Introduction

The Australian Aboriginal world everywhere has two halves. The Yolngu for instance call these *dhuwa* and *yirritja*. Among the Yolngu everyone, and everything useful is either one or the other.

Less well known is that in most Aboriginal languages there are **two distinct kinds of sentences**.

One sentence is where there is **only one necessary participant** as in: ‘Grandmother slept’. This is called **Intransitive**.

The other sentence is where there are **two necessary participants** as in: ‘Grandmother found the baby.’ Here we have a ‘do-er’ or Agent (grandmother); and a ‘do-ee’ or Object (the baby). This sentence is called **Transitive**.

In English this ‘Transitivity’ does not usually affect the shape of words, but in Aboriginal languages the differences can be quite dramatic. Look at the following Gumbaynggirr examples:

**Intransitive:**

Nyami yurruun gurrubing jurruding.

woman tall quickly[Intransitive]-did hide[Intransitive]-did. ‘The tall woman quickly hid’.

**Transitive:**

Nyamiyu yurruundu gurrubiling jurrudang buujurr.

woman> tall> quickly[Transitive]-did hide[Transitive]-did baby<

‘The tall woman quickly hid the baby’

Note the shape of ‘quickly’ and ‘hide’ is different in the two Gumbaynggirr sentences.

Note too that the doer *nyami* in the intransitive sentence has no tag; but that the doer in the transitive sentence (*Nyamiyu yurruundu*: the tall woman) has tags ending in –*u*.

A **tag on the agent, when acting on a ‘do-ee’, is almost universal in Aboriginal languages.**

This tag is called ‘Ergative’ and that is why most Aboriginal languages are called Ergative too.

To highlight the differences I have put word parts that can occur only in an intransitive sentence in **green**; and word parts that can occur only in a transitive sentence in **red**.

**You never get transitive and intransitive parts in the same one-verb sentence. In this colour scheme red and green don’t mix.**

Sometimes the ‘do-ee’, the object gets tagged too, like ‘daughter’ below:

Nyamiyu jurrudang nyugiyana.

woman> hide[Tr]-did daughter< ‘The woman hid her daughter.’

Note the ‘>’ is shorthand for Ergative: the ‘doer’(here: ‘woman’) followed by an Object. and ‘<’ is shorthand for Objective: the ‘do-ee’. (here: ‘daughter’)

BOTH of the tags on ‘woman’; and ‘daughter’ are in **RED** because they can only occur in a transitive sentence.

**Red means: ‘Can only occur in a transitive sentence’. Green means ‘Can only occur in an intransitive sentence’**

The material below explains ‘transitivity’ more carefully. While only Gumbaynggirr examples are used, the general principles apply to most of Australia’s ‘Ergative’ languages.
I want to talk about some things I learned about how sentences go in an Aboriginal language, in my case, Gumbaynggirr, and how to teach this to people are used to a completely different language.

Note: the way sentences in other Aboriginal languages go will be probably be closer to the Gumbaynggirr pattern than to English.

**Verbs** are words that can fit in the spaces:

They were ________-ing; I should __________.

1. **Sentences without verbs are OK in Gumbaynggirr.** English sentences need verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gumbaynggirr</th>
<th>Standard English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yarrang barraagirr jumuy</td>
<td>‘That pup is small.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goori / Murri English often has the pattern of Aboriginal languages.

2. **Verbs in Gumbaynggirr and other Australian languages are of two separate types: Transitive and Intransitive.**

2.A. ‘**Intransitive**’:

**Intransitive** Verbs are verbs that only need one participant to make sense.

Many sentences have the following pattern:

The old man snored.

There is only one participant in this sentence:

A. ‘the old man’ is the ‘do-er’. We call him the Subject
B. ‘snored’ is the Verb.

We call ‘snored’ an **Intransitive** verb because the sentence makes sense with one participant.

Similarly: ‘The spider died’ makes sense with only one necessary participant.

In fact sentences with ‘snored’ and ‘died’ make no sense if you add another participant:

The old man snored the couch.

The cat died the breakfast.

Look at the following Sentences:

**Ngaya jurruding.**

I hid.

Notice the word ‘**ngaya**’ and all the verbs have been put in **GREEN**.

You hear these ‘green’ words only in an Intransitive sentence: in a sentence with one necessary participant.

Word order makes no difference:

‘**Jurruding manayngal**’ means the same as ‘**Manayngal jurruding**.’
2.B ‘Transitive’

Many sentences have the following pattern.

