

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09748-2 - The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland

R. M. W. Dixon

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## *Contents*

---

<i>List of maps and plates</i>	<i>page xv</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xvii
<i>Preface</i>	xix
<i>Abbreviations and conventions</i>	xxii
I AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGES I	
1.1 General	1
1.2 Phonology	2
1.3 Word classes	4
1.4 Syntax	4
1.5 Pronoun	5
1.6 Noun and adjective	9
1.7 Verb	13
1.8 Interrogatives	17
1.9 Particles and clitics	18
1.10 Interjections	18
1.11 Lexicon	19
1.12 The development of Australian languages	20
2 DYIRBAL: THE LANGUAGE AND ITS SPEAKERS	
2.1 Linguistic type	22
2.2 Dialects	23
2.3 Surrounding languages	26
2.4 Cultural background	27
2.5 ‘Mother-in-law language’	32
2.6 Recent history of the tribes	34
2.7 Outline of phonology	37
3 WORD CLASSES	
3.1 Semantic content of the open word classes	39
3.2 Nominals: nouns and adjectives	42

[ vii ]

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09748-2 - The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland

R. M. W. Dixon

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

3.2.1 Case inflections	page 42
3.2.2 Noun markers	44
3.2.3 Bound forms <i>baydi</i> , etc.	48
3.2.4 Interrogative members	49
<b>3.3 Pronouns</b>	
3.3.1 Case inflections	49
3.3.2 <i>balagara, balamangan</i>	51
3.3.3 Interrogative member	53
<b>3.4 Verbals: verbs and adverbals</b>	
3.4.1 Transitivity	54
3.4.2 Conjugations	54
3.4.3 Tense	55
3.4.4 Interrogative and deictic verbs	55
3.4.5 Verb markers	56
3.4.6 Locational nominals	57
3.4.7 Interrogative verb markers	58
<b>3.5 Time qualifiers</b>	58
<b>4 SYNTAX</b>	59
<b>4.1 Simple sentences</b>	
4.1.1 Involving nominals: nominative-ergative construction	59
4.1.2 Involving pronouns: nominative-accusative construction	59
<b>4.2 Noun phrases</b>	
4.2.1 Non-pronominal noun phrases	60
4.2.2 Pronominal noun phrases	63
<b>4.3 Verb complexes</b>	64
<b>4.4 Implicated phrases</b>	
4.4.1 Implicated noun phrases	65
4.4.2 <i>-yay</i> constructions	65
4.4.3 Implicated verb complexes	67
<b>4.5 Discourse structuring</b>	
4.5.1 Minimal sentences	70
4.5.2 Topic chains	71
4.5.3 Favourite constructions	73

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09748-2 - The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland

R. M. W. Dixon

Table of Contents

[More information](#)*Contents*

ix

4.5.4 Iteration	<i>page</i> 74
4.5.5 <i>-yura</i> constructions	77
4.5.6 Summary	79
4.6 Nominalisations of verbals	81
4.7 Verbalisations	
4.7.1 Of nominals	85
4.7.2 Of verb markers and locational nominals	87
4.7.3 Of time qualifiers	88
4.7.4 Of particles	89
4.8 Reflexive and reciprocal constructions	
4.8.1 Reflexives	89
4.8.2 Reciprocals	92
4.9 Instrumental and comitative constructions	
4.9.1 Instrumental NPs	93
4.9.2 Instrumentive VCs	95
4.9.3 Comitative VCs	96
4.10 Relative clauses	99
4.11 Possessive phrases	
4.11.1 Involving simple genitive inflection	105
4.11.2 Involving general genitive inflection	108
4.12 Imperative constructions	
4.12.1 Positive imperatives	110
4.12.2 Negative imperatives	111
4.13 Other constructions	
4.13.1 <i>-bila</i>	112
4.13.2 <i>-ga</i>	114
4.14 Time qualification	114
4.15 Particles	
4.15.1 Imperative particles	116
4.15.2 <i>anya</i>	117
4.15.3 Other particles	117
4.16 Clitics	122
4.17 Interjections	124

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09748-2 - The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland

R. M. W. Dixon

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

x

Contents

	<i>page</i>
<b>5 DEEP SYNTAX</b>	<b>125</b>
5.1 Points to be explained	125
5.2 Dyirbal as a nominative-ergative language	128
5.2.1 A universal hypothesis	128
5.2.2 Syntactic identification in Dyirbal	130
5.3 Underlying syntactic relations	
5.3.1 The rule $S \rightarrow NP + VP$ as a linguistic universal	137
5.3.2 Universal syntactic relations	138
5.3.3 Implicative relation – implicated NPs	141
5.3.4 Implicative relation – implicated VCs	144
5.4 Tree representation of topic chains	
5.4.1 Motivation	147
5.4.2 Transitivity; <i>-yay</i> and reflexive transformations	149
5.4.3 Simple topic-chains	154
5.4.4 Topic-chain involving implication	156
5.4.5 Iteration	160
5.4.6 Further cases of implication	166
5.4.7 Types of <i>-yay</i> construction	170
5.5 Relative clauses and possessive phrases	
5.5.1 Relative clauses	176
5.5.2 Possessive phrases	179
5.6 <i>-yura</i> constructions	184
5.7 Instrumental and comitative constructions	
5.7.1 The data	187
5.7.2 Instrumental NPs	188
5.7.3 Instrumentive VCs	191
5.7.4 Comitative VCs	193
5.7.5 Justification for analysis	196
5.7.6 Verbalisation	198
5.8 Actor NPs	
5.8.1 Instrumental relative clauses	199
5.8.2 Pronoun cases	200
5.8.3 Nominal affix <i>-na</i>	202
5.8.4 Cases on the interrogative pronoun	202
5.8.5 Imperatives	203
5.9 Minimal sentences	205

