Shoehorning Yolŋu language names into the ISO 639-3 standard

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Acknowledgements

✳ Michael Christie, Brian Devlin, John Greatorex (CDU)

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✳ Dany Adone (U Köln)

✳ Waymamba, Mätjarra, Dhaŋgal, Räkay (Yolŋu elders)

Introduction

* Identification / naming of languages highly contested

* Standardisation as a useful goal

* Unique codes are important for digital documentation

    * Consistency

    * Discoverability

* Names are too ambiguous for search engines

* But ideal standard is virtually impossible

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Standard codes

✱ International Standard ISO 639-3

   ✱ Recommended for use in language documentation

   (eg OLAC) and other fields (W3C)

   ✱ Used by many archives and language documenters

✱ Flat structure is simple but masks many complexities

✱ No discussion of ISO 639-5 (language families) or 639-6

   (language variants)

Yolŋu languages

* 'Yolŋu Matha' ('people's tongue') describes a group of related languages from North East Arnhem Land

* Isolate of Pama-Nyungan group

NORTHERN TERRITORY

AUSTRALIA

* Among the strongest in Australia – culture, art, music, bilingual education

Listen to ABC News in Yolngu Matha

Nӓku ABC News Yolŋu Matha'kurr

ABC NEWS

abc.net.au/yolngu

Classification of languages

* General agreement on Yolŋu as distinctive 'bloc'

* Complicated question about how many languages, dialects, varieties

* Each 'clan' (*bäpurru*) has own language variety (*matha*)

* Mutual intelligibility among contiguous varieties

* Multilingualism, 'mother tongue' and father's language

* Linguistic distinctions

Linguistic Differences

* Phonological (eg stop contrast)

* Morphological (eg pronominal stems)

* Syntactic (eg metrical tense distinctions)

* Pragmatic (eg contrastive discourse suffix)

* Example of vowel deletion: (Wilkinson 1991)

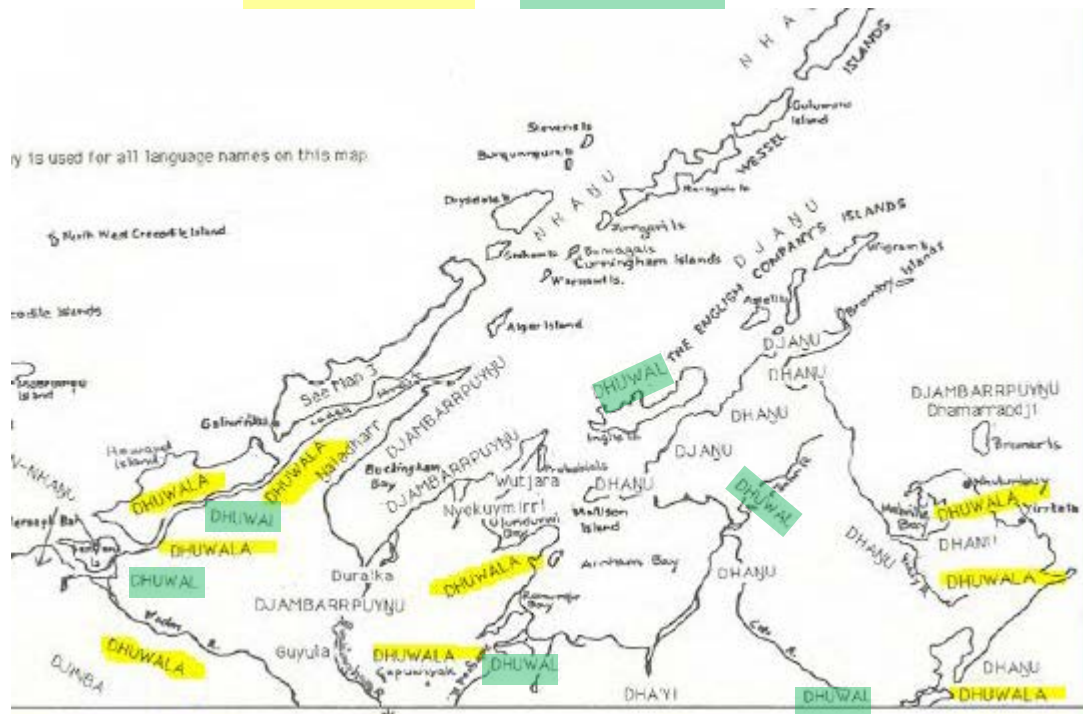|						
Gup.	*dhuwala+nydja*	*yätjkurru*	*mirithirri*	*bili+na*	*ŋarra*	*dhipuŋuru+nydja*
Djamb.	*dhuwan=dja*	*yätjkurr*	*mirithirr*	*bili+n*	*ŋarra*	*dhipuŋur+nydja*
	"this/here"+PROM	bad	Intensifer	COMPL+SEQ	1sg	"this/here"-ABL+PROM