**The cat found the mouse.**

Subject | Verb | Object.

‘Found’ is a **Transitive Verb** because it **needs two participants to make sense**: ‘cat’ (The doer: Subject) and ‘mouse’ (the ‘do-ee’: Object.)

Notice ‘the mouse’: the (direct) object is necessary for the sentence to make sense. It doesn’t make sense to say:

The cat found.

So a Transitive Verb must have a direct Object; and ‘Found’ is a transitive verb.

**But an Intransitive verb Can’t have a direct object**

Is the verb ‘slept’ transitive or intransitive?

**Test 1:** Does a sentence containing ‘slept’ make sense with 1 participant?

Sentence: ‘Mary slept.’

**Answer YES,** so ‘slept’ is an **intransitive** verb.

**Test 2:** Can ‘slept’ have a direct object?

Sentence: ‘Mary slept the baby’.

**Answer:** NO, so (again) ‘slept’ is an **intransitive** verb.

2.C. Distinguishing Transitive from Intransitive:

Here are some verbs. Most are usually Transitive or Intransitive. Write TR after the Transitive ones and INT after the Intransitive ones. If a verb can go both ways, write TR / INT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>took</th>
<th>snored</th>
<th>put</th>
<th>recognised</th>
<th>identify</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>smell</td>
<td>carry</td>
<td>shivered</td>
<td>control</td>
<td>walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look</td>
<td>work</td>
<td>borrow</td>
<td>drove</td>
<td>step</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In English many verbs can be used in a both Transitive and Intransitive way.

**Intransitive:**

The stranger hid. Dingoes called (out)

**Transitive:**

The stranger hid his wife The dingo called its pup

This is not so in most Aboriginal languages. So in Gumbaynggirr,

**Intransitive Verbs always look different from Transitive Verbs**

**Example:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intransitive</th>
<th>Transitive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Jurrudi!</em> Hide!</td>
<td><em>Jurruda!</em> Hide (that)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ganggaaliya!</em> Call out</td>
<td><em>Ganggaali!</em> Call (that)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If I tell someone ‘*Ganggaaliya!*’ s/he might shout: ‘Yuway’ (‘Cooee!’)

If I say ‘*Ganggaali ngaanya!*’ (‘call me’) s/he will call me over: ‘*Yilaami!*’ (‘Come over here!’)
You never get the same stem for transitive and intransitive forms. In fact the words can be completely different:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>gawarri</th>
<th>break</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[julugan gawarring: the chair broke]</td>
<td>gaamnga break something</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>waguunyji</th>
<th>smell, give out an odor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nguruba</td>
<td>smell something</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These verbs can be tagged with tenses (past / future and so on) but the stem stays the same

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bawgi</th>
<th>Swim!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bawgi</td>
<td>swims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bawging</td>
<td>swam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bawgiw</td>
<td>will swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bawgigu</td>
<td>to swim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bawga</th>
<th>Poke (something)!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bawgay</td>
<td>pokes (something)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bawgang</td>
<td>poked (something)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bawgaw</td>
<td>will poke (something)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bawgaygu</td>
<td>to poke (something)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By the way the stem ‘bawg-’ is the same; whether green or red. For when you ‘bawgi’ you poke too! (in the water to get ahead)

3. Sentences: Intransitive and Transitive

Intransitive

Manayngal jurruding  Marlamgarl ganggaaliyay.
The stranger hid. The dingoes call (out)

Transitive

Manayngalu jurrudang nyami  Marlamgarlu ganggaali barraagirr
The stranger hid the wife The dingoes call the pups (over)

Notice too that you put a tag ‘–u’ on the Subject of a transitive sentence; and

Intransitive verb stems: jurrudi- / ganggaaliya- look different from

Transitive verb stems: jurruda- / ganggaali-

In a one-verb sentence you might get several parts showing the sentence is intransitive or transitive but you’ll always get just one kind. In this colour scheme you’ll never get green and red together.

Look what happens if we replace the word for ‘stranger’ with ‘I’ in the above sentences.

Ngaya jurruding  Ngaaja jurrudang nyami
I hid. I hid the wife

So ‘I’ is ‘ngaya’ in intransitive sentences and I is ‘ngaaja’ in transitive sentences.

There are two necessary participants in the following sentence so it is Transitive.