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09748-2 - The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland

R. M. W. Dixon

Table of Contents

[More information](#)*Contents*

xi

5.10 Set representation	xi
5.10.1 Reciprocals	<i>page</i> 212
5.10.2 <i>-gara</i> and <i>-mangan</i>	214
5.11 Summary of rules	215
5.11.1 Well-formedness conditions on trees	215
5.11.2 Transformational rules, constraints, and marking conventions	216
5.11.3 Ordering of rules	219
<b>6 MORPHOLOGY</b>	
6.1 Morphology of nouns and adjectives	221
6.1.1 Stem-forming affixes	221
6.1.2 Ordering of affixes	232
6.1.3 Kinship duals	234
6.1.4 <i>gayul</i>	235
6.1.5 Case inflections	236
6.1.6 <i>-dana</i> , <i>-ban</i>	239
6.1.7 Cardinal and ordinal numbers	240
6.1.8 Vestigial plurals	241
6.1.9 Reduplication	242
6.2 Pronominal morphology	243
6.3 Verbal morphology	246
6.3.1 Verbal word structure	246
6.3.2 Aspectual affixes	248
6.3.3 The irregular verb <i>yanu</i>	251
6.3.4 Reduplication	251
6.4 Morphology of time qualifiers	252
6.5 Morphology of noun and verb markers	254
6.5.1 <i>bala-</i> , <i>yala-</i> , <i>yala-</i> and <i>wund-a</i> - markers	254
6.5.2 <i>gila-</i> markers	256
6.5.3 Demonstrative noun markers	257
6.5.4 <i>bayjunip/bayunday</i>	259
6.5.5 Reduplication	260
6.5.6 Affixes	260
6.5.7 Bound forms <i>baydi</i> , <i>gali</i> etc.	262
6.6 Morphology of interrogative forms	264

	<i>page</i>
6.7 Universal affixes	266
6.7.1 <i>-ru</i>	266
6.7.2 <i>-bu</i>	268
6.7.3 <i>-bi</i>	268
<b>7 PHONOLOGY</b>	<b>269</b>
7.1 Systems of phonological features	269
7.2 Word structures	
7.2.1 Segments	272
7.2.2 Stress	274
7.3 Phonic realisations of phonological systems	276
7.4 Statistical support for phonological description	
7.4.1 Probabilities of occurrence	279
7.4.2 Statistical association	281
7.5 Special phonological processes	
7.5.1 Insertion and assimilation	283
7.5.2 Elision and conflation	287
7.6 A morphophonological rule	288
7.7 <i>r</i> and <i>l</i>	289
7.8 Word order	291
<b>8 SEMANTICS</b>	<b>292</b>
8.1 Guwal-Dyalŋuy correspondences	292
8.2 Verb semantics	
8.2.1 Nuclear and non-nuclear verbs	293
8.2.2 Syntactic possibilities	296
8.2.3 Verb types and their syntactic properties	299
8.3 Adverbial semantics	301
8.4 Noun semantics	302
8.4.1 Generic terms in Guwal	303
8.4.2 Guwal-Dyalŋuy correspondences: taxonomic grouping	304
8.4.3 Metaphoric naming	305
8.4.4 Semantic basis of noun class membership	306
8.4.5 Loan concepts	311

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09748-2 - The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland

R. M. W. Dixon

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>	xiii
8.5 Adjective semantics	<i>page</i> 312
8.6 Semantics of time qualifiers	313
<b>9 LEXICON</b>	<b>314</b>
9.1 Structure of Guwal roots	
9.1.1 Verb roots	315
9.1.2 Noun roots	317
9.1.3 Adjective roots	319
9.2 Structure of Dyalŋuy roots	320
9.2.1 Verb roots	321
9.2.2 Noun roots	324
9.2.3 Adjective roots	325
9.3 Loan words	
9.3.1 Phonology of loans in Guwal	325
9.3.2 Syntax of Guwal loans	326
9.3.3 Dyalŋuy correspondents of Guwal loans	327
9.4 Onomatopoeia	328
<b>10 PREHISTORY</b>	<b>330</b>
10.1 Lexical diffusion in Australia	331
10.2 Origin and movement of the Dyirbal tribes	
10.2.1 Language grouping in the Cairns rain forest region	337
10.2.2 Evolution of the Dyirbal dialects	341
10.2.3 Dyalŋuy augmentation	345
10.2.4 Mbabaŋam	347
10.2.5 Conclusion	350
10.3 Internal history of Dyirbal	352
10.3.1 The origin of noun classes	352
10.3.2 Verbal and nominal inflections	354
10.3.3 Prenominal cases	358
10.3.4 Syllable reduction	359
<b>APPENDIX A DYIRBAL LOGIC</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>APPENDIX B PREVIOUS WORK ON DYIRBAL</b>	<b>365</b>

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-09748-2 - The Dyirbal Language of North Queensland

R. M. W. Dixon

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xiv

*Contents*

<b>TEXTS</b>	<i>page</i>	368
Text xv		368
Text xxxib		382
Text xxv		387
<b>VOCABULARY</b>		398
<b>LIST OF DYIRBAL AFFIXES</b>		409
<b>REFERENCES</b>		411
<b>INDEX OF AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGES</b>		419