occurs in all closed syllables and preceding [t̚], [ɲ̚], [ʃ̚] and [ʒ̚] in open syllables.

/kalampitpit/ [k<sup>h</sup>a.lam.pɪt.pɪ<sup>t̚</sup>] 'Australian magpie lark'

/niɰi/ [nɪ.ɰi] 'arm'

/biɲi/ [bi.ɲi] 'whole'

/wiʃiʃ/ [wi.ʃiʃ] 'wind'

[i] Voiced high close front unrounded vowel occurs elsewhere.

/wiye/ [wi.ye] 'bad'

/lawali/ [la<sup>u</sup>.wali] 'thigh'

All vowels preceding retroflexed consonants tend to be retroflexed.

/maɰtɰu/ [maɰtɰu] 'I/he/she will get it'

/ɰuwuɰ/ [ɰuwuɰ<sup>!</sup>] 'dust'

/wɛɰmaɰti/ [wɛɰmaɰti] 'greedy'

/ɰiɰkiɰ/ [ɰiɰkiɰ<sup>!</sup>] 'breath'

## 2. INTERPRETATION

### 2.1 HIGH VOWELS

The high vowels [u], [ɪ] and [i] are interpreted as vowels because they fill the peak slot of the syllable. (Syllable breaks are marked by a period.)

/mukmuk/ [muk.mu<sup>k</sup>] 'brains'

/kikmun/ [k<sup>h</sup>ɪk.mun] 'beeswax'

/tiliman/ [t<sup>h</sup>i.li.man] 'spear grass'



## 2.2 SEMI-VOWELS

The semi-vowels [y] and [w] occur word-initially, intervocalically, and [y] also occurs word-finally. They have been interpreted as consonants because all non-suspect syllable patterns begin with a consonant and no VV patterns occur word-medially or finally.

/yekpa/	[yek.p <sup>h</sup> a]	'Johnston fresh-water crocodile'
/piřimkay/	[p <sup>h</sup> ɪ.ʃɪm.kə <sup>l</sup> ]	'he/she called out'
/peye/	[p <sup>h</sup> ɛ <sup>l</sup> .ye]	'black-shouldered kite'
/weɾɛ/	[wɛ.ɾɛ]	'dog'
/pumawaʃanu/	[p <sup>h</sup> u.ma <sup>u</sup> .wa.ʃa.nu]	'they (pl) will make it'

## 2.3 VOWEL GLIDES

The following vowel glides are all interpreted as one phonetically complex segment and analysed as an allophone of the vowel (see Section 1.2.2): [a<sup>l</sup>] and [u<sup>l</sup>] before [y] across a syllable boundary and before [ʃ] and [ɲ] in a closed syllable; [a<sup>u</sup>] before [w] across a syllable boundary; [ɛ<sup>l</sup>] before [y] across a syllable boundary. There is no contrast between these glides and their corresponding vowels in the phonetic environments mentioned.

/namɟimayigan/	[nam.ɟi.ma <sup>l</sup> .yi.gan]	'you (sg) shook my hand'
/ʃigaʃ/	[ʃi.ga <sup>l</sup> ʃ]	'urine'
/maminaɲ/	[ma.mi.na <sup>l</sup> ɲ]	'red tree sap'
/ɟuyunu/	[ɟu <sup>l</sup> .yu.nu]	'we (excl pl) will sit'
/ʃuɟuʃ/	[ʃu.ɟu <sup>l</sup> ʃ]	'to bathe'
/buɲmuɲ/	[bu <sup>l</sup> ɲ.mu <sup>l</sup> ɲ]	'pheasant coucal'
/mampawaʃanu/	[mam.pa <sup>u</sup> .wa.ʃa.nu]	'I/he/she will make it for you'
/damɟiwɛyɛř/	[dam.ɟi.wɛ <sup>l</sup> .yɛř]	'I scratched my head'

The vowel glides [a<sup>l</sup>], [u<sup>l</sup>] and [ɛ<sup>l</sup>], when occurring in phonetic environments other than those mentioned above, are interpreted as VC because

- i) there is only one syllable peak
- ii) there is contrast between the glide and the vowel which is the syllable peak
- iii) there are no non-suspect VV syllable patterns.

/maʃay/	[ma.ʃaʔ]	'bush potato (spec)'
/maʃa/	[ma.ʃa]	'new/now'
/kaykay/	[k <sup>h</sup> aʔ.k <sup>h</sup> aʔ]	'to call out'
/kaka/	[k <sup>h</sup> a.k <sup>h</sup> a]	'mother's brother'
/makuyŋka/	[ma.k <sup>h</sup> uʔŋ.ka]	'harmless'
/makuyŋka/	[ma.k <sup>h</sup> uŋ.ka]	'one unsuccessful in hunting'
/yuyawuy/	[yu.ŋa.wuʔ]	'he/she went out'
/nuŋawu/	[nu.ŋa.wu]	'it flows'
/piyemanu/	[p <sup>h</sup> i.ye.ma.nu]	'they (pl) will say/do'
/piyeymanu/	[p <sup>h</sup> i.yeʔ.ma.nu]	'he/she will lack (possessions)'

#### 2.4 PRENASALISED STOPS

The suspect medial CC sequences [mp], [nt], [ŋt̚], [nt̚], [nt̚], and [ŋk] are interpreted as two units because

- i) both nasals and stops can occur separately within a word
- ii) words can either begin or end with a nasal or stop
- iii) a few words have these sequences in reverse order. in the word medial position.

/kampa/	[k <sup>h</sup> am.pa]	'laughing'
/ʃipmam/	[ʃ̚ip.mam]	'black'
/manta/	[man.ta]	'close'
/duybatnu/	[duʔ.bat.nu]	'you (sg) might fall'
/paŋta/	[p <sup>h</sup> aŋ.ʔa]	'groin'
/maʔnu/	[maʔ.ŋu]	'I/he/she will get it'
/nañʃi/	[nañ.ʃi]	'thing'
/luʃuʃñima/	[lu.ʃuʃ̚.ñi.ma]	'you (sg) are strong'

/ŋaŋka/	[ŋaŋ.kə]	'over there'
/mʊkmʊkŋima/	[mʊk.mʊk.ŋi.ma]	'I have brains'

### 3. DISTRIBUTION

#### 3.1 DISTRIBUTION OF SYLLABLES INTO THE WORD

There are three syllable types, each with a single vowel nucleus:

CV	/tʃɛ/	'ear'
CVC	/nam/	'you (sg) said/did'
CVCC	/mɛʀk/	'moon'

Words most frequently consist of from one to six syllables. However, it is possible to have words comprising up to thirteen syllables.

/ŋʊ.nʊ.ŋam.nan.kʊ.tʃaʀ̥.mʊ.ŋan.kal.tʰay.kal.ŋi.me/	'I am shaking their (pc f) calves (lower legs) with my foot!'
--	---

All three syllable patterns may occur in all positions within the word.

#### 3.2 DISTRIBUTION OF PHONEMES INTO THE SYLLABLE

##### 3.2.1 VOWELS

All four vowels may occur in any vowel position in the syllable and word.

##### 3.2.2 CONSONANTS

The initial consonant of the CV syllable pattern can be any of the twenty-one consonant phonemes.