Nyamiganambu ngarraawang buraal
The girl > heard a noise

[NOTE: the ‘>’ is a shorthand way of showing the transitive subject]

If I replace ‘the girl’ with ‘I’ Which word for ‘I’ is used?

It is a Transitive sentence, so use ‘ngaaja’: Ngaaja ngarraawang buraal. ‘I heard the noise.’

4. How you find the ‘doer’ and the ‘do-ee’ (the one that gets done to) in a sentence.

Headlines: 1. ‘Dingo bites stranger!’ 2. ‘Stranger Bites Dingo!’

In English we check the word-order: the first one is the ‘doer’, the second is the ‘do-ee’. So in the first sentence, the dingo was the doer, and in the second it was the stranger.
In Gumbaynggirr we look for a –u tag to find the doer. In the following it is on the marlamgarl, the dingo:

1. Marlamgarlu manayngal yiinyjay.
   dingo> stranger   bites: ‘The dingo bites the stranger.’

**Look for the tag. Word order makes no difference.**

So who bit who in the following?

2. Manayngal marlamgarlu yiinyjay.
3. Yiinyjay marlamgarlu manayngal.
4. Marlamgarlu yiinyjay manayngal.

The marlamgarl (dingo) did the biting in each case because he has the –u tag.

So word order is not important in Gumbaynggirr.

However sentence 1. (Subject, Object, Verb) has the most common traditional word order. If English followed the most commom Gumbaynggirr word order we would say:

‘The dingo the stranger bit’.

5. You can add the same extra information on a transitive or intransitive sentence: saying when, where, or why etc.

We know ‘Manayngal jurruding’ – ‘The stranger hid’ is intransitive.

We can add extra Indirect information (showing when, where, why etc) – like ‘after the dance’, ‘in the cupboard’ ‘from his wife’ to either an intransitive or a transitive sentence. This extra part is called an indirect object which, in English, usually starts with a word like ‘in’, ‘under’, ‘from’ — called a Preposition.

Manayngal jurruding dunggurrgala.
stranger   hid[Intrans] in the cupboard

Manayngal jurruding nyaminyarr.
stranger   hid[Intrans] from his wife.

Similarly …

Manayngalu jurrudang maniing
stranger> hid[Trans] money …

… is transitive. We can add the same information to this as we did above:

Manayngalu jurrudang maniing dunggurrgala.
The stranger> hid[Trans] money in the cupboard.

Manayngalu jurrudang maniing nyaminyarr.
The stranger> hid[Trans] money from his wife.

Notice these indirect objects are the same on both Intransitive and Transitive sentences. The blue tags in Gumbaynggirr are prepositions in English.

These phrases usually tell you how, when, where, or why — they are adverbial.

**Importantly, an intransitive sentence stays intransitive when they are added.**

Ngaya ganggarring I hurried
Ngaya ganggarring nguunnmada I hurried at night.
Ngaya ganggarring nguunnmada jinaanggu I hurried at night on foot
Ngaya ganggarring nguunnmada jinaanggu bulangnyarr I hurried at night on foot from the bull.

Similarly, a transitive sentence stays transitive when you add such phrases.
6. Adjectives
Adjectives: words like ‘quick’ (gurrubal) and ‘old’ (jalumgal) are tagged the same way as the nouns they go with.

Marlamgarlu gurrubalu ngaramarang ganyjibal jalumgal.
dingo quick chased policeman old

‘The quick dingo chased the old policeman’.

Who chased who in the following?
Ganyjibal jalumgal Marlamgarlu gurrubalu ngaramarang?

7. Adverbs
An Adverb in English often ends with ‘–ly’. Adverbs add meaning to verbs. Adverbs don’t change in English: ‘loudly’ is the same in: ‘The stranger sang loudly’; and ‘The stranger sang the song loudly.’ But, like verbs they have different forms in Gumbaynggirr. Look at the following:

Manayngal daalgiyay daariway. Manayngalu daalgay ‘Wanggalaji’ daarimbay
Stranger sings[Itr] loudly[Itr] Stranger> sings[Tr] ‘Wanggalaji*’ loudly[Tr]
(*Name of a song)

Note ‘loudly’ like other adverbs has an Intransitive and a Transitive form.

8. Why Aboriginal Languages are called ‘Ergative-Absolute’

Look at the word nyami, ‘woman’ in the following two sentences

a. Nyami jurruding.
   woman[Subjective] hide[INTRANS]did. ‘The woman hid’

b. Manayngalu jurrudang nyami
   stranger[Ergative] hide[TRANS]did woman[Objective]
   ‘The stranger hid the woman’.

