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THE NGOLOK-WANGGAR LANGUAGE, DALY RIVER, NORTH AUSTRALIA.

BY SIDNEY H. RAY, M.A.

THE material for the following short grammatical note and vocabulary is derived from notes taken during an interview with the Rev. Father Conrath, of the Roman Catholic Mission on the Daly River. During a few hours' stay at Port Darwin, in 1898, on my way from Torres Straits to Hong Kong, I called at the Mission House and Father Conrath kindly gave me the information embodied in the note. No specimens of the language had previously been written, but since my return the Rev. J. Mathew, in his book, *Eaglehawk and Crow*,¹ has published a vocabulary which was derived from a member of the same mission and appears to represent the same language. There are, however, numerous differences both in the meanings given and in the spelling.² Most of the words which are here given were written by Father Conrath himself. He called the language Ngolok-Wanggar. Mr. Mathew names that given by him, Daktyerat. In his work on the *Linguistic Relations of German New Guinea*, Pater W. Schmidt quotes some examples from an Australian language south-west of Port Darwin,³ which also appear to illustrate the Ngolok-Wanggar.

GRAMMAR NOTES.

1. PHONOLOGY: Vowels: *a, ä, e, i, o, ö, u, ü*, as in German. Consonants: *b, mb, ch, d, nd, dy, g, k, l, m, n, ng, ngg, ny, p, r, t, th, ty, v, w, y*. The combinations *rr, rk, lk, rm, ly, rb*, are frequent.

2. NOUNS: There is the appearance in the nouns of a four-fold gender, distinguished by means of a prefix. Examples given are: *yinelli*, a big man;

¹ *Eaglehawk and Crow*, by John Mathew, London and Melbourne, 1899. Comparative Table, pp. 205-272.

² Some words in Mathew's Daktyerat are quite different, as, e.g., (1) *anbulk*, sky; (2) *wurrurk*, wind; (3) *wulu*, stone; (4) *mürmallo*, old woman; (5) *ngaolu*, father; (6) *gnagnaain*, mother; (7) *bulk*, children; (8) *dugur*, fish, which are in Ngolok-Wanggar respectively; (1) *enmel*; (2) *beberma*; (3) *arri*; (4) *barmat*; (5) *babo* or *bayang*; (6) *viya*, *vizang*; (7) *alalk*; (8) *dä*. Other words are nearly the same as, e.g., (1) *miru*, sun; (2) *mark*, cold; (3) *tyungo*, fire; (4) *wawk*, water; (5) *anduk*, house, which are in Ngolok-Wanggar, (1) *miri*; (2) *dumurk*; (3) *tyung*; (4) *waok*; (5) *undug*. Only two words are absolutely identical in the two vocabularies. These are: *mada*, rain, and *nga*, I.

³ P. W. Schmidt, S.V.D., "Die Sprachlichen Verhältnisse von Deutsch-Neuguinea." Contained in *Zeitschrift für Afrikanische, Ozeanische, und Ostasiatische Sprachen*. Jahrgang v, Heft 4, und Jahrgang vi, Heft 1. Berlin, 1902; cf. p. 104.

nunelli, a big female; *wunelli*, a big thing; *munelli*, vegetable food. Also cf. *yinet*, *wunet*, bad.¹

The plural of nouns is formed by reduplicating the first syllable, as *bulit*, master; *bubulit*, masters; *barmat*, old woman; *barbarmat*, old women. The plural is also shown by the word *mura* following the noun; *mechama mura*, brothers; *undug mura*, houses.

Nouns are declined through a variety of cases by means of suffixes.

The genitive or possessive is shown by the suffix *nō*; *babonō*, of the father; *undugnō*, of the house. In the plural, *wörō* is suffixed instead of *nō*; *undugwörō*, of the houses. A genitive is also shown by simple juxtaposition; *pondo undug*, roof (of) house.

The accusative is indicated by *nō* following the verb: *babo aiaia nō*, (I have) beaten the father. In the plural, *wörō* is used for *nō*.

The instrumental has suffix *vang*: *undugvang*, by means of the house; *babovang*, by the father.

The dative indicating motion towards is shown by the suffix *an undugan*, towards the house.

The ablative indicating direction from, or origin, is shown by the suffix *main*: *babomain*, through or by means of the father; *undugmain*, from the house; *wunetmain*, from evil.

There are three locative suffixes, *na* meaning "in," *ingga* or *yingga*, meaning "at the place of," and *yen*, meaning "in the company of"; *undugna*, in the house; *undugingga*, at the house; *enmelyingga*, in the sky; *bauorkyingga*, on earth; *baboyingga*, at the father's place; *baboyen*, in the company of the father.