The initial consonant of the CVC syllable pattern can be any of the twenty-one consonant phonemes. The final consonant can be any of the consonant phonemes except /b/, /d/, /dʒ/, or /g/.

The initial consonant of the CVCC syllable pattern can be one of the following consonant phonemes: /p/, /b/, /d/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /k/, /m/, /l/ or /w/.

The medial consonant of the CVCC syllable pattern can be one of the following consonant phonemes: /l/, /l̥/, /r̥/ or /y/.

The final consonant of the CVCC syllable pattern can only be the consonant phonemes /k/, /m/ or /ŋ/.

### 3.3 DISTRIBUTION OF CONSONANT PHONEMES INTO CLUSTERS

The following charts show consonant phoneme di-clusters and tri-clusters across syllable boundaries.

#### CONSONANT DI-CLUSTERS

Table 4

	p	t	t̥	t̄	k	b	d	d̥	d̄	g	m	n	ŋ	ñ	ŋ	l	l̥	ɻ	ɻ̄	w	y	
p		x		x	x			x	x		x	x			x						x	x
t	x	x		x	x	x					x	x		x	x						x	x
t̥	x		x	x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x							
t̄	x	x		x	x	x					x	x			x						x	x
k	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x							
b																						
d							x															
d̥																						
d̄																						
g																						
m	x	x	x	x	x						x	x		x	x	x						
n	x	x		x	x						x	x		x	x	x						
ŋ	x		x	x	x						x											
ñ	x	x		x	x						x	x		x	x							
ŋ	x	x		x	x						x	x										
l	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x					x	x
l̥	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						x	x
ɻ	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x						x	x
ɻ̄					x																x	
w																						
y	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x					x	x	x

CONSONANT TRI-CLUSTERS

Table 5

	p	t	ṭ	ṭ̣	k	b	d	ḍ	ḍ̣	g	m	n	ŋ	ñ	ŋ	l	ʎ	ɽ	w	y	
lk	x			x	x						x	x			x						
lm	x																				
lŋ					x							x									
ʎŋ					x																
ʎk												x									
ʎŋ					x	x					x	x									
yn	x	x									x	x								x	
yŋ					x																

#### 4. STRESS

Stress in Murinbata is non-phonemic. There are three degrees of stress, namely: primary stress (marked '), secondary stress (marked ") and non-stressed (unmarked). None of these stress types occur adjacent to themselves, except in the case of reduplication (see below).

The following stress patterns occur in monomorphemic (only one morpheme) and polymorphemic (two or more morphemes) words from one to nine syllables. Words above nine syllables are rare in the language. (The longest monomorphemic words in the language have only five syllables.)

There is more than one syllable pattern for polymorphemic words of three, five, six, seven, eight and nine syllables in length. The patterns vary according to the make-up of the verb structure, conditioned by such things as subject, object, tense and incorporated body parts. No simple rules can be formulated without a detailed description of the verb structures as well; hence the solution of several stress patterns has been adopted for these particular words.

Morphemes that are reduplicated in polymorphemic words always carry equal primary stress. Therefore, the morphemes that come after the reduplicated section of the word do not always follow the regular stress pattern.

[ 'pʰʌ.ʎi.'kʰaʌ.'kʰaʌ.ɗa ]                    'he/she was calling out continually'

Examples:

One syllable words: primary stress occurs on the first syllable

[ 'ba ]    'march fly'

Two syllable words, monomorphemic and polymorphemic: primary stress occurs on the first syllable

[ 't̪a.pʰaʌk ]                                    'fog/dew'

[ 'mam.ŋe ]                                    'I/he/she said/did to her'

Three syllable monomorphemic words: primary stress occurs on the initial syllable and secondary stress occurs on the final syllable

[ 'la.ma."ta ]                                    'shoulder'

Three syllable polymorphemic words: primary stress occurs on the initial syllable and secondary stress on the final syllable

['di.ni."da] 'he/she was sitting'

or, secondary stress on the first syllable and primary stress on the second syllable

["nam.'pt.řa] 'you (sg) said/did to them (pl)'

Four syllable words, monomorphemic and polymorphemic: primary stress occurs on the first and third syllables

['wa.lu.'mu.ma] 'blue-tongue lizard'

['bam.ñtŋ.'kə.ɖu] 'I/he/she saw you (sg)'

Five syllable monomorphemic words: primary stress occurs on first and third syllables and secondary stress occurs on the final syllable

['p<sup>h</sup>ε.řε.'we.řε."tɛn] season just before the 'dry' when grass dies, seeds fall, etc.

Five syllable polymorphemic words: primary stress occurs on first and third syllables and secondary stress occurs on the final syllable

['mε.ŋan.'ka<sup>l</sup>.yi."da (wuřini)] 'he/she was leading us (excl pl)'

or, secondary stress occurs on the first syllable and primary stress occurs on the second and fourth syllables

["yυ.'ŋam.nɪŋ.'tə<sup>u</sup>.wυ<sup>l</sup>] 'they (du m) went out'

Six syllable polymorphemic words: primary stress occurs on the first and third syllables and secondary stress on the fifth syllable

['ŋa.řam.'kə.rυ<sup>l</sup>."ŋi.me] 'we (excl pc f) arrived'

or, secondary stress occurs on the first syllable, primary stress on the second and fourth syllables and secondary stress on the final syllable

[(mεřε) "p<sup>h</sup>ε.'řa.naυ.'wɪŋ.tuɸ."tə] 'they (pl) didn't arise'

Seven syllable polymorphemic words: secondary stress occurs on the first syllable, primary stress on the second and fourth syllables and secondary stress on the sixth syllable

["bɪm.'na.ʔuʔ.'ye.pʰup."ŋi.me] 'I/he/she heard you (pc f)'

or, secondary stress occurs on the first syllable, primary stress on the second syllable, secondary stress on the fourth syllable, primary stress on the fifth syllable and secondary stress on the final syllable

[(mɛʔɛ) "pʰu.'bi.na."ŋaʔ.'ye.pʰup."ta] 'they (pl) didn't hear me'

Eight syllable polymorphemic words: secondary stress occurs on the first syllable, primary stress occurs on the second and fourth syllables, secondary stress occurs on the sixth syllable and primary stress occurs on the seventh syllable

["pʰu.'ba.ŋam.'pi.ʔu."pʰu! 'nɪŋ.ta] 'they (pl) cleared the ground of grass for them (du m)'

or, secondary stress occurs on the first syllable, primary stress on the second, fourth and sixth syllables and secondary stress on the final syllable

["dɛm.'nɪŋ.taʊ.'wi.ñi.'mə.ɖa!."pa!] 'they (du m) debated (with each other)'

or, primary stress on the first syllable, secondary stress on the third syllable, primary stress on the fifth syllable and secondary stress on the seventh syllable

['pʰa.ʔam."pun.ku.'wɪŋ.tuʔ."nɪŋ.ta] 'they (pl) lifted up them (du m)'

Nine syllable polymorphemic words: Secondary stress occurs on the first syllable, primary stress on the second syllable, secondary stress on the fourth syllable, primary stress on the fifth syllable, secondary stress on the seventh syllable and primary stress on the eighth syllable

[(mɛʔɛ) "pʰu.'bi.na."ŋaʔ.'ye.pʰup."ta.'nɛme] 'they (pc m) didn't hear me'

or, primary stress on the first syllable, secondary stress on the third syllable, primary stress on the fifth syllable, secondary stress on the seventh syllable and primary stress on the eighth syllable

['pʰud.dɛ."nan.kuʔ.'ye.tuʔ."ta.'nɛ.me] 'they (pc m) nearly taught them (du sb)'

or, primary stress occurs on the first syllable, secondary stress



on the third syllable, primary stress on the fourth syllable, secondary stress on the sixth syllable and primary stress on the eighth syllable

[ 'da.nɪn."kʊ.'m̩.ɖa."ʃɪn.t̩a.'n̩e.me ]      'they (pc m) were sad'

## 5. MORPHOPHONEMICS

Extensive morphophonemic changes take place in Murinbata when prefixes are added to stems. Both the initial consonant or vowel of the stem and the prefix may be affected (apart from Rule No. 23 which applies to a suffix).