In both sentences nyami has no tag. But in a. she is the subject of an intransitive sentence (nyami is in Subjective case) and in b. she is the object of a transitive sentence (nyami is in Objective case). ‘Absolute’ describes the fact that there is no tag on nyami in either sentence.

The only tag you see is the Ergative –u tag on manayngal.

That is why Gumbaynggirr, along with most other Aboriginal languages, is called an Ergative-Absolute language. Absolute (Subject and Object) gets no tag but Ergative does.

9. Family Nouns

Different from the ordinary nouns in 8. above; family nouns and some pronouns do have objective case forms

Family nouns in Gumbaynggirr include all personal names like Birrugan and relation words like ‘miimi’ ‘mother’. Pronouns are words like ‘I’ or ‘we’. Most of these words are tagged when they are the do-ee: the Object of a Transitive sentence. Look at the sentences

Nyamiganambu darray miiminga. Munyuunggu yiinyjang ngaanya
   girl> obeys mother< Louse> bit me<

The tags on the words for ‘mother’ & ‘me’ show they are ‘do-ees’: Objects. The ‘<’ in the English gloss is a shorthand way of marking Objective case.

Note: Family nouns that end with –n go like Birrugan. This includes names like ‘Stephen’ and ‘Diane’ (which ends with an ‘n’ sound when said and names ending with –d and -t).
10. Many Gumbaynggirr Sentences In Fact Don’t State Subject Or Object

The transitive bits (in red) tell you there is a ‘doer’ and a ‘do-ee’

Sometimes Gumbaynggirr don’t tell you who did it or who got done to. In that case when we translate to English we put in the **implied** subject/object (depending on the context.)

*Birrugandu bawgang.*

Birrungan> speared[Tr] = Birrugal speared (him).

We know from the red bits that there is an object that got speared. Who or what that is we know from the other things the person says.

*Biyambang buluunggal*

Ate[Tr] mullet = (They) ate the mullet

We know the mullet didn’t do the eating: (no –u tag). So other(s) ate them.

*Nginggirray*

sat-together = (They) sat together.

This is an intransitive sentence. We work out who sat together from what else we get told.

*Guumumbang*

Well-made[Tr] = (He) cured (them).

Gumbaynggirr sometimes doesn’t put in pronouns like ‘he’ or ‘them’.

A red (Transitive) verb shows that a direct object is implied, which must be put in English, whereas a green (Intransitive) verb has none.

11. Active and Passive sentences

In English we can say  
a.) ‘The stranger hid the money’; 

or we can emphasise the Object  
b.) ‘The money was hidden.’

(Or)  
c.) ‘The money was hidden by the stranger’.

Sentence a.) is in the ‘Active Voice’, where Sentences b.) and c.) are in the Passive Voice.

In Gumbaynggirr you can get a sentence like b. by leaving the agent out.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manayngalu jurrudang maniing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stranger &gt; hid[Tr] money</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[‘The stranger hid the money’]  
[‘The money was hidden’]

nyamiganambu yagarrang miimminga |

girl > followed mother < |

[‘The girl followed her mother’]  
[‘Mother was followed’]

b. Maniing jurrudang Manayngalu.  

money hid stranger[Inst]  

The money was hidden by the stranger  

[= (a bit like) Passive]

The same word *manayngalu* acts as an Agent in a. and more as an Instrument in b.
12. The Antipassive: Highlighting the agent and backgrounding the Object.

Compare the following Transitive sentence…

a. Ngandaalgandu biyambang birriin
   Girl> ate[Tr] bread (<) The girl ate the bread

… with the following Intransitive …

b. Ngandaalgan biyambiyay
   Girl ate[Irr] The girl was eating.

In the second sentence we’re only interested in the activity (eating) the girl was carrying on with. Can you include the bread in this kind of sentence? Yes, but only indirectly:

Ngandaalgan biyambiyay birriinda
   Girl ate[Irr] bread-at.

This is an Antipassive sentence. Here the bread (in locative case) is ‘backgrounded’: it is not important. It is as though we said:

‘The girl was having a feed (a feed of bread, by-the-by).’

This is the exact opposite of what happens in English when we use the Passive to say “The bread was eaten by the girl” where the girl (the do-er) is backgrounded. That’s why the Gumbaynggirr structure: ‘Ngandaalgan biyambiyay birriinda’ is called an ‘Antipassive’. This is a common type of sentence in Aboriginal languages.