The suffixes are sometimes combined: *unduginggamain*, from the house hither.

Some nouns have variant forms: *babo*, father (in general); *bayang*, my father (when addressed); *banga*, my father (when referred to in conversation). So also *wiya*, mother; *wiyang*, mother (vocative) and *wiyanga*, my mother (in reference).

3. ADJECTIVES:—Adjectives may be formed from nouns by the suffix *yen* (cf. locative case of nouns); *dauotyen*, bloody; *waokyen*, watery.

4. PRONOUNS:—Pronouns distinguish the singular, dual and plural number, with inclusive and exclusive forms in the plural of the first person, and indicate gender in the third person. I did not obtain all the forms.

Singular: 1st person, *nga*, I; 2nd person, *wungare*, thou; 3rd person, *yündön*, he; *nündön*, she; *wündön*, it.

Dual: 1st person: *yenggi*, we two; 2nd person, *nungut-verena*, you two.

Plural: 1st person including person addressed, *yergeta*, we and you; excluding person addressed, *yauota*, we, not you; 2nd person, *nungut*,

¹ Mathew gives the similar words: *yidello*, big man; *nudello*, big woman; *wudello*, big thing; *mudello*, a big object of any gender. *Op. cit.*, p. 162.

you. The 3rd person, plural, is formed by adding *wörö* in the accusative case.

In the 3rd person, the prefixes *yu*, *nu*, *wu*, are the same as those used with nouns. In the 2nd person, dual, *verena* is the numeral "two."¹

These pronouns are declined like nouns, but I did not obtain a full list; *yauotnö*, is "our."²

5. VERBS:—The root of the verb is a kind of past participle, and varies to indicate shades of meaning, *thorp*, cut, *ngack*, eat vegetables, *larack*, eat meat.

There are two kinds of reduplication. Reduplication of the whole root indicates continuous action; *thorpthorp*, make one cut after another. Reduplication of the medial syllable indicates repetition; *thororp*, cut several pieces.

The number of objects acted upon is shown in dual by prefixing *nga*, in the plural by changing the initial syllable to *wa*; *ngackma*, eat one; *ngangackma*, eat two; *warackma*, eat many.

I have only two examples of tense endings; *ma*, indicating what is customary, and *wa*, indicating the past. Examples are: *datma ännö nunno*, (I) see while (I) sit; *datma annowa nunno*, I saw while I sat; *äyö*, I continue to see; *ayowa*, I continued to see. In Mathew's vocabulary many verbs end in *-dema*, e.g., *waadema*, take; *taueradema*, tell, etc. This *ma* may be compared with *ma* of Macdonnell Ranges in Australia.³

6. NUMERALS.—The only numeral obtained was *verena*, two.⁴

7. SPECIMEN.—Father Conrath wrote for me the following version of the Paternoster.

Bayama yauotnö enmelyinnga nünnöwa wani tyegnyurwünjung. Ne wungare. Bullityen nünnöna kawun bong; nung wungare tyegnyurwünjung nen bauorkyinnga ngan enmelyinngaman. Mi yauotnö angyürö emmen pana tityi angyürö marinelli yauotnö ngan yauot mannen tityiang mattö wörö marinengi virmin yürö, aning auot körörma nündöma yürö pöt köranga yinngana pana perer yürö wunetmain. Nanna anda.

¹ In Pater Schmidt's work already referred to (p. 104), he gives the pronouns of the language "South-west of Port Darwin," as follows:—

1st person, singular,	<i>ā</i> ,	<i>nga</i> :	dual,	<i>nganu</i> :	plural,	<i>yavöth</i> .	
2nd "	"	<i>nun, nu</i> :	"	<i>nungoth</i> "	"	<i>nungöth</i> .	
3rd "	masculine,	singular,	<i>yi, i</i> ,	dual,	<i>yogoth</i> ,	plural,	<i>yogöth</i> .
3rd "	feminine,	"	<i>nin</i> ,	"	<i>nogoth</i> "	"	<i>nogöth</i> .
3rd "	vegetable,	"	<i>mun</i> "	"	<i>mogoth</i> "	"	<i>mogöth</i> .
3rd "	lifeless,	"	<i>van</i> "	"	<i>vogoth</i> "	"	<i>vogöth</i> .