In some cases there is more than one rule when the same consonants are contiguous. In such cases it cannot be determined which rule applies but, in fact, each verb stem has its own morphophonemic rule. (The rules with incorporated body parts, however, are constant and these are noted.)

The reason for this is that many verb stems are very similar in form apart from the initial consonant, and to avoid confusion in some structures of the verb more than one rule is needed. The following verb stems provide a good example for Rule No. 18.

pi	'to waste'
wi	'to blow'

When these verb stems are put into a verb structure, they are

/ʃɪɖu-pi-nu/	'you (sg) will waste it'
/ʃɪɖu-wi-nu/	'you (sg) will blow it'

In another tense, however, when /n/ preceeds these stems necessitating morphophonemic changes to be made, the /w/ in stem wi does not change to /p/ (Rule No. 18a) which would then make it the same as the other stem, but rather uses the other morphophonemic rule (No. 18b) and changes to /n/.

For example:

/ʃɪɖan-pi/	'you (sg) wasted it'
/ʃɪɖan-ni/	'you (sg) blew it'

Therefore, stem wi uses only Rule No. 18b.

1. When /m + b/ or /n + b/ occur, the /b/ changes to an /m/.

/nɛ-biɿ-ŋʊ/	'you (sg) will turn your head'
/nɛm-miɿ/	'you (sg) turned your head'
/ma-bɛɿ-nʊ/	'I/he/she will get him/her'
/maŋan-mɛɿ/	'I/he/she got him/her'

2. When /m + ɿ/ occur, the /m/ assimilates to the same point of articulation as the /ɿ/, i.e. /ŋ/.

/pʊy-ɿʊm-nʊ/	'he/she will dry himself/herself'
/pa(m)-ɿʊm/ →	
/paŋ-ɿʊm/	'he/she dried himself/herself'

3. When /n + ɿ/ occur, the /ɿ/ assimilates to the same point of articulation as the /n/, i.e. /t/.

/pʊ-ɿal-nʊ/	'he/she will cut it'
/paŋ-tal/	'he/she cut it'

4. When /m + ɖ/ occur, one of the following rules take place:

- (a) The /m/ assimilates to the same point of articulation as the /ɖ/, i.e. /ŋ/, and the /ɖ/ is deleted. (This is the rule which also applies to incorporated body parts.)

/ma-ɖɛɿ-nʊ/	'he/she will yawn'
/ma(m)-ɖɛɿ/ →	
/ma-ŋɛɿ/	'he/she yawned'
/na-ɖi-pʊɿ-ŋʊ/	'you (sg) will wash his/her teeth'
/na(m)-ɖi-pʊɿ/ →	
/na-ŋi-pʊɿ/	'you (sg) washed his/her teeth'

- (b) The /m/ is deleted.

/ŋani-ɖi-nʊ/	'I will enter'
/ŋana(m)-ɖi/ →	
/ŋana-ɖi/	'I entered'

5. When /n + d̥/ occur, one of the following rules take place:  
 (a) The /d̥/ changes to an /n/ also. (This is the rule which also applies to incorporated body parts.)

/t̥u-d̥al-nu/ 'you (sg) will stand it up'

/tan-nal/ 'you (sg) stood it up'

/nuɖu-d̥aʃi-ɾaptap-nu/ 'I will pat/thump his/her back'

/nuɖan-naʃi-ɾaptap/ 'I patted/thumped his/her back'

- (b) A transitional syllable /nV/ is added, where the vowel harmonises with the first syllable of the verb stem.

/pa-d̥aŋ-nu/ 'he/she will have it stuck in himself/herself'

/kañt̥in-na-d̥aŋ/ 'he/she has it stuck in himself/herself'

6. When /m + t̥/ occur, the /m/ assimilates to the same point of articulation as the /t̥/, i.e. /ñ/

/ŋa-t̥u-nu/ 'I will blow the didgeridoo'

/ŋa(m)-t̥u/ →

/ŋañ-t̥u/ 'I blew the didgeridoo'

/piʃa-t̥iʃŋka-nu/ 'it will drizzle (rain)'

/piʃi(m)-t̥iʃŋka/ →

/piʃiñ-t̥iʃŋka/ 'it is drizzling (rain)'

7. When /m + d̥/ occur, the /d̥/ changes to its voiceless counterpart /t̥/ and the /m/ assimilates to the same point of articulation, i.e. /ñ/.

/pa-d̥ap-nu/ 'he/she will shut it'

/da(m)-t̥ap/ →

/dañ-t̥ap/ 'he/she shut it'

8. When /n + g/ occur, the /g/ changes to its voiceless counterpart /tʃ/. (Note: /n/ does not assimilate to the same point of articulation as in No. 3.)

/ŋa-ɟaʃpu-nu/	'I'll ask him'
/ŋa-n-tʃaʃpu-nu/	'I'll ask them (pl)'

9. When /m + g/ occur, the /g/ changes to its voiceless counterpart /k/.

/puba-guɟuk-nu/	'they (pl) will drink'
/pubam-kuɟuk/	'they (pl) drank'

10. When /m + ñ/ occur, the /m/ changes to the alveolar nasal /n/.

/ma-ñɛ-nu/	'he/she will say/do to us (du incl)'
/ma(m)-ñɛ/ →	
/man-ñɛ/	'he/she said/did to us (du incl)'

11. When /m + l/ occur, one of the following rules take place:

- (a) No change takes place.

/ba-lɛlɛ-nu/	'I/he/she will bite him/her'
/baŋam-lɛlɛ/	'I/he/she bit him/her'

- (b) The /m/ is deleted. (This is the rule which also applies to incorporated body parts.)

/ŋunu-lili-nu/	'I will walk'
/ŋunuŋa(m)-lili/ →	
/ŋunuŋa-lili/	'I am walking'
/pa-lu-lutut-nu/	'he/she will have a pain in his/her forehead'
/da(m)-lu-lutut/ →	
/da-lu-lutut/	'he/she had a pain in his/her forehead'

12. When /m + !/ occur, one of the following rules take place:

(a) The /m/ is deleted.

/na-!uy-nu/	'you (sg) will turn direction'
/na(m)-!uy/ →	
/na-!uy/	'you (sg) turned direction'

(b) The /!/ changes to /l/.