This is really bad. I'm finished here

Mapping Yolŋu languages

Dhuwala   Dhuwal

Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages

A digital archive of endangered literature in Indigenous languages of the Northern Territory

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Classification of languages

* Dhuwala
* Dhuwal
* Dhay'yi
* Dhaŋu
* Djaŋu

* Nhaŋu (Yan-Nhaŋu)
* Ritharrŋu
* Djinaŋ
* Djinba

Classification of languages

'THIS' level	'Clan' level	Moiety
✳ **Dhuwala**	Gumatj, Gupapuyŋu, Maŋgalili, etc	Y
✳ **Dhuwal**	Djambarrpuyŋu, Djapu, Daatiwuy, etc	Dh
✳ **Dhay'yi**	Dhalwaŋu, Djarrwark	Y/Dh
✳ **Dhaŋu**	Galpu, Golumala, Ḏaymil, Wangurri	Y/Dh
✳ **Djaŋu**	Djaŋu, Warramiri	Y
✳ **Ritharrŋu**	Ritharrŋu, Wägilak, Yakuy	Y
✳ **Nhaŋu**	Yan-Nhaŋu, Gurjindi, Garmalaŋga	Y/Dh
✳ **Djinaŋ**	Djinaŋ, Wurlaki	Y/Dh
✳ **Djinba**	Djinba, Ganalbiŋu	Y/Dh

Other versions

* Southern Yolngu
  * **Southern-Eastern Yolngu**
    * Dhuwal-Dhuwala
      * **Eastern Dhuwal-Dhuwala**
        * Djambarrpuyngu
        * Gupapuyngu
          * Madarrpa
          * Manggalili
      * **Western Dhuwal-Dhuwala**
        * Dhuwal
          * Datiwuy
          * Djapu
        * Gumatj

YOLNGU SUBGROUP

Ya* Southern Yolngu subgroup
    Ya1 Dhuwal/Dhuwala (possibly also Dhuwaya) – Morphy (1991),
        Wilkinson (1991)
        dialects include – (a) Dhuwala varieties (Yirritja moiety):
        Gupapuyngu, Gumatj; (b) Dhuwal varieties (Dhuwa moiety):
        Djambarrpuyngu, Djapu, Liyagalawumirr, Guyamirlili
        (Gwijamil)
    Ya2 Dhay'yi (may be one language with Ya1)
        dialects: (a) Dhalwangu; (b) Djarrwark
    Ya3 Ritharngu (or Dhiyakuy) – Heath (1980a)
        dialects include: (a) Dhiyakuy, Ritharngu; (b) Wagilak, Manggurra

Yb* Northern Yolngu subgroup
    Yb1 Nhangu
        dialects include: (a) Gorlpa; (b) Yannhangu
    Yb2 Dhangu
        dialects include: (a) Wan.gurri, Lamamirri; (b) Rirratjingu, Gaalpu,
        Ngayimil
    Yb3 Djangu
        dialects include: Warramiri, Mandatja

Yc* Western Yolngu subgroup – Waters (1989)
    Yc1 Djinang
        dialects: (a) Wurlaki, Djardiwitjibi, Mildjingi, Balmbi; (b) Marrangu,
        Murrungun, Manyarring
    Yc2 Djinba
        dialects include: (a) Ganhalpuyngu; (b) Manjdjalpuyngu

Dixon 2002

Response of a Yolŋu elder

* Dr Waymamba Gaykamaŋu (Milingimbi):
* Gupapuyŋu and Gumatj are "both Dhuwala but completely different
  * songlines, country, relationships
* No accurate way of matching Yolŋu systems with balanda (Western) classifications

