

Capturing the neoglots: mixed languages, reviving languages and other hybrids

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Nyunga

ISO 639-3: [nys](#)

A language of [Australia](#)

Population

170 (1996 census).

Region

Southwest Australia.

Alternate names

Neo-Nyunga, Nyungar

Classification

[Australian, Pama-Nyungan, South-West, Nyungar](#)

Language use

Former Nyungar languages: Tjapanmay, Karlamay, Pipelman (Pipalman), Ngatjumay, Kwetjman, Mirnong, Kaniyang Pindjarup, Whadjuk. There are about 8,000 people who are descended from the Nyunga and speak a mixture of English and Nyunga. They are sometimes called 'Noonga', 'Noongar', or 'Noogar', and their speech 'Neo-Nyunga'.

Comments

Nearly extinct.

http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=nys

Neo-Nyungar

There was no standard Nyungar language, but a number of dialects. A creolized form of the eastern dialect of Noongar, known as Neo-Nyungar, is spoken by about 8,000 people. Noongar was first written in 1801 by [Matthew Flinders](#), who made a number of word lists. Since then a number of different spelling systems have been devised. ...

Today the Noongar language is regarded as endangered, with few fluent speakers, although there has been a revival of interest in recent years. The Noongar Language and Culture Centre was set up by concerned individuals and has now grown to include offices in Bunbury, Northam and Perth. However, the language generally referred to as "Noongar" today, bears questionable resemblance to what was spoken by indigenous Australians before white settlement, and the original "Nyungar" language is listed by [ISO 639-3](#) (code "nys") as extinct. [Ethnologue](#) treats Nyungar and Neo-Nyungar (a term coined by Wilf Douglas^[4] to refer to Nyungar people's English) as equivalent (see ^[5] and),^[6] suggesting that Nyungar is a variety of English: this appears simply to be a misunderstanding of Douglas.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noongar_language

Gurindji Kriol

Ethnologue: **Kriol A language of Australia** ISO 639-3: [rop](#)

Population

10,000 (1991 B. Borneman).

Region

Western Australia, Northern Territory, Kimberley region, Roper River, Katherine areas, Ngukurr; Queensland, Gulf Country, Lower Cape York Peninsula.

Alternate names

Roper-Bamyili Creole

Dialects

Roper River Kriol (Roper River Pidgin), Bamyili Creole, Barkly Kriol, Fitzroy Valley Kriol, Daly River Kriol. Both Kriol and Torres Strait Creole [[tes](#)] are spreading and are nearly overlapping in Queensland.

Classification

[Creole, English based, Pacific](#)

Language use

10,000 L2 speakers (1991 SIL). Preschool children may not be bilingual in another language. Some also use English or Aboriginal languages.

Language development

NT: 1991.

Writing system

Latin script.

Comments

SVO. Pastoralists; hunter-gatherers.

Is it a language?

Gurindji Kriol is a contact variety spoken in northern Australia which has been identified as a mixed language. Yet its status as an autonomous language system must be questioned for three reasons – (i) it continues to be spoken alongside its source languages, Gurindji and Kriol, (ii) it has a close diachronic and synchronic relationship to code-switching between Gurindji and Kriol, and (iii) its structure bears a strong resemblance to patterns found in this code-switching. Nonetheless in this paper I present criteria which support the claim of ‘languagehood’ for Gurindji Kriol. (Meakins 2012: 105)

Meakins, Felicity 2012 Which mix – code-switching or a mixed language? – Gurindji Kriol *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 27(1): 105-140.

Meakins 2012: 115

(4) (FM057.B: SO 41yr, EO 47yr, FO 43yr, CH 3yr, NA 3yr, BP 3yr)

SO: *nyawa-ma nganarrkan karrinyani kankarra-k na.*
this-TOP little.cliff be.PST.IMPF upstream-ALL FOC

‘There used to be a little cliff upstream from here.’

FO: *nyanawu wumara jarrwa.*

RECOG.DEM rock many

‘And lots of rocks remember.’

EO: *wumara kurla-rni-mpal-said nyanawu.*

rock south-up-side-side RECOG.DEM

‘(There were) rocks on the southside remember.’

CH: *darrei wi-rra gon, buj-ta.*

that.way 1PL.S-POT go bush-LOC

‘We’ll go that way through the bush.’

BP: *ai-m gon kuya igin.*

1SG.S-PRS go thus too

‘I’m going to too.’

Light Warlpiri and its place in the world of scholarship

[O'Shannessy, Carmel Therese](#) 2006 Language contact and children's bilingual acquisition: learning a mixed language and Warlpiri in northern Australia
http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/displaystats?handle=2123%2F1303&submit_simple=View+Statistics

4708 views up to 7 February 2013

Middle English?