REVIEW

In English ‘Transitivity’ does not usually affect the shape of words, but in Aboriginal languages the differences can be quite dramatic.

Intransitive:

Nyami yurruun gurrubing  jurruding.
   woman tall quickly[Irr]-did hide[Irr]-did. ‘The tall woman quickly hid’.

Transitive

Nyamiyu yurruundu gurrubiling  jurrudang  buwaarr.
   woman> tall> quickly[Tr]-did hide[Tr]-did baby<
   ‘The tall woman quickly hid the baby’

Note too that the doer nyami in the intransitive sentence has no tag; but that the doer in the transitive sentence (Nyamiyu yurruundu: the tall woman) has tags ending in –u.

It is almost universal in Aboriginal languages to have a tag on the agent, when acting on a ‘do-ee’. This tag is called ‘Ergative’ and Aboriginal languages using it are called Ergative too.

Word parts that can occur only in an intransitive sentence are in green; and word parts that can occur only in a transitive sentence are in red.

You never get transitive and intransitive parts in the same one-verb sentence. In this colour scheme red and green don’t mix.

Sometimes the ‘do-ee’, the object gets tagged too, like ‘daughter’ below:

Nyamiyu  jurrudang  nyugiyana
   woman[ERGATIVE] hide[Tr]-did daughter[OBJECTIVE] ‘The woman hid her daughter.’

Note the ‘>’ is shorthand for Ergative: the ‘doer’. (here: ‘woman’) and ‘<’ is shorthand for Objective: the ‘do-ee’. (here: ‘daughter’).
BOTH of the tags on ‘woman’ and ‘daughter’ are in RED because they can only occur in a transitive sentence. Red means: ‘Can only occur in a transitive sentence’. Green means ‘Can only occur in an intransitive sentence.

CONCLUSION

Without an idea of Transitivity we cannot understand most Aboriginal languages. The above gives examples of steps in colour to follow in helping students to understand Gumbaynggirr transitivity and, it is hoped, transitivity in other Indigenous languages.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to sincerely thank the Gumbaynggirr Elders, the staff and students of Muurrbay Language Centre and the staff of Many Rivers Language Centre for supporting the development of these ideas.

Br Steve Morelli (Gugs)

BOOKS CONSULTED


SUPPLEMENT: TWO GESTALT TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR THIS SUBJECT.

I have found that many Goori students prefer to see whole sentences in ways that show the relationship of the parts within the whole, rather than looking at parts like nouns and transitive verbs separately. The emphasis and priority therefore must be on the organised whole: the gestalt; rather than on the individual parts: the analysis.

1. Flashcard sets for In- / Transitive Sentences

You can transform many sentences using flashcards, to show how Intransitive / Transitive work. Below are some graded samples. The originals are large: to be seen and used by a whole class.

**marlamgarl**  **birrmading** ran

**marlamgarl**  **gurubal** quick  **birrmading** ran

Here we have added an adjective: ‘quick’

**marlamgarl**  **gurubal** quick  **birrmading** ran  **bugawuda in the grass**

Here extra indirect information is added. The sentence stays intransitive.

**buluunggalu**  **biyambang ate (Past)**  **gugumbal**

**gugumbal**  **buluunggalu**  **biyambang ate (Past)**

In both the above sentences the mullet has the Ergative tag and so is eating the worm.

**gugumbal**  **buluunggalu**  **biyambang ate (Past)**  **bindarrayja in the river**

**buluunggalu**  **gilinggalu young**  **gugumbal**  **biyambang ate (Past)**  **bindarrayja in the river**

Here the –u tag goes on ‘gilinggal – young’ Adjectives describe and have the same case as the nouns they follow. It is a young mullet, not a young worm.

**buluunggalu**  **gilinggalu young**  **gugumbal**  **gurrubiling quickly-did**  **biyambang ate (Past)**  **bindarrayja in the river**

**buluunggalu**  **gilinggal quick**  **gurrubiling quickly-did**  **bawging swam**  **bindarrayja in the river**

Notice the transitive adverb gurrubili looks different from the intransitive one: gurrubi.