Additional fields

Classification	Meaning	Example 1	Example 2
Dhäruk	Language group	Dhuwal	Dhaŋu
Bäpurru	Patrilineal clan	Djapu	Wangurri
Ḻikan yäku	Used as surname	Munuŋgurr	Dhurrkay
Ḻuku wäŋa	Homeland	Boruwuy	Dhälinybuy
Moiety		Dhuwa	Yirritja
(Mala)			

Additional fields

Classification	Meaning	Example 1	Example 2
Dhäruk	**Language group**	**Dhuwal**	**Dhaŋu**
Bäpurru	**Patrilineal clan**	**Djapu**	**Wangurri**
Ḻikan yäku	Used as surname	Munuŋgurr	Dhurrkay
Ḻuku wäŋa	Homeland	Boruwuy	Dhälinybuy
Moiety		Dhuwa	Yirritja

ISO 639-3

✱ Standard for representation of names of languages

✱ Registration authority is SIL International

✱ Linked to Ethnologue but distinct

✱ Completely flat structure – does not allow hierarchy

Previous discussion of ISO

* PARADISEC Conference 2013

* Morey, Post, Friedman: The language codes of ISO

  639: **A premature, ultimately unobtainable, and**

  possibly damaging standardization

* Musgrave, Barwick, Walsh, Treloar: Language

  Identifying Codes: Remaining Issues, Future Prospects

  * Walsh's demonstration of 'Yolngu flop' – invisible on

    Ethnologue

  * Circular description of Yolngu languages

ISO codes for Yolngu

✶ Walsh describes a "linguistic tardis"

✶ **Dhuwal [duj]** – population 600

    ✶ Dialects: Datiwuy, Dhuwal, Dhuwaya, Djapu, Liyagalawumirr, Liyagawumirr, Marrakulu, Marrangu

✶ **Djambarrpuyngu [djr]** – classified as Dhuwal – popn 2760

✶ **Gumatj [gnn]** – classified as 'Dhuwal' (a) – popn 240

✶ **Gupapuyngu [guf]** – classified as Dhuwal – popn 330

ISO codes for Yolŋu

* 7 of 9 'this' level languages have codes
  * *Dhangu/Djangu, Yan-Nhangu, Dayi, Dhuwal, Ritharrngu, Djinang, Djinba*
* Plus three significant 'clan' languages have codes
  * *Djambarrpuyngu, Gupapuyngu, Gumatj*
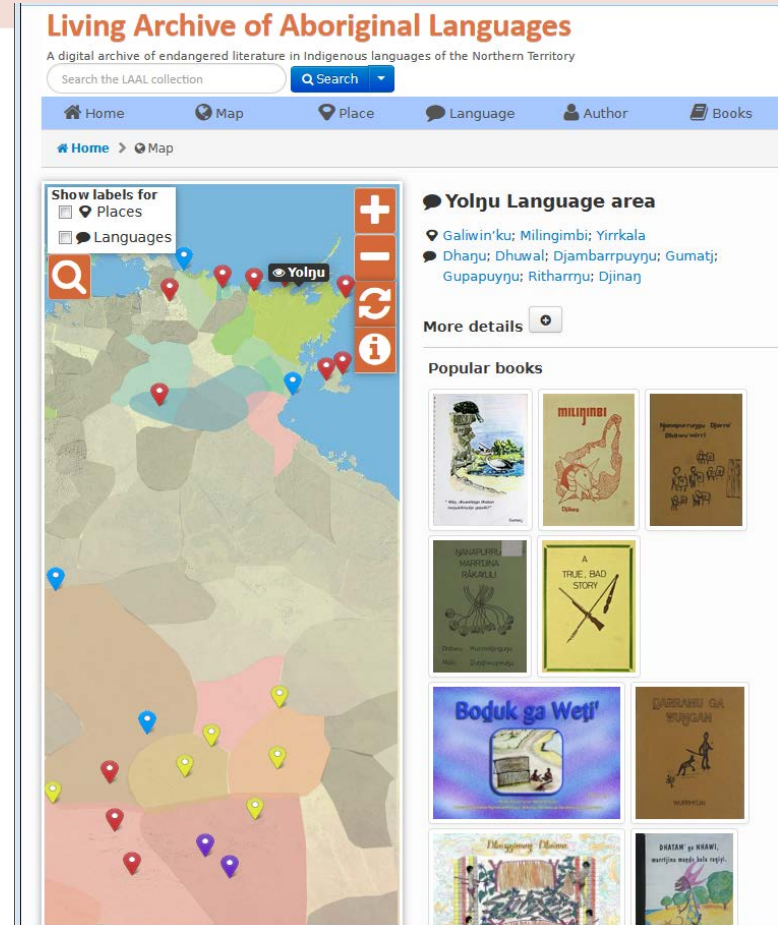 * (which belong to the above categories)