The chronological boundaries of the Middle English period are not easy to define, and scholarly opinions vary. The dates that *OED3* has settled on are 1150-1500. (Before 1150 being the [Old English](#) period, and after 1500 being the [early modern English](#) period.) In terms of 'external' history, Middle English is framed at its beginning by the after-effects of the Norman Conquest of 1066, and at its end by the arrival in Britain of printing (in 1476) and by the important social and cultural impacts of the English Reformation (from the 1530s onwards) and of the ideas of the continental Renaissance.

<http://public.oed.com/aspects-of-english/english-in-time/middle-english-an-overview/>

Early Modern English

The early modern English period follows the Middle English period towards the end of the fifteenth century and coincides closely with the Tudor (1485–1603) and Stuart (1603-1714) dynasties. The battle of Bosworth (1485) marked the end of the long period of civil war known as the Wars of the Roses and the establishment of the Tudor dynasty under Henry VII (1485–1509), which brought a greater degree of stable centralized government to England. Not long before, the introduction of the craft of printing in 1476 by William Caxton marked a new departure in the dissemination of the written word.

The end of the period is marked by the religious and political settlement of the ‘Glorious Revolution’ (1688), the transition to the Augustan age during the reign of Queen Anne (1702–14), and the achievement of political unity within the British Isles through the Act of Union between England and Scotland (1707).

The defining events of the sixteenth century were those of the [Reformation](#), initiated under Henry VIII in the 1530s, which severed both religious and political links with Catholic Europe. During the seventeenth century the new science gradually achieved prominence, beginning with the writings of Francis Bacon (1561-1626) and issuing in the foundation of the Royal Society (chartered in 1662).

At the start of our period English was spoken throughout England except in western Cornwall, where it was rapidly replacing Cornish.

Pronominal creation events in the Oughties

Table 4.4: Personal pronouns⁸

	SG (ABS/ERG)	DU	PL
1	<i>ngayi / ngaddu</i>	<i>ngadli</i>	<i>ngadlu</i>
2	<i>nhinni / nhindu</i>	<i>nhiwi</i>	<i>nha</i>
3	<i>ba / barlu</i>	<i>burlayi</i>	<i>barna</i>

Table 4.5 Possessive pronouns⁹

	SG	DU	PL
1	<i>ngayidju</i>	<i>ngalligu</i>	<i>ngallugu</i>
2	<i>nhingu</i>	<i>nhiwigu</i>	<i>nhagu</i>
3	<i>barnu</i>	<i>burlayigu</i>	<i>barnagu</i>

Eira, Christina 2010 *Fragments of Budderer's Waddy: a New Narungga Grammar*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, pp. 58-59.

See also, Wanganeen, Tania and Christina Eira, with the Narungga Aboriginal Progress Association Inc. c. 2006 *The Fragments of Budderer's Waddy: A New Narungga Grammar. Vol. 1, Community and Schools Resource*. Maitland, S. Aust.: Narungga Aboriginal Progress Association.

Reviving languages as neoglots?

“neo-Narungga”

“neo-Kaurna”

??“neo-Warlpiri” cf. Bush Mechanics

???Palawa

Palawa kani is a [constructed language](#), a project to create a generic language resembling the extinct languages once spoken by the [Tasmanian Aborigines](#) (Palawa).

The original [Tasmanian languages](#) became extinct in 1905 when the last native speaker died. As part of community efforts to retrieve as much of the original Tasmanian culture as possible, efforts are made to construct a language for the indigenous community. Due to the scarcity of records, Palawa kani is being constructed as a composite of the estimated dozen original languages.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palawa_kani, accessed 8 February 2013

The politics and credibility of Palawa

The possibility of recreating a truly generic Tasmanian language has been questioned, given that scholarly opinion has emphasised the lack of information on the original tongues. While the importance of those languages is acknowledged as a source of knowledge about the deep linguistic prehistory of the southern periphery of Australia, and hence of global linguistic prehistory,^[1] it has been argued that very little information was gathered on Tasmanian languages before they ceased to be spoken at the end of the 19th century.^[2] It has also been suggested that the creation of palawa kani by one particular group is linked to a political and cultural dispute between two Tasmanian groups (the Palawa and the [Lia Pootah](#)), both claiming Aboriginal descent.