/pa-!uŋ-nu/	'he/she will be cold'
/dam-luŋ/	'he/she is cold'

13. When /n + l/ occur, one of the following rules take place:

(a) No change takes place. (This is the rule which also applies to incorporated body parts.)

/tʃu-lɛřkpeřk-nu/	'you (sg) will break it (glass etc.)'
/tʃan-lɛřkpeřk/	'you (sg) broke it'
/pa-lu-wɛwɔ-nu/	'he/she will wet his/her forehead (baptise him)'
/pan-lu-wɛwɔ-nu/	'he/she will wet their (pl) foreheads'

(b) A transitional syllable /nV/ is added, where the vowel harmonises with the first vowel of the verb stem.

/tʃuřu-lili-nu/	'you (sg) will walk'
/tʃuřan-ni-lili/	'you (sg) are walking'

14. When /n + !/ occur, one of the following rules take place.

(a) The /!/ changes to /l/.

/ma-!ař-nu/	'l/he/she will wrap it'
/ma-n-lař-nu/	'l/he/she will wrap them (pl)'

(b) A transitional syllable /nV/ is added, where the vowel harmonises with the first vowel of the verb stem.

/ŋuɖu- ε -ŋu/	'I will roll it over'
/ŋuɖan-nε- ε /	'I rolled it over'

15. When /m + r/ occur, the /r/ changes to /ɽ/, and the /m/ assimilates to the same point of articulation, i.e. /ŋ/

/ŋa-rɽiwak-nu/	'I will follow him/her'
/ŋa(m)-ɽiwak/ →	
/ŋaŋ-ɽiwak/	'I followed him/her'

16. When /n + r/ occur, the /r/ changes to /t/.

/pu-rɽiwu-nu/	'he/she will count'
/pan-tiwu/	'he/she counted'

17. When /m + w/ occur, one of the following rules take place:

(a) The /w/ changes to a /p/. (This is the rule which also applies to incorporated body parts.)

/puma-waɽa-nu/	'They (pl) will make it'
/pumam-paɽa/	'They (pl) made it'
/na-wε-pu!-ŋu/	'you (sg) will wash his/her head/hair'
/nam-pε-pu!/	'you (sg) washed his/her head/hair'

(b) The /m/ is deleted.

/ŋani-wup-nu/	'I will sit down'
/ŋana(m)-wup/ →	
/ŋana-wup/	'I sat down'

18. When /n + w/ occur, one of the following rules take place:

(a) The /w/ changes to /p/. (This is the rule which also applies to incorporated body parts.)

/ŋiʃa-wiñagaɟ-nu/	'I will look for/search'
/ŋiʃaŋan-piñagaɟ/	'I looked for/searched'
/bu-wɛ-pak-nu/	'I/he/she will put it on his/her head'
/ban-pɛ-pak/	'I/he/she put it on his/her head'

(b) The /w/ changes to /n/.

/na-wuʃ-nu/	'you (pl) will drag it'
/nañɟin-nuʃ/	'you (pl) dragged it'

19. When /m + y/ occur, one of the following rules take place:

(a) The /y/ changes to /ñ/.

/pani-yɛl-nu/	'it will rain'
/kanam-ñɛl/	'it is raining'

(b) The /y/ changes to /ɟ/ and the /m/ assimilates to the same point of articulation, i.e. /ñ/. (This is the rule which also applies to incorporated body parts.)

/mi-yɛʃ-nu/	'I/he/she will look out/around'
/mi(m)-ɟɛʃ/ →	
/miñ-ɟɛʃ/	'I/he/she looked out/around'
/ŋa-yɛ-ɖum-nu/	'I'll block off my ear'
/ŋa(m)-ɟɛ-ɖum/ →	
/ŋañ-ɟɛ-ɖum/	'I blocked off my ear'

20. When /n + y/ occur, one of the following rules take place:

(a) The /y/ changes to /ñ/.

/ɟa-yega!-nu/	'you (sg) will drop it'
/ɟañɟin-ñega!/	'you (sg) dropped it'

- (b) The /y/ changes to /ʃ/. (Note: /n/ does not assimilate to the same point of articulation as for 19b.) (This is also the rule which applies to incorporated body parts.)

/pu-yeřař-nu/	'he/she will chip out (a log for wild honey)'
/pan-tjeřař/	'he/she chipped out (a log for wild honey)'
/nam-punku-ye-pu! /	'you (sg) washed their (du sb) ears'
/nam-pun-tje-pu! /	'you (sg) washed their (pl) ears'

21. When /m/ or /n/ precede a verb stem which begins with the consonant cluster /ŋk/, the /ŋ/ of the stem is deleted.

/puma-ŋka!ay-nu/	'they (pl) will wave'
/pumam-ka!ay/	'they (pl) waved'
/ŋiřa-ŋke-nu/	'I'll be jealous'
/ŋiřaŋan-ke/	'I was jealous'

22. When vowel + vowel occur, one of the following rules take place:

- (a) In the case of the vowels /i + a/ the two vowels become one vowel, namely /ε/.

/pibi-at/ = /pibet/ 'they (pl) stood'

- (b) Where a combination of vowels occur (other than the combination in (a) above), the second vowel is deleted.

/maŋaŋe-ař/ = /maŋaŋeř/ 'I/he/she got it for her'

/meře pulle-ařja/ = /meře pulleřja/  
'they (pl) didn't eat'

23. When the suffix /re/ follows a consonant, it changes to /te/, or /ře/ if the adjacent consonant is retroflexed.

/takuň-te/ 'by way of the left'  
'when he/she speared it'



## 6. ORTHOGRAPHY

One of the main reasons for the study of Murinbata phonology is to provide an effective alphabet which the Murinbata people can use to read and write their own language.

There are two considerations involved in the selection of an orthography, as outlined in Leading and Gudschinsky 1974:

- i) 'The orthography should be chosen to make learning to read as easy as possible for the beginner and also allow the experienced reader to skim new materials smoothly.'
- ii) '... the vernacular orthography should facilitate transition into English.'

It is felt that the orthography chosen meets the conditions above. It also has the advantage now of being thoroughly used and tested for several years. Quite a number of adults have learned to read Murinbata, transferring from English. Even a greater number of children have used and are continuing to use this orthography in the local school's bilingual programme, which commenced in 1975.

Phoneme	Orthographic Symbol
p	p
t	t
t̥	rt
t̄	th
k	k
b	b
d	d
d̥	rd
d̄	dh
g	g
m	m
n	n
ŋ	rn
ñ	nh

ŋ	ng
l	l
ɹ	rɹ
ʀ	rr
ɹ	ř
w	w
y	y
i	i
ɛ	e
a	a
u	u

Notes and rules concerning the above orthography:

1. Although there is contrast between the consonant clusters /ñt̚/ and /nt̚/ it is felt best to orthographically spell both clusters as nth, to avoid the clumsy spelling of nthth. (Except for the /-ʃa/ past tense suffix following /ñ/ or /t̚/ spelling is in such cases nthth or thth.) However, where the consonant cluster /ŋt̚/ occurs, this is orthographically spelled rnth.