ISO codes for Yolŋu

'THIS' level	'Clan' level
✴ **Dhuwala**	Gumatj [gnn], Gupapuyŋu [guf],
✴ Dhuwal [duj]	Djambarrpuyŋu, Djapu, Daatiwuy,
✴ Dhay'yi [dax]	Dhalwaŋu, Djarrwark
✴ Dhaŋu [dhg]	Galpu, Golumala, Ḏaymil, Wangurri
✴ **Djaŋu**	Djaŋu, Warramiri
✴ Ritharrŋu [rit]	Ritharrŋu, Wägilak, Yakuy
✴ **Nhaŋu**	Yan-Nhaŋu [jay], Gurjindi,
✴ Djinaŋ [dji]	Djinaŋ, Wurlaki
✴ Djinba [djb]	Djinba, Ganalbiŋu

Living Archive

www.cdu.edu.au/laal

* Digitisation of language materials from the NT
* ARC LIEF project between CDU, NT Dept Education, Batchelor Institute, NT Library, Catholic Ed, ANU
* 25+ languages

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Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages

MIRINYUŊU GOŊMIYIN

Worramiri

Title	Mirinyuŋu Goŋmiyin
Translated title	The whale's story
Illustrator	Musco, Edel
Translator	Gurruwiwi, Marilyn
Language	Dhaŋu
Language notes	Warramiri language
Place	Galiwin'ku
Publisher	Galiwin'ku Literature Production Centre
Published at	Galiwinku, N.T.
Description notes	First Edition in Djambarrpuyŋu: Translated by Helen Rrikawuku. Produced by SRA Inc. and the Literature Production Centre, Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island
Category	Narrative
Keyword	whales
Reproduction note	Hard copy taken from Shepherdson College

⊕ More

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Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages

about read Djambarrpuyŋu version <mark>Dhaŋu version</mark>
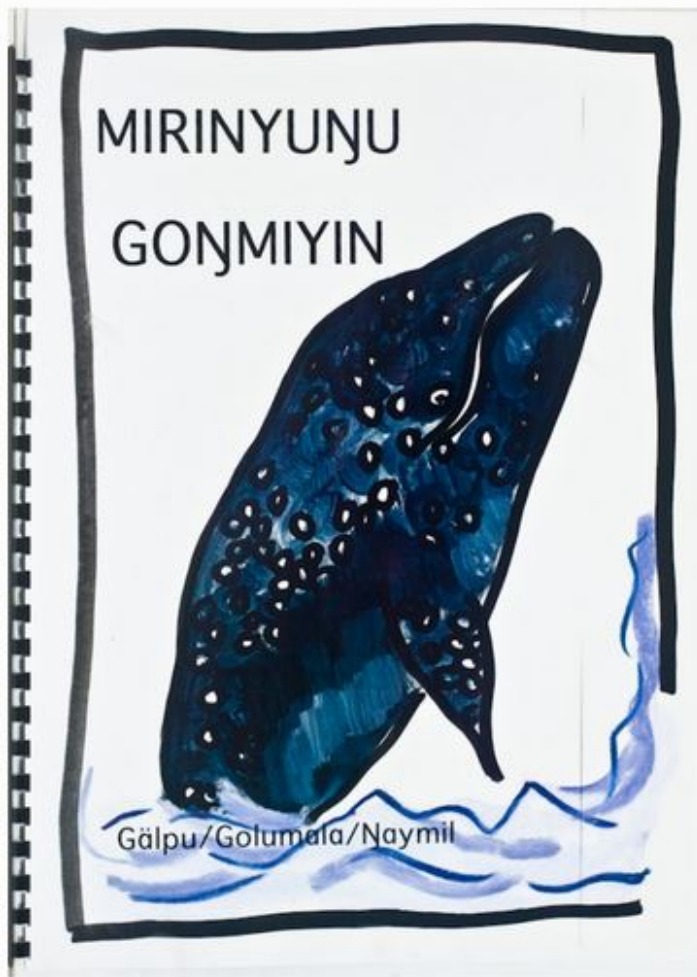
MIRINYUŊU