Text sample

This sample is a eulogy by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Language Program first used at the 2004 anniversary of the Risdon Cove massacre of 1804.

ya pulingina milaythina mana mapali tu	<i>Greetings to all of you here on our land</i>
mumirimina laykara milaythina mulaka tara	
<i>It was here that the Mumirima people hunted kangaroo all over their lands</i>	
raytji mulaka mumirimina	<i>It was here that the white men hunted the Mumirimina</i>
mumirimina mapali krakapaka laykara	<i>Many Mumirimina died as they ran</i>
krakapaka milaythina nika ta	<i>Died here on their lands</i>
waranta takara milaythina nara takara	<i>We walk where they once walked</i>
waranta putiya nayri	<i>And their absence saddens us</i>
nara laymi krakapaka waranta tu manta waranta tunapri nara.	
<i>But they will never be dead for us as long as we remember them.</i>	

Constructed languages: Klingon, Na'vi etc

Klingon

[ISO 639-3: tlh](#)

The language referenced by this code is an ancient, classical, or constructed language with no living mother-tongue speakers, or was identified as extinct before 1950 (when Ethnologue began). Language identifier code documentation for Klingon [tlh] is maintained by [The Linguist List](#).

Na'vi

[Media Releases](#) | July 28, 2011 Language of Avatar under study

UBC prof examines those who speak tongue exclusively invented for Hollywood

Christine Schreyer, assistant professor of Anthropology

Na'vi, the invented language spoken by alien characters in the top-grossing Hollywood blockbuster *Avatar*, is getting scholarly scrutiny by a University of British Columbia anthropology professor.

Christine Schreyer, an assistant professor of Anthropology in Community, Culture and Global Studies at the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC's Okanagan campus, is surveying the popularity of the Na'vi language around the globe.

The survey, which began June 14 and wraps up at the end of July, is intended to discover the ages, genders and nationalities of the global community who uses the created language made popular by the 2009 movie.

"Within the field of linguistic anthropology, few studies have focused on the speakers of created languages," says Schreyer. "In particular, the identities of speakers of media-driven created languages such as Klingon, used in *Star Trek*, and Na'vi in the movie *Avatar*, have not been considered."

<https://news.ok.ubc.ca/2011/07/28/language-of-avatar-under-study/>

Na'vi

The response to date has been well beyond Schreyer's expectations. "The support and enthusiasm from the Na'vi speaking community has been outstanding and overwhelming," says Schreyer. She has received more than 120 responses in just over a month. Volunteers even offered to translate the survey into other languages such as Russian, Ukrainian, German, French, Hungarian, and Na-vi itself, since there are individuals learning Na'vi who do not speak English.

Among early discoveries, Schreyer has found there are those around the world who speak different root languages and converse in Na'vi to communicate with one other.

Schreyer says the popularity of Na'vi is poised to surpass that of Klingon, the invented language used in the *Star Trek* movies and multiple TV series.

Schreyer has also examined the popularity of Klingon, created in 1984 by Mark Okrand for the *Star Trek* franchise, via other scholarly works. "Due to the fact that Klingon has been around for decades, more attention has been provided to this language and its speakers than the newly created language of Na'vi," says Schreyer, "But Na'vi's growth has been exponentially faster than Klingon. For instance, there are translations of the Na'vi – English dictionary in eight other languages."

Na'vi

Paul Frommer, the retired California linguist and creator of Na'vi, has emailed Schreyer with his support for the survey and a request to see the results of the research when it is done, as he too wonders just why this language has become so popular, so quickly.

A participant from San Francisco is particularly pleased to be included in Schreyer's study.

"Steftxaw 'Rrtamì a lì'fyaolo'it leNa'vi a fi'uri, oer teya si nìtxan fwa fkor smon nìngay a numtseng apxa kìte'e si. Ulte fitìkangkemvil payeng a fmawnìri kop srefereiey nìprte'. Sìlpey oe, awngeyä kifkeyka a klpxìltuftu apxay za'u a aynumeyuri fltxeyurisi, eltur tìtxen si a sì'efut a teri lì'fya sì wawe a slu hapxìtu olo'ä muwìyevìntxu".

—ta Prrton

Or, in English:

"I'm delighted that a well-known university is supporting research on the Na'vi language community on Earth and very much look forward to the project's results. I am hopeful that they will reveal interesting impressions from students and speakers from numerous regions across our world about the language and what it means to be a member of the community."

—Britton Watkins

Avatar is the highest-grossing movie of all time, earning \$2.8 billion at the box office. Canadian-born filmmaker James Cameron wrote and directed the film and has reportedly said a sequel to *Avatar* will be released in 2014.

Capturing the neoglots

mixed languages

reviving languages

constructed languages

Some factors that might make a neoglot ‘worthy’
of inclusion in ISO 639-3

- extent of citation
- distance from linguistic ancestor(s)
- ?credibility