/ŋaŋʃaɹpu/	ngantharrpu	'I asked him'
/ŋaŋʃaɹpunu/	ngantharrpunu	'I will ask them (pl)'
/ŋinidʒuɖuʃʃa/	nginidhurduththa	'I was swallowing it'
/mɛɾɛ ŋiɹaŋiʃɛŋʃa/	mere ngirrangithenhtha	'I didn't recognise it'
/kuŋʃik/	kurnthik	'stomach'

2. Where retroflexed consonant clusters /ŋt̚/, /l̠t̚/ etc. occur, these are spelled orthographically as rnt̚, rlt̚ etc.

/paŋʃa/	parnta	'groin'
/ŋampaɹt̚ɛ/	ngamparlte	'when I speared it'

3. In some cases it is felt that two orthographic spellings are possible. This occurs in a small number of verb structures where the verb stem's initial consonant is /d/ or /g/.

However, when preceded by a nasal, these consonants change to /t̪/ (rules 7 and 8) and /k/ (rule No. 9) respectively. Because they more frequently occur in verb structures as /d̪/ and /g/, the verb stems in this form would become well known, and even though phonetically they change to their voiceless counterparts following a nasal, both spellings are acceptable.

verb stem = /d̪ap/

/ma-d̪ap-nu/	madhapnu	'I/he/she will shut it'
/mañ-t̪ap/	manthap~mandhap	'I/he/she shut it'

verb stem = /guṛuk/

/ma-guṛuk-nu/	maguruknu	'I/he/she will fold it'
/mam-kuṛuk/	mamkuruk~mamguruk	'I/he/she folded it'

4. Following a nasal, the initial consonant /y/ of a verb stem will change by application of rules 19a and 20a. However, the orthographic spelling remains as y, for similar reasons as given in 3. above — the verb stem is well known as beginning with /y/, and to avoid clumsy spelling.

verb stem = /yɛl/

/pani-yɛl-nu/	paniyelnu	'it will rain'
/kanam-ñɛl/	kanamyel	'it is raining'

## ABBREVIATIONS

adj	adjective
du	dual
excl	exclusive
f	female
gen	generic
incl	inclusive
m	male
pc	paucal
pl	plural
sb	sibling
sg	singular
spec	species

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APPENDIX

MURINBATA TO ENGLISH WORD LIST

The practical orthography is used in the following vocabulary items. Items listed in brackets are noun classes. (Noun classes are always placed before the noun.)

Murinbata	English
ba (ku)	march fly
babirnu	I/he/she will bury/plant it
bagurduknu	I/he/she will drink it
balli (ku)	mud crab
bamam	white (colour)
bamanthamarl (ku)	Torres Strait pigeon
bammat	I/he/she fell
bamngingardu	he/she saw me
bampunkardu	I/he/she saw them (pl)
bangammirr	I/he/she buried/planted it
bangamngilele	he/she bit me
bangamparl	I/he/she broke it (with a stone etc.)
bangampelip	I/he/she hit him/her on the head (with a stone etc.)
bangampurl	I/he/she cleared the ground (with a hand or instrument)
banganthakduk	I/he/she prepared a fire
bangarntikerdek	I/he/she finished drinking, finished constructing (with an instrument)
bangarnurt	I/he/she found it
bangiyuknu	I will rest
banhingardunu	I/he/she will see you (sg)
banlelenu	I/he/she will bite them (pl)

bannurdi	I/he/she put it inside
banpak	I/he/she put it down
baparInu	I/he/she will break it (with stone etc.)
batbat	right (i.e. opposite to left)
batbat-te	by way of the right
baybayye (ku)	female antilopine kangaroo
bebirrbirrdha kardi	he/she was planting/burying many objects
bekmamarda (da)	open country/sea
bemkanin ngem	I am thinking
bemnungkardu	I/he/she looked at my/him/ herself
bengileledha	he/she nearly bit me
bepi (da)	black soil country
berduy kanam	he/she is going around and around
bere	finish, end (paragraph marker)
berengunh	O.K., I've got it, etc.
bere matha wangu	always
bere ngatha wangu	always
bimnayepup	I/he/she heard him
bimpayepupnu	I/he/she will listen to you (sg)
binhi	the whole (of an object)
birlbirl	alert, watchful (adj)
birnu (nanthi)	alive, life
birnu (ku)	bait
biyepupnu	I/he/she will listen/hear
bukmantharr	red (colour)
bunhmunh (ku)	pheasant
bupaknu	I/he/she will put it down
burrburr	cold (adj)
burrekburreknam	sticky/cruel (adj)
buybat nukun	I/he/she might fall

da	(noun class) camps, living places, localities time seasons
dabirru	you (sg) will plant/bury it
dagurduk	you (sg) drink it!
dammardathin	he/she is sad, sorrowful
damngamut	he/she gave it to me
damngarramutmut wurrán	he/she always gives to us (pl)
damngingkarđu	you (sg) saw me
damngingkarr	he/she showed it to me
damngiriwak wurrán	he/she is following me
damngitheik	he/she swore at/abused me
dampamut	he/she gave it to you (sg)
damparl	he/she speared it
dampinhipak	he/she poured/spilled it
dampirnturt	he/she lifted it up
dang (ku)	lobster
dangkarđu	you (sg) look!
danpak	you (sg) put it
danthu	he blew the didgeridoo
dara (da)	mangroves
dardurtnu	you (sg) will find it
darnte dim	she is weaving (a dilly bag)
darntilil dim	he/she is writing
darrarant (karđu)	thief, robber
darrida (ku)	black mosquito
darrikarđu (karđu)	relative, countryman
darrinpirr	large plain (grass lands)
darripi (nanti)	skin (of human, fruit, etc.) bark of tree
demngimanham	he/she was frightened of me
demninthangkabirr	they (du m) complained to each other

dempinhipingkarl	he/she kneeled down
demyirryirr dim	(the water) is boiling
denham	he/she was frightened
denthamuraariyet	he has shaved his face
dewu dim	he/she has a temperature
dhekdhek	to play
dhepdhep (mi)	food (excl meats)
dhiyungyung (nanthi)	shell necklace
dim	he/she is sitting
dimkampa	he/she is laughing (sitting)
dimkan	it extinguished itself
dimkarrk	he/she is crying (sitting)
dimku	he/she caught a fish (by line)
dimme	he/she vomited
dimmiribiri	he/she is awake
dimmurrk	he/she is eating (sitting)
dimngamardamarda	he/she is waiting for me
dimngerren	he/she is talking (sitting)
dimparl	it broke (by itself)
dimpirt	it came off (by itself)
dimu (nanthi)	tooth, teeth
dimunurdi	shore
dingarl (nanthi)	tea tree
dirranganthenh	he/she recognised it
dirri (ku)	bird's nest
dirrimu	patterns, paints, etc.
dirryerrdi (da)	cliff bank
du	to cry (non-conjugated verb)
dupak	you (sg) put it down!
durdinu	you (sg) will put it inside
dutmarnarri	bent (adj)
duway (ku)	black stingray



