

en

Twentieth International Linguistics Olympiad

Bansko (Bulgaria), 23–29 July 2023

Team Contest Problem

The Murrinh-patha dictionary compiled by Chester S. Street with the help of Gregory Panpawa Mollingin 40 years ago, in 1983, begins as follows:

Murrinh-patha is spoken by approximately 1,100 [Aboriginal people] (as either their first or second language) who live at Port Keats — Wadeye, Northern Territory, 250 kilometres to the south-west of Darwin. A small number of Murrinh-patha speakers also live on nearby cattle stations, and a number live at Kununurra, Western Australia.

At the time of the 2016 census, there were 1,973 native speakers of Murrinh-patha. According to some sources, there are more than 2,500 speakers now. It is one of the few Australian Aboriginal languages whose number of speakers has increased and whose usage has expanded over the past generation.

The dictionary includes English–Murrinh-patha and Murrinh-patha–English sections and is 84 pages long. Sometimes there are pictures in the margins. The entries under the letter M in the second section begin on page 57 and end on page 61. All of these pages are reproduced below, with some minor adjustments and omissions. Further examples from the PhD thesis of Michael James Walsh from 1976 have also been added. English translations of the entries on each page are given after the relevant page, in arbitrary order.

- (a) Match the Murrinh-patha words and phrases with their English equivalents. Each Murrinh-patha dictionary entry has a single English equivalent.
- (b) Restore translation 60-T-54 that was replaced by ***.

(du, m) stands for dual masculine form. (du, f) stands for dual feminine form.

Knowledge of the different species mentioned in the problem is not necessary for solving the problem.

No additional explanation besides the answers is required, nor will be marked.

—*Boris Iomdin, Milena Veneva*

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English text: Boris Iomdin, Milena Veneva.

Good luck!

57-T-1	<i>the tree is swaying (in the wind)</i>	57-T-33	<i>I will save</i>
57-T-2	<i>Can I request something from you_{sg}?</i>	57-T-34	<i>I don't know</i>
57-T-3	<i>I desire it [lit. my belly has got it]</i>	57-T-35	<i>it surged</i>
57-T-4	<i>I will hold him to my chest</i>	57-T-36	<i>I gave to him</i>
57-T-5	<i>I will give to you_{sg}</i>	57-T-37	<i>pregnant</i>
57-T-6	verb negator – archaic	57-T-38	<i>I will be satisfied</i>
57-T-7	<i>I met him</i>	57-T-39	<i>she is making a string design</i>
57-T-8	<i>it will surge</i>	57-T-40	<i>Give it to me!</i>
57-T-9	<i>I am out of breath</i>	57-T-41	<i>they are satisfied</i>
57-T-10	<i>I know his thoughts</i>	57-T-42	<i>I will know your_{sg} thoughts [lit. I will see your_{sg} belly]</i>
57-T-11	<i>they (du, f) met him</i>	57-T-43	<i>I rejoiced for him</i>
57-T-12	<i>abdomen (belly), the seat of the emotions</i>	57-T-44	<i>I will have a stomach ache</i>
57-T-13	<i>I am disillusioned</i>		
57-T-14	<i>I rejoiced at the news</i>	57-T-45	<i>to hold/take to one's chest</i>
57-T-15	<i>I requested something from him</i>	57-T-46	<i>to give</i>
57-T-16	<i>I will sway</i>	57-T-47	<i>to be puffed out, to be out of breath</i>
57-T-17	<i>I had a stomach ache</i>	57-T-48	<i>to be disappointed with something, to be disillusioned</i>
57-T-18	<i>I am holding him to my chest (standing)</i>	57-T-49	<i>to request something</i>
57-T-19	<i>the boat is ploughing through (the water)</i>	57-T-50	<i>to know another's thoughts</i>
57-T-20	non-conjugated verb: <i>to give</i>	57-T-51	<i>to mumble</i>
57-T-21	<i>they were passing the thing on/along</i>	57-T-52	<i>to surge (fresh or salt-water)</i>
57-T-22	<i>I will plough the ground</i>	57-T-53	<i>to give to oneself</i>
57-T-23	<i>I will meet him</i>	57-T-54	<i>to rejoice</i>
57-T-24	<i>he is mumbling</i>	57-T-55	<i>to rejoice (at news, etc.)</i>
57-T-25	<i>I will give to myself</i>	57-T-56	<i>to meet</i>
57-T-26	<i>I might get out of breath</i>	57-T-57	<i>to be satisfied</i>
57-T-27	<i>large bamboo (used for spears)</i>	57-T-58	<i>to sway</i>
57-T-28	<i>I gave to myself</i>	57-T-59	<i>to pass on/along; to make string designs with one's hands</i>
57-T-29	<i>you_{sg} will continually know their thoughts</i>	57-T-60	<i>to have a stomach ache</i>
57-T-30	<i>pass the word along to him!</i>	57-T-61	<i>to plough</i>
57-T-31	<i>I will rejoice for him</i>	57-T-62	<i>to know another's thoughts [lit. to see one's belly]</i>
57-T-32	<i>I save things</i>	57-T-63	<i>to save up, to hoard</i>