GOŊMIYIN

Gälpu/Golumala/Ŋaymil

Title Mirinyuŋu Goŋmiyin
Translated title The whale's story

Illustrator [Musco, Edel]
Translator Gurruwiwi, Marilyn

Language Dhaŋu
Language notes Gälpu/Golumala/Ŋaymil languages

Place Galiwin'ku
Publisher Shepherdson CEC Literature Production Centre
Published at Galiwinku, N.T.
Published 1997

Description notes Produced by SRA Ass. Inc. and the Literature Production Centre, Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island. ©.; Illustrator name not listed in book, taken from other versions of same book.
Category Narrative
Keyword whales
Reproduction note Hard copy taken from Shepherdson College
Size 42.9 x 30.5 cm

O More

Requests for change

* LAAL requested changes at 'clan' level
    * Create new codes to allocate to books in LAAL
    * Split some 'this' level languages to create new codes
* Create Yolngu 'macrolanguage' (cf Arabic, Chinese)
* Rename 'Djangu' back to 'Dhangu' (changed 2012)
* 17 requests in 2013

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ISO 639-3 Index of Change Requests from 2013

CR Number	Region	Language Family	Affected Identifier	Language Name	Change Type	Outcome/ Effective date	
2013-024	Europe, Eastern	Artificial language	ahu	Arahau	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-025	Pacific	Australian	dhg	Dhangu	Split	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-025	Pacific	Australian	glm	Golumala	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-025	Pacific	Australian	glp	Galpu	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-025	Pacific	Australian	nql	Ngaymil	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-025	Pacific	Australian	rrj	Rirratjingu	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-025	Pacific	Australian	wgr	Wangurri	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-025	Pacific	Australian	wmr	Warramiri	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	dhh	Modern Dhuwal	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	djp	Djapu	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	dtw	Daatiwuy	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	duj	Dhuwal	Split	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	dwy	Dhuwaya	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	lgw	Liyagawumirr	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	lym	Liyagalawumirr	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	rku	Marrakulu	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-026	Pacific	Australian	rnu	Marrangu	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-030	Pacific	Australian	ggm	Gugu Mini	Retire	Adopted 2014-02-03	more ...
2013-032	Pacific	Australian	ynm	Yolngu macrolanguages with constituent members Gälpu [glp], Golumala [glm], Wangurri [wgr], Rirratjingu [rrj], Ngaymil [nql], Warramiri [wmr],Dayi [dax], Djambarrpuyngu [djr], Djapu [djp], Daatiwuy [dtw], Liyagalawumirr [lym], Liyagawumirr [lgw], Gumatj [	Create	Rejected 2014-02-03	more ...

Requests rejected

✱ SIL International ISO 639-3 Registration Authority response to request to split Dhuwal:

"The RA notes that the eight varieties are said to be clan languages that are 'significantly intelligible' as stated in the request. Since they are intelligibile, they should be considered part of the same language for purposes of ISO 639-3."

Requests rejected

"The request to create the code [ynm] for **Yolngu (macrolanguage)** is rejected. The request to create a Yolngu macrolanguage was a consequence of the requests no. 2013-025 and 2013-026 to split the codes for Dhangu [dhg] and Dhuwal [duj]. **Since those two requests were rejected, there was no need to create the macrolanguage.**"

New approach to requests

✳ Tidy up 'this' level

    ✳ Add Dhuwala and Djaŋu – 6 separate forms

    ✳ Existing Dhaŋu [dhg] code includes Djaŋu so
    need to retire and replace [dhg]

✳ Demonstrate linguistic differences

Alternative systems

✳ Glottolog

✳ AUSTLANG (AIATSIS)

✳ ASCL (used by ABS for census)

✳ Multi-Tree

New search by a language name: Yolngu

Back
Number of records found: 7

Click a language name to view information

Click 'Show names' to see the details of se
shows the degree of match between the r
searched for. The name you have searche
explanation.