Any of the ‘doers’ in the intransitive sentences above can be replaced by ngaya, ‘I’; and the ‘doers’ in the transitive sentences can be replaced by ngaaja, ‘I’.
2. The following can be used by individual students to practise Transitive and Intransitive:

**Intransitive Verbs/ Sentences**

Following Page: **intransitive sentences**:

Use the list in the page below like this:

1. fold back the third column (Indirect Case Forms)
2. Read the Gumbaynggirr sentences (*Manayngal jurrudi*, etc)
3. Replace each subject noun with *ngaya* (I) to read *Ngaya jurruding* etc
4. Similarly replace Subject with *ngalii* (we 2), *ngiya* (we all), *bulaa* (you2) and *yanggidam* (they)
5. Open the page and read: **Manayngal jurruding wawaawa**
6. Replace each subject with *ngaya* (‘I’) etc

Two pages below: **transitive sentences**:

Use the list in the page below like this:

7. fold back the fourth column (Indirect Case Forms)
8. Read the Gumbaynggirr sentences (*Manayngalu jurruday*, etc)
9. Replace each subject noun with *ngaaja* (I) to read *Ngaaja jurruday* etc
10. Similarly replace Subject with *ngalii* (we 2), *ngiyaala* (we all), *bulaala* (you2) and *yanggidambu* (they)
11. Open the page and read: **Manayngalu jurruday maniing wawaawa**
12. Replace each subject with *ngaaja* (‘I’) etc
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Intransitive Verb</th>
<th>Extra Information (shown in Eng. by 'to', 'in', 'for' etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>manayngal stranger</td>
<td>jurrudi hides</td>
<td>wawaawaa in the bushes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dingo</td>
<td>ganggaaliyay calls out</td>
<td>wijiirrgu for meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mullet</td>
<td>bawgiw will swim</td>
<td>bindarrayja in the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waanyji dog</td>
<td>yiiliwiyay dances</td>
<td>giibarrgu for the boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nunguu roo(s)</td>
<td>garraji hop</td>
<td>dungguunyarr away from snakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dunggiirr koala(s)</td>
<td>waandiyay. climb</td>
<td>jalvigida / biguuda in the trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nyamiganam girl</td>
<td>birrmading is running / ran</td>
<td>nguraagu to the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>giibarr boy(s)</td>
<td>ganggaaliyay daariway shout loudly</td>
<td>gaywarla every day ['day at']</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mujaay echidna</td>
<td>ngayinggi stays</td>
<td>nguraala in the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gamiiga / baabaga / grandma / father / Sue / Sue</td>
<td>waambing is / was afraid</td>
<td>dungguunyja of snakes ['snakes-at']</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birrugan Ba / Steven ba Birrugan / Steven</td>
<td>dawaarray is / was angry</td>
<td>giibada at / because of the boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngaya I</td>
<td>daalgiyay sing</td>
<td>nginu (for you)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nyamigu (for the woman)</td>
<td>nganyu (for me)</td>
<td>baabangu (for father)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitive Subject (Agent or Ergative Case)</td>
<td>Transitive Verb</td>
<td>Direct Object (in Objective Case)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manayngalu stranger &gt;</td>
<td>jurruday hides</td>
<td>maniing money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marlamgarlu dingo &gt;</td>
<td>ganggaali calls</td>
<td>barraagirr pup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nyugindu (my) son &gt;</td>
<td>bawgaw will spear</td>
<td>yanggaay shark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biinggu pig &gt;</td>
<td>yiiliway tramples</td>
<td>guuray flower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nyamiganambu girl &gt;</td>
<td>darray obeys</td>
<td>miiminga mother &lt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baalijindu quoll &gt;</td>
<td>ngarraynggi wants</td>
<td>biyambaygu to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>girrimarringgu flying fox &gt;</td>
<td>maarrang grabbed</td>
<td>yuraal food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jiibinyju bird &gt;</td>
<td>maani takes/ brings</td>
<td>gugumbal worm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>giibadu boy &gt; (from giibarr)</td>
<td>daalgay daarimbay sings loudly</td>
<td>&quot;Wanggalaji&quot; (Name of song)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gumgaliyu goanna &gt;</td>
<td>biyambay eats</td>
<td>mirubay egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wanyjiiju dog &gt; (from waanyji)</td>
<td>buwaang hit/killed</td>
<td>gumgali goanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngaaja/ nginda I &gt;/ you</td>
<td>ngambii drink</td>
<td>ngaarlu water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>munyuunggu louse &gt; (from muunyu)</td>
<td>yiinyjang bit</td>
<td>ngaanya (me &lt;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ngiina (you 1 &lt;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>