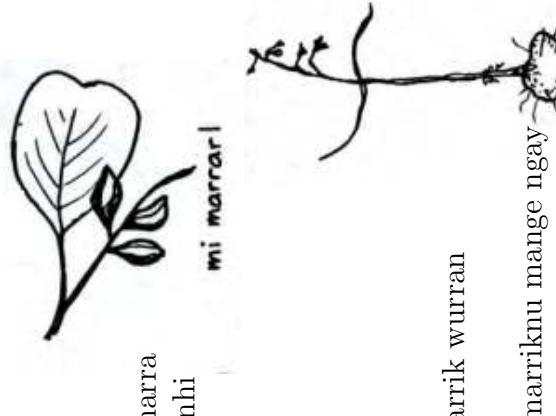
1	mandarrmardar	kardu		
2	MARDAT	manhimardatnu mammardat	33 makarduma	34 palngun makarduma
3			35 MAKUT	36 ku money (< Eng. 'money')
4	MARDAT	i kardu ngamere-ka pumemmar dat ku ngurimirl nhini-nu-yu	37 malampakpak	38 malarntath
5			39 malarmath	da
6			40	thu
7	MARDAT	bumardatnu bannardat	41	ku
8			42	thangku numa ku malarntath
9	MARDATAT	peninthamardatatu nu deminthamardat at	43 malangan	tamngardu?
10			44	
11	MARDATA	bangimardartanu banganmardarta dim	45	nanthi
12			46	mi
13	MARDARTA	ngurmardawalhu	47 MARLIP	ku
14		ngunungammamardawal	48	kardu wurnangat weyida
15	MARDAWAL	ngunungammamardalal ngurran	49	menamarlptha wurrini da-yu
16		mangimardayarrarrnu mamngimardayarrarr dim	50	
17			51	nanthi, mi, ku etc.
18		nanthi	52	da
19	MARDAYARRARR		53	
20			54	pimamathnu
21			55	dimngamamath
22			56	picture (< Eng. 'film')
23	marda yidi		57	dimngarramamath
24	MARDI		58	
25			59	mamamathnu
26			60	mammamath
27	mardinhpunku	ku	61	mamawathanu
28		yakay ku mardinhpunku		ngay-dha ngatha-ka memawathadha-wa
29	magarn	mi		
30	magulkul	nanthi		
31		nukunu-ka magulkul pirimkarrknintha		
32	mak	nanthi		

62	mamay	kardu
{ 63	maminmanga	ku
64 }		ma yukuwi ku maminmanga
65 }	mampurkin	nanthi
66 }	manurt	nanthi
67 }		mi
68 }	manangka	
69 }		manangka thipmam
70 }	manangkaningi	kardu
71 }	mani	
72 }		bangkardu mani
73 }	mannan	ku
74 }		nanthi
75 }		mi