Dhuwaya	Show names >>
Murngin	Show names >>
Ritharrngu	Show names >>
Dhay'yi	Show names >>
Dhiyakuy	Show names >>
Djinang	Show names >>
Djinba	Show names >>

Preferred solution

✳ Three codes for each Yolŋu book in Living Archive

✳ Yolŋu – to allow browse/search across all sub-groups

✳ 'this' level – to aggregate these together

✳ 'clan' level – to follow identification within book

MIRINYUŊU
GOŊMIYIN

Gälpu/Golumala/Ŋaymil
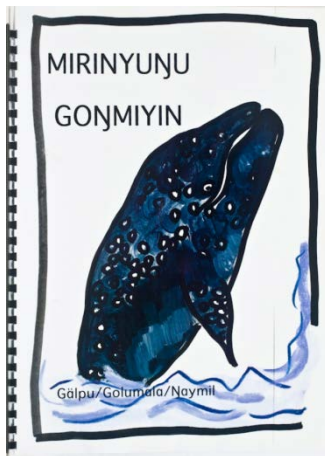
YOL-DHG-GGN
- Yolŋu
  - Dhaŋu
    - Gälpu/Golumala/Ŋaymil

Other issues

* Community consultation – how wide?

* Problem of Dhuwaya – koine language of Yirrkala

* Ambiguity of Dhuwal (koine and 'this' level)

* Retrospective effects of proposed changes

* Validation through representation

Summary / Conclusion

✱ Not a unique situation, even in Australia

　　✱ Bininj Gun-wok, Western Desert languages

✱ Necessary trade-off in desire to represent complex structures in a simple, consistent manner

✱ 'Perfect' system does not exist

✱ Remains a contested space

Spare slides

Text

Text

Text

Text

Text

Text

Text

Text

Language and Peoples Thesaurus

Click on a term to display the complete thesaurus record. Non-preferred terms are in *italics*. For more information on the structure of the thesaurus and further search options, read Language Help.

Yolngu languages (NT SD53)

New Search   Show Hierarchy   Search MURA   All ▼

New search by a language name: Yolngu

Back
Number of records found: 7

Click a language name to view information

Used For
Murngic languages
Murngin language (N117.1)
N117.1 (language code)

Broader Term
Pama-Nyungan language family

Narrower Term
Dhangu language group
Dhayyi / Dha?i language group (N118) (NT SD53-07)
Dhuwal languages (NT SD53)
Dhuwala languages (NT SD53)
Djangu languages
Djinang languages (NT SD53)
Djinba languages (NT SD53-02)
Nhangu languages
Ritharrngu / Ridharrngu language group (N104) (NT SD53-07)
Yolngu languages - Other (NT SD53-03)

Glottocode	Name	Family
noth1239	Nothern Yolngu	
sout3149	Southern-Eastern Yolngu	Pama-Nyungan
sout2769	Southern-Eastern Yolngu	
sout2768	Southern Yolngu	
sout3142	Southern Yolngu	Pama-Nyungan
west2440	Western-Inland Yolngu	Pama-Nyungan
yoln1234	**Yolngu Sign Language**	Village Sign Language

Ethnologue
Languages of the World

YuuIngu

[Collapse All] [Expand All]

Australian (378)
  Pama-Nyungan (281)
    YuuIngu (11)
      Golpa [lja] (A language of Australia)

   − Dhangu (2)
      Djangu [dhg] (A language of Australia)
      Yan-nhangu [jay] (A language of Australia)

   − Dhuwal (6)
      Dayi [dax] (A language of Australia)
      Dhuwal [duj] (A language of Australia)
      Djambarrpuyngu [djr] (A language of Australia)
      Gumatj [gnn] (A language of Australia)
      Gupapuyngu [guf] (A language of Australia)
      Ritarungo [rit] (A language of Australia)

   − Djinang (2)
      Djinang [dji] (A language of Australia)
      Djinba [djb] (A language of Australia)

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Yolŋu languages

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Yolngu Matha)

Varieties [edit]