duybat nukun	you (sg) might fall down
duynginthamardinu	you (du f) will get married (literally - you will put it on your fingers i.e. the ring)
kaba (ku)	northern rosella
kabat (nanthi)	yellow/orange ochre
kagu	come!
kaka	mother's brother (uncle)
kakalak (ku)	baler/melon shell
kakpa (nanthi)	tear juice from fruit/animal
kalakkalak (nanthi)	cloud(s)
kalampitpit (ku)	Australian magpie lark (peewee)
kale	mother and mother's sisters
kalkalk	middle of the night
kalla (ku)	brindled bandicoot
kaltherrerre (ku)	masked plover
kama(-ya)	maybe, perhaps
kamarl (nanthi)	eye(s), face, hook of woomera
kamarl (mi)	seed
kamarl (kardu)	sweetheart, boyfriend/girlfriend
kamarl (kura)	waterhole
kamarrama (kardu)	blind person
kanala	he/she climbed up
kanamkut	he/she collected them
kanammardap	he/she got into (boat, plane, etc.)
kanampart	he/she left it
kananganthan (ku)	emu
kanardi	he/she entered
kanawup	he/she sat down
kanga	small of back
kanganu	half way, middle

kangkarl	above, on top
Kangkarimawu	God (literally - one who abides above)
kangunu	fragrance, odour
kanhi	this, here
kanhi-re	by this way
kanhiwarl nukun	he might spear you (sg)
kaniyel nukun	it might rain
kanthanhinh	sweet (adj)
kaparl (nanthi)	sleep from eye
kaparingka (ku)	periwinkle shell
kardu	(noun class) human being (Aboriginal only)
karl (mi)	edible root of Nymphoides water lily
karlay (nanthi)	fishing net
karnmurrin (nanthi)	woolybutt tree
karntikek (ku)	spotted tree monitor
karrak (ku)	blue-winged kookaburra
karrath (ku)	spirit of deceased
karrkkurck (ku)	tawny frogmouth
karrmi (ku)	straw-necked ibis
karrthin (ku)	spotted or swamp harrier
kartpurr (ku)	pie'd butcher bird
karun (ku)	witchetty grub
kawen (nanthi)	bloodwood tree
kawu	mother's mother and her sisters
kem	he/she is there (sitting)
kemnintha	they (du m) are there (sitting)
kerrental (da)	sunset
kikmun (ku)	beeswax
kilikilik (ku)	galah
kingkan nukun	it might extinguish itself

kiningka (nanthi)	digging stick
kiniwu (nanthi)	dugout canoe
kiparl nukun	it might break itself
kipirt nukun	it might come off itself
kirtal nukun	it might snap itself
ku	(noun class) animals, birds, insects and marine life meat the spirit world products of animals, birds and marine life
kukpi (ku)	carpet snake
kulangu (ku)	mullet
kulerrkurrk (ku)	brulga
kumilu (mi)	native potato (spec)
kumpampa (mi)	white love apple
kumpan	they (pl) are there (moving)
kumparra	first/leading
kumpit (ku)	male antilopine kangaroo
kungini	afternoon
kunginire	yesterday
kungka (kardu)	good hunter/fisherman
kunhibat nukun	he/she might hit you (sg)
kunungam kem	he/she is there (moving)
kunungingki	small (adj)
kununtharr	first born
kupkup	soft (adj)
kupup nukun	he/she might die
kura	(noun class) water, rain liquid that is drinkable
kura patha	fresh water
kura lalingkin	salt water
kura yelyel	rain

kuragadha (thu)	boomerang
kurawe (ku)	Merten's water monitor
kurlkurl (da)	a short stay (in time)
kurnern (ku)	step-ladder dosima shell
kurnthik	stomach
kurran	he/she is there (moving)
kurrukurruk (nanthi)	seaweed
kuwarri (nanthi)	shield, with handle
kuwin (ku)	blue-faced honeyeater
kuydharr (ku)	taipan
kuywi (ku)	pink cockatoo
lakakkamam	shiny (adj)
lakumin (nanthi)	cypress pine
lala (mi)	cycad palm fruit
lamala (nanthi)	shoulder
lametingi (kardu)	uninitiated boy
lamunh (ku)	green tree ant
lanh (nanthi)	fish scales
larrplarrp (nanthi)	shell grit
le	happy
len (thungku)	hot coals, charcoal
letetmam	sticky (adj)
lirwi (nanthi)	a sore
lithpurr (nanthi)	axe
lumpu (nanthi)	buttocks, rear
lurrunhin (ku)	cicada
lurruth	strong, rough (adj)
luturruth (nanthi)	head sores
ma	but
ma!	give it to me!
mabathnu	I/he/she will take it

mabertnu	I/he/she will get him/her
magulkul (nanthi)	heart
makardu	nobody
maku	no meat
malarntath (thu)	thunder and lightning
malawurru (nanthi)	fin (of a fish)
malkimarrin (nanthi)	vein/tendon
malgaga (ku)	small wallaby
malye (ku)	mangrove monitor
mam	he/she said/did
mami	no food
mamna	I/he/she said/did to him
mamngingkawadha	he/she said my name
mampatha	I/he/she made it, fixed it
mampurl	I/he/she washed it
manangka	not
manganart	I/he/she got it
manganngimart	he/she took it from me
mange (nanthi)	hand
mange numi	five (one hand)
mange putung (nanthi)	knuckle (on hand)
mange thingin (nanthi)	finger nail
mangka	father's mother and her sisters
mangkamurr (mi)	bush grape
mangurruwerr (ku)	spider
manhimartnu	I/he/she will take it from you (sg)
manman (ku)	butterfly
manta	close, near
manthigat (ku)	red-collared lorikeet
marda	abdomen (belly)
marda yidi (nanthi)	chest
mardinhpuy (kardu)	teenage girl

marikerdeknu	I/he/she will finish it (handiwork)
marirdanu	I/he/she will push him
marlarrnu	I/he/she will wrap it
marluk (nanthi)	didgeridoo
marra	new, now
marray (mi)	native potato (spec)
marrngmarrng (kardu)	a funny person
martanu	I/he/she will catch it
martnu	I/he/she will get it
math (ku)	perch
mathak nukun	I/he/she might lose it
mathapnu	I/he/she will touch it
mawathanu	I/he/she will make it, fix it, etc.
mawuye (nanthi)	poison
mayiyin (ku)	dragon fly
me (nanthi)	foot
medeyi	hungry
melkmelkthay (ku)	spoonbill
memmiri	I/he/she turned my/his/her head around
memnumapur	I/he/she washed my/his/her hands
menek (nanthi)	ironwood tree
menthingap	I/he/she smelled it
menti (ku)	hawsbill turtle
mere	(negative word) used mainly with verbal constructions
merithuktha wurrini	I/he/she was messing around
merrk (nanthi)	moon
merl (ku)	sandfly
mi	(noun class) vegetable foodstuffs fruit faeces

mik (nanthi)	possessions of the deceased
mikmu (nanthi)	side of buttocks
mikmunurr (kardu)	widow/widower
militi (ku)	white-faced heron
milu (ku)	grass whistling duck
mimpi (ku)	head lice
minthire	when?
mirarr (nanthi)	a handle
mirnka (nanthi)	clapping sticks
mirrangan (da)	the dry season
mu	but
muknuk (nanthi)	brains
mulurn (nanthi)	leaf, leaves, shade
mumun (ku)	water rat
munak	sister
mune (ku)	stingray (spec)
mup!	sit down! stop! (moving)
murdak (nanthi)	grevillea tree
murduurtu	I/he/she will shake it
murlak	dangerous, cheeky
murntak	old (adj)
murntak (da)	a long time ago
murnu (nanthi)	bone
murnuri	bony, skinny (adj)
murrinh	(noun class) speech, language, news a name, a word
murrirr (nanthi)	feather(s)
murrirrbe (ku)	bird (gen)
murruwurl	correct, good, nice (adj)
muyu (da)	small hole
muyu (ku)	red and black meat ant
muyungu (nanthi)	acacia tree