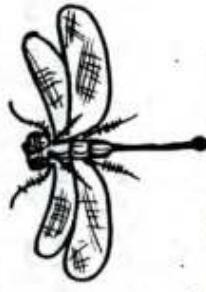


58-T-1	<i>message stick</i>	58-T-40	<i>they (du, m) faced each other</i>
58-T-2	<i>thunder and lightning</i>	58-T-41	<i>he was collecting money from them</i>
58-T-3	<i>I will rectify it</i>	58-T-42	<i>unmarried woman</i>
58-T-4	<i>oh, yes, it is a black cormorant</i>	58-T-43	<i>he was washed ashore</i>
58-T-5	<i>didgeridoo (musical instrument)</i>	58-T-44	<i>I continually reprove him</i>
58-T-6	<i>butterfly</i>	58-T-45	<i>I will flash it (operate the projector)</i>
58-T-7	<i>fruit from butterfly tree</i>	58-T-46	<i>left-overs</i>
58-T-8	<i>they (du, f) married</i>	58-T-47	<i>wedge shell (mollusc)</i>
58-T-9	<i>edible fruit from <i>Morinda citrifolia</i></i>	58-T-48	<i>I collected them from him</i>
58-T-10	<i>he is lamenting for another man</i>	58-T-49	<i>butterfly tree</i>
58-T-11	<i>season — end of the wet season</i>	58-T-50	<i>not</i>
58-T-12	<i>I will move straight through the middle</i>	58-T-51	<i>if it had been me, I would have rectified it</i>
58-T-13	<i>many people had filled up the place instead not black</i>	58-T-52	<i>praying mantis (insect)</i>
58-T-14	<i>the lightning will flash</i>	58-T-53	<i>baby girl</i>
58-T-15	<i>water lily</i>	58-T-54	<i>they (du, f) will marry</i>
58-T-16	<i>young child</i>	58-T-55	<i>How many praying mantises did you_{sg} see?</i>
58-T-17	<i>and the few men were amazed at all those fish</i>	58-T-56	<i>heart</i>
58-T-18	<i>they (du, m) will face/oppose each other</i>	58-T-57	<i>fruit tree</i>
58-T-19	<i>I can have a look</i>	58-T-58	<i>saver, hoarder</i>
58-T-20	<i>I told him off</i>	58-T-59	<i>the picture (movie) flashed at us (we saw the picture)</i>
58-T-21	<i>women's dance</i>	58-T-60	<i>he will be washed ashore</i>
58-T-22	<i>season — new leaves appear</i>	58-T-61	<i>I flashed it (operated the projector)</i>
58-T-23	<i>Hey! (It is) a wedge shell</i>	58-T-62	<i>I will amaze you_{sg}</i>
58-T-24	<i>small wallaby (a wallaby is like a kangaroo, but smaller)</i>	58-T-63	<i>to be upset, to be troubled</i>
58-T-25	<i>chest (body part)</i>	58-T-64	<i>to have hunger pains</i>
58-T-26	<i>I will be upset</i>	58-T-65	<i>to be amazed, to marvel</i>
58-T-27	<i>I have hunger pains</i>	58-T-66	<i>to collect from another</i>
58-T-28	<i>particle that indicates ability to do something</i>	58-T-67	<i>to marry [lit. to put a finger into (a ring)]</i>
58-T-29	<i>I amazed him</i>	58-T-68	<i>to fill up with people (only)</i>
58-T-30	<i>black stingray (fish)</i>	58-T-69	<i>to rectify</i>
58-T-31	<i>he is upset</i>	58-T-70	<i>to flash (used of operating a projector)</i>
58-T-32	<i><i>Morinda citrifolia</i> (tree)</i>	58-T-71	<i>to be opposite, to face</i>
58-T-33	<i>black cormorant (bird)</i>	58-T-72	<i>to wash ashore</i>
58-T-34	<i>crab legs</i>	58-T-73	<i>to move straight through the middle; to tell another off, to reprove</i>
58-T-35	<i>the lightning flashed at me</i>	58-T-74	<i>to amaze another</i>
58-T-36	<i>edible fruit from <i>nanthi thay malangan</i></i>	58-T-75	<i>[verb for] lightning flash</i>
58-T-37	<i>I will have hunger pains</i>		
58-T-38	<i>unmarried man</i>		
58-T-39			