Yolŋu Matha consists of about six mutually intelligible languages divided into about thirty clan varieties and perhaps twelve different dialects, each with its own Yolŋu name. Put together, there are about 4600 speakers of Yolŋu Matha. While there is extensive variation between these dialects, there is generally common mutual intelligibility, hence the umbrella group of Yolngu Matha. The linguistic situation is very complicated, since each of the 30 or so clans also has a named language variety. Dixon (2002) distinguishes the following:[2]
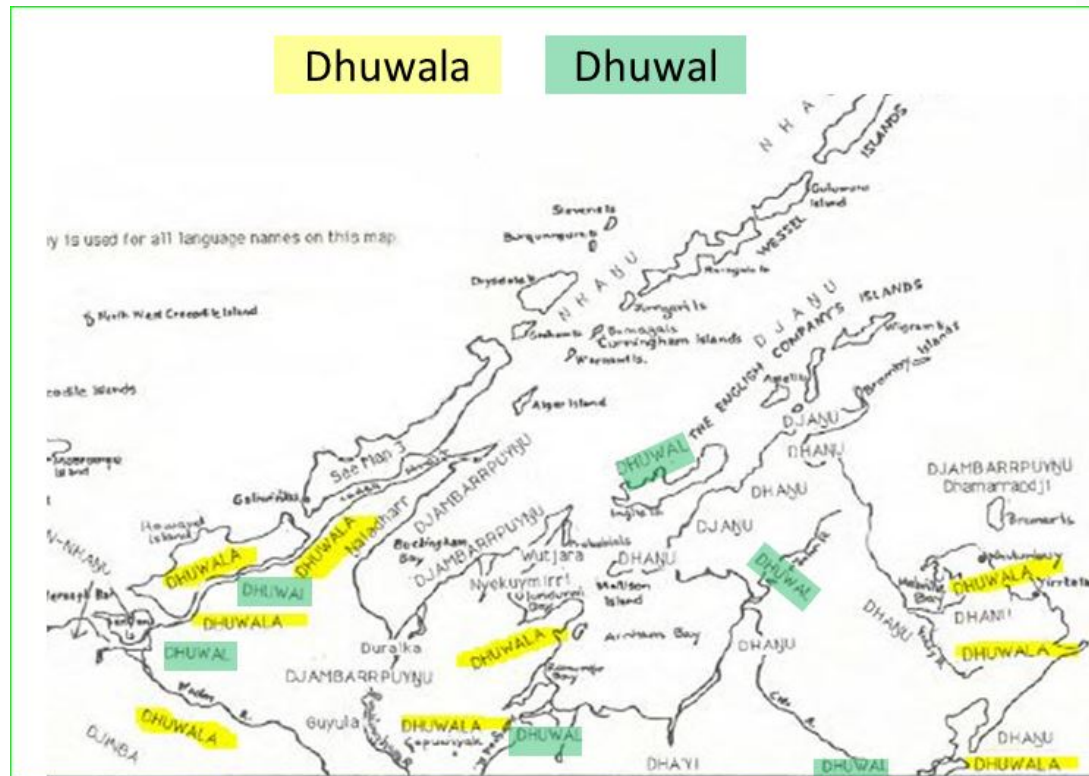
- Dhangu
  - Dhaŋu
  - Nhaŋu/Jarnango (Golpa)
  - Djaŋu
- Dhuwal
  - Dhuwal (Dhay'yi, Gupapuyngu)
  - Ritharrŋu
- Djinang
  - Djinaŋ
  - Djinba