² The pronouns here given differ considerably from the Daktyerat of Mathew. He gives—Singular, (1) *nga*; (2) *nun*; (3) *yundon*. Plural, (1) *aur*, *ergur*; (2) *nungur*; (3) *wurundun*. The possessives are formed by suffixes, *ve*, *be* or *de*; (1) *ngave*, my; (2) *nungbe*, thy; (3) *yundunde*, his. Plural, (1) *auure*, *ergure*, our; *nunguro*, yours; *wurundunde*, theirs. He gives also Objective forms: Singular, (1) *erin*, me; (2) *nundyu*, thee; (3) *ne*, him; Plural, (1) *erpuro*, *erguro*, us; (3) *wuru*, them.

³ Rev. H. Kempe, *Transactions of Roy. Soc. South Australia*, 1890–91.

⁴ The Daktyerat numerals of Mathew are: (1) *yaunuka*; (2) *verenuka*; (3) *wirittyaun*.

NGOLOK-WANGGAR VOCABULARY.

(Mathew's Daktyerat in square brackets.)

1. Natural Objects.

Sun, *miri* [*miru*].
 Moon, *yelk* [*yulik*].
 Star, *nümröl* (*cf. eye*) [*numurul*].
 Sky, *enmel* [*anbulk*].
 Wind, *beberma* (*is windy*) [*wurrurk, wind*].
 Rain, *madda* [*mada*].
 Fire, *tyung* [*tyungo*].
 Smoke, *wen* [*arabul*].
 Water, *waok* [*wauk*].
 Sea, *ngambait*.
 Sand, *yulboin*.
 Earth, *bauork* [*wöndyö, ground*].
 Stone, *arri* [*wulu*].

2. Animals.

Bird, *dä* [*balbalma*] [*dyur, swan*].
 Egg, *dyirmin*.
 Crocodile, *yingi*.
 Fish, *dä* [*dugur*].
 Shark, *dyayö*.

3. Parts of the body.

Head, *pondo* [*pondo*] (*cf. roof*).
 Face, *milk* [*babama*] [*milk, forehead*].
 Hair, *pondo-mat* [*pondomer*].
 Eye, *numaro* [*numuru*].
 Ear, *dyauel* [*monindyaur*].
 Nose, *yinnin* [*yinun*].
 Mouth, *ari* [*aru*].
 Lip, *ari-ngalyil* (*mouth-skin*) [*aru*].
 Tooth, *diid* [*dir*].
 Neck, *menyök*.
 Arm, *wurro* [*wuru*].
 Hand, *nanyilk* [*nanyulk*].
 Belly, *men* [*mandulma, stomach*].

Leg, *tyet* [*kalar*] [*tyer, thigh*].
 Foot, *madyan* [*mel*].
 Blood, *dauot* [*padawo*].
 Bone, *mörret*.
 Skin, *ngalyil* [*karalla*].

4. Persons.

Man, *yinya* [*wunwa, papa*] [*gnan, black fellow*].
 Woman, *aloer* [*wundinigmun*] [*elugur, black woman*].
 Old woman, *barmat* [*mürmallo*].
 Father, *babo, bayang* [*ngaolu*].
 Mother, *viya, viyang* [*gnagnaain*].
 Child, *alalk* [*bulk, children*].
 Brother, *mechama* [*pukang, elder, nundang, younger*].
 Master, *buhit*.

5.

House, *undug* [*anduk*].
 Roof, *pondo* (*cf. head*).
 Spear, *kolmin, belmöt, wanngo* [*daruk, wooden spear; mokalin, reed spear*].
 Throwing-stick, *yarrua*.
 Bread (*introduced word*), *pana* (*Latin, vanis*).

6. Verbs.

Eat (*animal food*), *larack* [*lakadema*].
 Eat (*vegetable food*), *ngack* [*lakadema*].
 Drink, *dork* [*durkadema*].
 See, *dat* [*dukadema*].
 Sit, *nunno* [*adin*].

Strike, *tait* [*eadema*].

Beat, *aiiaia*.

Cut, *thorp*.

7. Adjectives.

Bad, *yinet* (person), *wunet* (thing)
[*yinetto*].

Good, *wunbain* [*yunbain*].

Alive, *yididinyen* [*karalla*].

Dead, *ngirkelli* [*muruneka*].

Large, *palbal* [*yidello*].

Small, *dirk* [*yigbelderang*].

Hot, *lerbma* (is not) [*poiyađu*, heat].

Cold, *dumurk* [*mark*].

Clean, *lengak*.

Black, *eigeig* [*eyukeyuk*].

Red, *minma* (is red) [*witma*].