1	MANPI	me[nu]manpinu	29
2		ngumem[nu]manpi ngarnam	30
3	manthayway	kardu	31
4	MANTHI	nguymarthimu	32
5		ngammanthi	33
6		ku malgaga pammanthawath wurran	34
7		nanthi	35
8	marnirra	ku	36
9	marnpi	ngay ngamanyeckum ku marrawarmparn kamayya ku marnpi kamayya ku	37
10		math kamayya	38
11		da	39
12	manhpilyi	da	40
13		kura	41
14	mange	murriinh	42
15	mange	da	43
16		da mange patha	44
17		nanthi	45
18	mange ... mani	da	46
19		mange kanhi mani	47
20	mange numi	nanthi	48
21	mange ngala	mange ngay	49
22		mange ngay	50
23		mange wurrung purrpurk	51
24	mangini ... mani	nanthi	52
25		mangini kanhi mani	53
26		mangka	54
27	mangka	kardu	55
28	mangkamurr	mi	56
29		math	57
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59-T-1	<i>mother with first-born child</i>	59-T-31	<i>like this</i>
59-T-2	<i>he took it from me</i>	59-T-32	<i>new spear</i>
59-T-3	<i>I didn't understand you_{sg}</i>	59-T-33	<i>tree, used for making wooden hammers and dugout canoes</i>
59-T-4	<i>one who has a speech impediment</i>	59-T-34	<i>fingers</i>
59-T-5	<i>he continually chooses one item</i>	59-T-35	<i>new, now</i>
59-T-6	<i>father's mother, father's mother's sister(s)</i>	59-T-36	<i>an action</i>
59-T-7	<i>I will choose it</i>	59-T-37	<i>I continually understand</i>
59-T-8	<i>thumb, big hand</i>	59-T-38	<i>a good action</i>
59-T-9	<i>here now</i>	59-T-39	<i>cold rain—in dry season</i>
59-T-10	<i>season — showers of rain in the cold season; also eucalyptus flower time</i>	59-T-40	<i>I will help myself</i>
59-T-11	<i>like this</i>	59-T-41	<i>perch (fish)</i>
59-T-12	<i>spider</i>	59-T-42	<i>hand</i>
59-T-13	<i>fruit tree</i>	59-T-43	<i>wild grape</i>
59-T-14	<i>small pied goose (bird)</i>	59-T-44	<i>edible fruit from nanthi thay marrarl</i>
59-T-15	<i>catfish (fish)</i>	59-T-45	<i>five</i>
59-T-16	<i>wooden hammer made from thay maran, used for breaking open mi lala</i>	59-T-46	<i>sign language</i>
59-T-17	<i>I will singe the pied geese</i>	59-T-47	<i>I understood him</i>
59-T-18	<i>I forget: maybe [it was] a pied stilt, maybe a catfish, maybe a perch</i>	59-T-48	<i>I carried it over my shoulder</i>
59-T-19	<i>like, similar</i>	59-T-49	<i>bush potato</i>
59-T-20	<i>pied stilt (bird)</i>	59-T-50	<i>I am going by myself</i>
59-T-21	<i>sky</i>	59-T-51	<i>they were continually disturbing me</i>
59-T-22	<i>by myself [lit. my hand]</i>	59-T-52	<i>to learn by observation</i>
59-T-23	<i>I will trust myself</i>	59-T-53	<i>to trust</i>
59-T-24	<i>don't you_{sg} continually disturb me</i>	59-T-54	<i>to help oneself</i>
59-T-25	<i>he always carries the wallaby over his shoulder</i>	59-T-55	<i>to carry over one's shoulder</i>
59-T-26	<i>like, similar</i>	59-T-56	<i>to trust oneself</i>
59-T-27	<i>we always help each other</i>	59-T-57	<i>to choose, to select (one item)</i>
59-T-28	<i>he continually trusts me</i>	59-T-58	<i>to understand</i>
59-T-29	<i>I will carry it over my shoulder</i>	59-T-59	<i>to take from another</i>
59-T-30	<i>you_{sg} took it from him</i>	59-T-60	<i>to disturb from rest/sleep</i>