na?	isn't it?
nadhap	you (sg) shut your mouth!
nadhaletnu	you (sg) will fill it up
nakut	you (sg) collect them!
nakur l	after
nal (ku)	osprey
namngingkarlay	you (sg) waved to me
nampatha	you (sg) made it
nangingkarlay	you (sg) wave to me!
ngangkal?	who?
ngangkal-dha?	who from?
ngangkal-nu?	who for?
ngangkal-yu?	who?
ngangkarartnu	you (sg) will select, choose
nanki	(pronoun) you (2nd person pl) you (2nd person paucal siblings)
nanku	(pronoun) you (2nd person dual siblings)
nankuneme	(pronoun) you (2nd person paucal m)
nankunintha	(pronoun) you (2nd person dual m)
nankungime	(pronoun) you (2nd person paucal f)
nankungintha	(pronoun) you (2nd person dual f)
nanthap	you (sg) touched it
narta	you (sg) catch it!
nathak nukun	you (sg) might lose it
nengabirl	you (sg) turn your head around to me!
nertpi (ku)	frilled-necked lizard
neyingapnu	you (sg) will smell it



ngadharrpunu	I'll ask him/her
ngala	large, big
ngalek (ku)	white mosquito
ngaliwe	short
ngalulu (ku)	small wallaby
ngalthe	narrow, close
ngamam	I said/did
ngamanu	I'll say/do
ngamere	few (adj)
ngampamutnu	I'll give it to you (sg)
ngampirnturt	I lifted it
nganamutnu	I'll give it to him
nganhiriwaknu	I'll follow you (sg)
nganimpakutnu	I'll collect them for you (sg)
nganiwitnu	I'll go to sleep
nganiwupnu	I'll sit down
nganki	(pronoun) we (1st person pl) we (1st person paucal sibling)
nganku	(pronoun) we (1st person dual sibling)
ngankuneme	(pronoun) we (1st person paucal m)
ngankungime	(pronoun) we (1st person paucal f)
ngankungintha	(pronoun) we (1st person dual f)
ngankunintha	(pronoun) we (1st person dual m)
ngapurulu (nanthi)	breast
ngarililnu	I will write it
ngarlarr (ku)	policeman
ngarlurlu	I will peel off paper bark
ngarra?	where?
ngarra	at, on, by, in etc.

ngarrarntuy	we (pl excl) arrived
ngathunu	I'll blow (the didgeridoo)
ngathparr!	move back! keep away!
ngathparr (da)	long way (distance)
ngawewunu	I'll wet it
ngay	(pronoun) I, me, mine
ngek (ku)	little corella
ngem	I'm sitting
ngemmurrk	I'm eating (sitting)
ngen (ku)	meat
ngenham	I was frightened
ngenthuth	I bathed
ngepan (ku)	spirit, soul
ngere (ku)	small oyster
ngimardawithnu	I will ascend
nginathinu	I will cook it
nginipunh (nanthi)	body
nginthirrin (nanthi)	sweat
ngipilinh (kura)	river, creek
ngirelnu	I will sing
ngirnu (ku)	long-necked turtle
ngirrabathnu	I'll watch it
ngirraputhnu	I'll throw them (many objects) away
ngukin (mi)	excreta
ngulathnu	I'll eat it
nguluyguy (ku)	echidna
ngungardurr	I left/departed
ngungiwuynu	I will go outside
ngungururrnu	I'll pull it
ngunhibat nukun	I might hit you (sg)
ngunubatnu	I'll kick it

ngunungam ngem	I'm going
ngupu (ku)	flatback turtle
nguputhnu	I will sweep
ngurdammay	I failed
ngurdankarl	I put it back
ngurdiwalnu	I'll jump down
ngurdiwurlnu	I'll go back
ngurdunhiyethithnu	I'll teach you (sg)
ngurduwinu	I'll blow it
nguretnu	I will start
nguriwunu	I will count them
ngurimirl (ku)	fish (gen)
ngurntinh (nanthi)	wave (of the ocean)
ngurrankath	I crossed over (river, road)
ngurru	side
ngurru (ku)	grub
ngurrrnguwarl	to sleep (non-conjugated verb)
ngurrunu	I will go
ngurrapapnu	I'll go early
nguyyekumnu	I will forget
nhinhi	(pronoun) you (sg)
nigunu	(pronoun) she, her
ningkeningke	jealous (adj)
ninthi (ku)	gould's fruit bat
nithi (nanthi)	arm
nithi kureng (nanthi)	elbow
nithinu	branch of tree tributary of river side track, etc.
niyeniye (kardu)	a promise (to marriage)
niyithniyith (murrinh)	a story

nukunu	(pronoun) he, him
numi	one
numidharrngi	by myself (alone)
numidharrnu	by himself (alone)
nupurrk	you (pl) clap!
nuru-wa	you (pl) go away!
palathi (nanthi)	billy goat plum tree
palla (ku)	false trumpet shell
palyirr (da)	hill
palyirr (nanthi)	stone, rock
pamam	they (pl) said/did
pamamnga	they (pl) said/did to me
pampamutnu	he/she will give it to you (sg)
pana	there, that (medium distance)
pangkin	back, on top of
pangkuy	long (adj)
pangkuy (ku)	snake (gen)
pangu	there, that (long distance)
panhingkarrnu	he/she will show you (sg)
panirdinu	he/she will enter
parl (nanthi)	pus
parnu (nanthi)	grass (gen)
paruynu	he/she/they (pl) will arrive
pata wangu	move along!
patha	good
pelenangka (ku)	kidney fat
pelpith (nanthi)	head
pelpith pepe	upside down
pemarr (nanthi)	hair
pengel (nanthi)	shoulder blade
peningintha	(pronoun) they (3rd person dual f)

penintha	(pronoun) they (3rd person dual m)
pepe	down, under
perrkenku	two
perrkenkuneme	three
pewinhipingkarlnu	he/she will kneel down
peyirryirrnun	it will boil
pi (nanthi)	string
pilimarr (ku)	northern snapping turtle
pilithman (ku)	red-winged parrot
piliyin (ku)	little brown falcon
pingerrennu	he/she will talk
pingkarl (nanthi)	knee
pipi	father's sister (aunty)
pirda!	Stop it! don't!
pirdi (ku)	queen fish
pirlay (ku)	sand rat
pirranawinhadhathnu	he/she will look for him
pirrapenu	he/she will look after/guard it
pirrayelnu	it will rain
pirrim	he/she is standing
pirrimputh	he/she threw them (many objects) away
pirrimyel	it's raining
pirtpirt	fast (adj)
piru (nanthi)	stringybark tree
pubanpak	they (pl) put it down
pubinthepup	they (pl) heard it
pule (kardu)	old man, head man, husband (term used by wife)
pulith (kardu)	cripple (adj)
pulu	white/grey (of hair)
pulupulu (ku)	fork-tailed kite

