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Metalinguistic Anaphora

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METALINGUISTIC ANAPHORA  
 John Robert Ross,  
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What could the source be for *that*, in the following sentence?  
 The rules of *Clouting* and *Dragoff* apply, in that order.

OLGOLO SYLLABLE STRUCTURE  
 AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING  
 ABOUT IT  
 R. M. W. Dixon,  
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In most Australian languages all words must begin with a consonant and must be of at least two syllables. Olgolo<sup>1</sup>—spoken in the south-central region of the Cape York Peninsula—is descended from a language of this type, but has undergone a number of phonological changes that have increased its phoneme/feature inventory and altered the phonological structure of words. The changes include: (1) a medial nasal becomes a prestopped nasal in the environment of word-initial stop or *w*, followed by a short vowel; (2) all initial consonants are dropped; (3) distinctive vowel length is dropped. For example (using upper case for prestopped nasals):

<i>báma</i>	>	<i>áMa</i>	“man”	<i>búŋa</i>	>	<i>úŋa</i>	“sun”
<i>min<sup>ɲ</sup>a</i>	>	<i>in<sup>ɲ</sup>a</i>	“animal”	<i>bí:n<sup>ɲ</sup>a</i>	>	<i>in<sup>ɲ</sup>a[ða]</i>	“aunt”
<i>gúda</i>	>	<i>úda</i>	“dog”	<i>gúyu</i>	>	<i>úyu</i>	“fish”
<i>gúman</i>	>	<i>úMan</i>	“thigh”	<i>yúgu</i>	>	<i>úgu</i>	“tree, wood”

Thus in the present-day language all words begin with a vowel,<sup>2</sup> and many words end in a vowel. There appears to be a rule that, within a sentence, whenever there is a sequence of two vowels, the first vowel is deleted. Thus mor-

<sup>1</sup> Fieldwork was supported by grants from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies and the Central Research Fund of the University of London. Analysis and write-up were partly supported by NSF grant GS-1934 to Harvard University. Olgolo was not the primary, or even secondary, focus of my fieldwork. However, whenever no informant for a language in which I was most interested was available, I would fill in the time by working with any aborigine that I could find. In this way I worked with four Olgolo informants—an hour or two each with Mabel Callagan (at Chillagoe, 11 April 1964) and Peter Flying Fox (at Wrotham Park, 12 April 1964), and a full day with Jim Gunnawarra and his sister Nellie Ketchup (at Palm Island, 8 April 1967). The tapes were not transcribed nor the data analyzed until early 1969. I am grateful to Kenneth Hale for allowing me to use some of his unpublished reconstructions for languages to the north.

<sup>2</sup> Other Australian languages have undergone similar changes quite independently (see Hale, 1964, for an account of changes in Northern Paman languages, and Dixon, forthcoming, for Mbabaram). Hale reports (private communication) that Kaititj in Central Australia has a rule developing prestopped nasals that is similar to rule (1) for Olgolo. However, the writer knows of no other language that has undergone changes resulting in every word beginning with a vowel (for instance, in the nearby but not closely related Mbabaram, and in some Northern Paman languages, initial CV—where the vowel is short—is dropped and initial CV: is replaced by a short vowel. Words can then begin with a vowel, a single consonant, or a homorganic nasal-plus-stop cluster).