60-T-1	<i>I tripped you</i> _g	60-T-29	<i>murderess</i> : actually refers to a woman who by her interaction with several men causes jealousy, and thereby they kill each other off for that woman
60-T-2	verb negator	60-T-30	<i>sickness, illness</i>
60-T-3	<i>I had a dog with me</i>	60-T-31	<i>I am exhausted</i>
60-T-4	<i>the One who abides above</i>	60-T-32	<i>I am carrying it</i>
60-T-5	<i>one month</i>	60-T-33	<i>widow</i>
60-T-6	suffix to abide, to reside	60-T-34	<i>I am hungry</i> [lit. <i>I'm sitting with hunger</i>]
60-T-7	<i>I don't know</i>	60-T-35	<i>person with sore ankle(s)</i>
60-T-8	<i>grass whistling duck</i> (bird)	60-T-36	<i>murderer</i>
60-T-9	<i>toenail</i>	60-T-37	<i>necklace</i> [< Eng. <i>necklace</i>]
60-T-10	<i>big toe, big foot</i>	60-T-38	<i>the wave(s) knocked us off our feet</i>
60-T-11	<i>sandfly</i> (insect)	60-T-39	<i>seaweed</i>
60-T-12	<i>dragon-fly</i> (insect)	60-T-40	<i>he always takes all the fish</i>
60-T-13	non-conjugated verb: <i>to be hungry</i>	60-T-41	<i>foot/feet, track</i>
60-T-14	<i>then I chanced on a sea snake as I went along</i>	60-T-42	<i>I tripped him</i>
60-T-15	<i>widow or widower</i>	60-T-43	<i>widower</i>
60-T-16	<i>full moon</i>	60-T-44	<i>toes</i>
60-T-17	<i>I heard (the story) from him</i>	60-T-45	<i>I tripped/stumbled</i>
60-T-18	<i>I will take everything</i>	60-T-46	<i>to take all</i>
60-T-19	<i>fever</i>	60-T-47	<i>to have with one (things, animals, people)</i>
60-T-20	<i>orphan (or child with just one parent)</i>	60-T-48	<i>to be knocked off one's feet (by waves or strong current)</i>
60-T-21	<i>moon</i>	60-T-49	<i>to be exhausted</i>
60-T-22	<i>I will carry it</i>	60-T-50	<i>to carry a stretcher, etc.</i>
60-T-23	<i>one who resides in Darwin</i>	60-T-51	<i>to hear (the story) from another</i>
60-T-24	<i>ankle</i>	60-T-52	<i>to trip another</i>
60-T-25	<i>I will have things with me</i>	60-T-53	<i>to trip, to stumble</i>
60-T-26	<i>I was continually tripping</i>		
60-T-27	<i>sea snake</i>		
60-T-28	<i>pearly nautilus shell</i> (a nautilus is a type of mollusc)		

60-T-54 ***

61-T-1	<i>the thunder is rumbling</i>	61-T-28	<i>speech, language, name(s), places associated with talking or learning, non-Aboriginal songs, stories, legends, news</i>
61-T-2	(place name)	61-T-29	<i>grevillea (plant)</i>
61-T-3	<i>she will dance</i>	61-T-30	<i>old time, long ago, before, etc.</i>
61-T-4	<i>he habitually eats fish</i>	61-T-31	<i>brains</i>
61-T-5	<i>I will speed up the clapsticks</i>	61-T-32	<i>bone</i>
61-T-6	<i>feather(s)</i>	61-T-33	<i>nasty person</i>
61-T-7	<i>old</i>	61-T-34	<i>snake</i>
61-T-8	<i>I will keep the thing for myself</i>	61-T-35	<i>purple shell (mollusc)</i>
61-T-9	<i>thick (blanket, etc.)</i>	61-T-36	<i>a quiet person (i. e. doesn't talk much)</i>
61-T-10	<i>coolibah tree</i>	61-T-37	<i>bony, skinny, lean</i>
61-T-11	<i>the thunder was rumbling</i>	61-T-38	<i>season — dry/cold</i>
61-T-12	<i>he hit the bird</i>	61-T-39	<i>bitter yam</i>
61-T-13	<i>dangerous snake</i>	61-T-40	<i>water lily</i>
61-T-14	<i>I squashed the lice eggs</i>	61-T-41	<i>tail</i>
61-T-15	<i>clapping sticks</i> (used for creating rhythm by clapping the sticks together), <i>firing sticks</i> (used for lighting a fire)	61-T-42	<i>news</i>
61-T-16	<i>correct, pleasant</i>	61-T-43	<i>old thing</i>
61-T-17	<i>I am keeping the thing for myself</i>	61-T-44	<i>lice eggs</i>
61-T-18	<i>brackish water</i>	61-T-45	<i>they were dancing</i>
61-T-19	<i>ornament worn in hair for dancing (made from feathers)</i>	61-T-46	<i>children's talk</i>
61-T-20	<i>good storyteller [lit. beautiful mouth]</i>	61-T-47	<i>to keep something for oneself</i>
61-T-21	<i>flock pigeon (bird)</i>	61-T-48	<i>to dance, women only</i>
61-T-22	<i>baby girl</i>	61-T-49	<i>to beautify</i>
61-T-23	<i>I will beautify the top/back of it</i>	61-T-50	<i>[verb for] thunder rumbling</i>
61-T-24	<i>alcohol</i>	61-T-51	<i>to eat (more than one thing, or habitually)</i>
61-T-25	<i>bird</i>	61-T-52	<i>to blink one's eye</i>
61-T-26	<i>water lily</i>		
61-T-27	<i>dangerous, nasty, cheeky</i>		