pumawathanu	they (pl) will make/fix it
punhinthi (ku)	eggs of pied geese
punhu (nanthi)	liver
purdiyithnu	he/she will tell a story
puretnu	he/she/they (pl) will start
purr (ku)	quail
purru-wa	let's go! (incl dual)
putput (kardu)	pregnant (adj)
tatata Imam	exhausted (adj)
tay (ku)	egret
tek (ku)	black cockatoo
tek (nanthi)	bloodroot
terert	many (adj)
tetemam	hard, strong (adj)
thade (nanthi)	saliva
thadharrpunu	you (sg) will ask him/her
thakunh	left
thalli (ku)	kelp shell
thalmanh (ku)	cricket
thama	you (sg) say/do it!
thamamay (nanthi)	beard
thamarl (nanthi)	neck
thamul	(noun class)
thamurru (nanthi)	spears
thangamut	side of face
thangiriwaknu	you (sg) give it to me!
thangku?	you (sg) will follow me
thangku (da)	what?
thangku-nu?	the wet season
thangku numa?	what for?
thangunu	how many?
	from

thanimardap	you (sg) get into it!
thaningkala	you (sg) climb up!
thanipart	you (sg) leave it!
thanka (mi)	yam
thanirdinu	you (sg) will enter
thaniwup	you (sg) sit down!
thanthin thim	you (sg) have it
thapak (nanthi)	fog, dew
thapulin (ku)	banana prawn
tharibirlnu	you (sg) will light the fire
tharluknu	you (sg) will chew it
tharrmirnka (ku)	rainbow bee-eater
tharmu (nanthi)	shin
thathap	you (sg) touch it!
thathpi (nanthi)	mouth, lips
thathpi were (nanthi)	moustache
thathpirr	true
thawath	careful, slowly
thawinhimardapaknu	you (sg) will pour (into a container)
thawuy (mi)	chewing tobacco
thay	tree (gen)
the (nanthi)	ear
thelelerr (nanthi)	carryall - made from paperbark
thelpung (ku)	common rock rat
thelput (nanthi or da)	house
thelthel (ku)	small bird (gen)
themen (nanthi)	tongue
thenhamnu	you (sg) will be frightened
thepangaye (nanthi)	earwax
therretherren (da)	mountain
therrke (nanthi)	new grass
theth (ku)	bush-tail possum

thewirnturt	you (sg) stand up!
thigath (nanthi)	urine
thikampa	you (sg) laugh!
thilimpirrith (ku)	willie wagtail
thimerri (ku)	jabiru
thiminkit (nanthi)	kidney
thimngerren	you (sg) are talking
thimu (nanthi)	nose
thingamardamardanu	you (sg) will wait for me
thinang (da)	promontory
thingmanthay (nanthi)	whiskers
thinidha	you (sg) were sitting
thiniminh (ku)	small bat
thingthingmam	hairy (adj)
thipinhi (da)	night
thipinhire (da)	morning, tomorrow
thipmam	black (adj)
thirelnu	you (sg) will sing
thirrimeme (nanthi)	navel
thirrinhin (ku)	skink
thithimampe (nanthi)	fan fern
thithimanti	bitter (adj)
thiwinh (ku)	small black duck
thu	(noun class)
	offensive weapons (e.g. club
	boomerang)
	thunder and lightning
	playing cards
thulath	you (sg) eat it!
thulith (ku)	king prawn
thungiwuy	you (sg) go outside!
thungku	(noun class)
	fire etc.
thungungirurnu	you (sg) will pull me



thunguningkin (ku)	threadfin salmon
thunmu (nanthi)	nape of neck
thunpith (nanthi)	large woomera
thunuku	you (sg) throw it away!
thupup nukun	you (sg) might die
thuputhnu	you (sg) will sweep
thurdamay	you (sg) failed
thurdawurl	you (sg) came back
thurdanpi thanam	you (sg) always waste it
thurdingayithnu	you (sg) will tell me a story
thurdiwal	you (sg) jump down!
thurdungkarl	you (sg) put it back!
thurdungiyethithnu	you (sg) will teach me
thurduwinu	you (sg) will blow it
thurran	you (sg) are going
thurru-wa!	you (sg) go away!
thurrukathnu	you (sg) will cross over
thurrulilinu	you (sg) will walk
thurrudirr (ku)	black bream
thut (nanthi)	small woomera
thut (ku)	black-breasted whistling kite
thuyyekum nukun	you (sg) might forget
tidharl tidharlmam	smooth, slippery (adj)
tikune	corner
tiliman (ku)	spear grass
tinay (kardu)	last born
tirimilu (ku)	witchetty grub
tulutulumam	powdery, dry (adj)
tupurr (ku)	cowry shell

wak (ku)	Torresian crow
wakal (kardu)	child
wakal	small
wal (mi)	pandanus fruit
walet (ku)	yellow bat
walmarr (ku)	hammer-head shark
walumuma (ku)	blue-tongue lizard
walurntak (ku)	pelican
wamparn (ku)	salt-water crocodile
wangu	way
wanhpanh (nanthi)	womb
wanthay (nanthi)	armpit
wardi	thin (adj)
warrgi (ku)	mangrove worm
warnak (nanthi)	smoke
wath (nanthi)	kentia palm
watmam	quiet, calm
we (nanthi)	paper bark tree (spec)
were (ku)	dog
were pulangarr (ku)	dingo
werlpen	flat (adj)
werlpen (ku)	butterfly fish
werntek (nanthi)	coral
werrerrerr (nanthi)	shivers, jitters, nerves
werrk (ku)	sulphur-crested cockatoo
wertmarnti	greedy (adj)
weyi (da)	hole
wilan (kura)	large volume of rising water, flood
wilmurr (nanthi)	horns
wirrigi (ku)	greasy or estuary cod
wirrirr (nanthi)	wind
wirrirr (thu)	strong winds, cyclone

withkul (ku)	grown goshawk
wiye	bad/no good (adj)
wul (nanthi)	shadow
wulkmanthay (ku)	long-tail catfish
wulngintin (da)	very hot ground, mirage
wulumu (nanthi)	forehead
wumarr (ku)	salmon
wungki (ku)	termite
wurldirr (ku)	big oyster
wurnangat	many (adj)
yagurr (ku)	sand goanna
yarra (ku)	snail
yek	clan group
yekpa (ku)	fresh-water crocodile
yenhek (ku)	mangrove jack
yenge (ku)	black-tip shark
yenthak (ku)	spangled drongo
yerrwarlyen (kura)	high tide
yertpala (nanthi)	cycad palm
yeta (ku)	rifle fish
yi (nanthi)	dilly bag
yibimpup	he/she died
yidi (mi)	native red apple
yidingurr	pain
yidingurr (nanthi)	tamarind tree
yile	father, father's brothers
yingampup	he/she laid it down
yingawurl	he/she scooped water
yirrithpin (nanthi)	banksia
yitthit	heavy (adj)
yu	yes
yudha	he/she was lying down

yukuy  
yululul (mi)  
yulurn (ku)  
yunganpirt  
yunganyerr  
yungawuy  
yungurrkurrktha

that's right  
liquid excreta, diarrhoea  
saddle-tail sea perch  
he/she took it off  
the tide has gone out  
he/she went outside  
he/she was sleeping