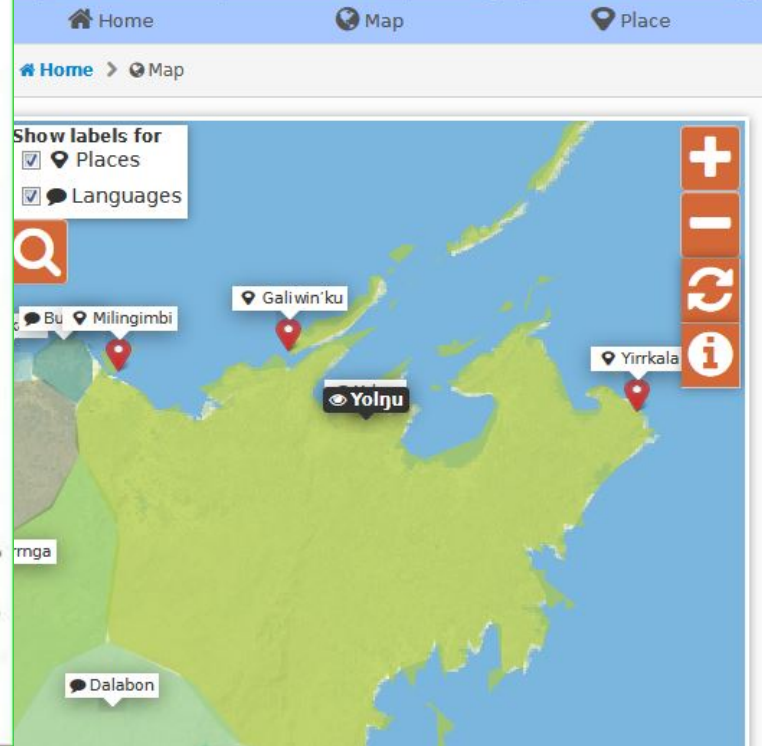Bowern (2011) adds the varieties in parentheses as distinct languages.

Naming of languages

* Even at 'this' level

  * Dhaŋu / Djaŋu – ISO story

  * Ritharrŋu (Ritarungo) = Yakuy = Dhiyakuy

* Naming of discrete language entities for coding

* Spelling distinctions

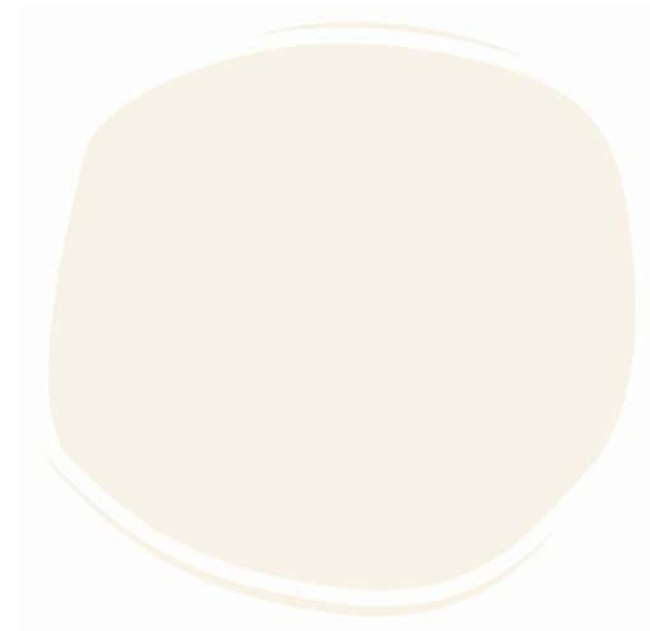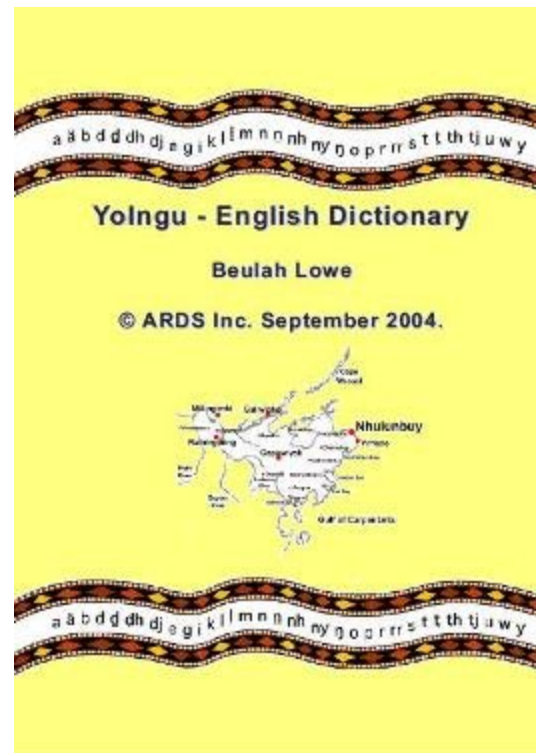 * Dayi, Dhay'yi, Dha'yi, Dha'i?

Mapping Yolŋu languages

Yolngu - English Dictionary

Beulah Lowe

© ARDS Inc. September 2004.