

(ii) Tide terms.

The phasal, processual nature of tides does not prevent them from being lexicalized as nouns in English (then combinable with verbs like ‘come in/up’ or ‘go out’). However, Iwaidja uses verbs for all tide terms, as in (5). This suggests that Iwaidja construes tides as processes (e.g. of the sea moving over the sea bottom/beach) rather than as the time at which a particular point is reached, indicated by the etymology of English *tide* as meaning ‘time’, as the Dutch and German cognates (*tijd*, *Zeit*) still do.

(5)

<i>Ma-na-nga-yambu-ng</i>	<i>kuburr.</i>
3veO-FUT-3fA-tide.be.full-NPst	tomorrow
‘The tide will be really full tomorrow.’	

A sample list of Iwaidja tide verbs is given in (6) below. Note that some of these terms employ ‘frozen’ gender prefixes for subject and/or object (given here in square brackets), a topic I defer until §8.4.2.

(6)

ldakbarlarlan ‘tide come in’

ldakirrinirra ‘tide come in gradually’

ldawurtin ‘tide come up’

[inyju-] *Jurdurrikun* ‘come in, of neap tide’

[manga-] *lyambung* ‘be king tide, be really full tide’

ijbalmalbakbany karlda ‘tide be right out, of low spring tide’

yaburnalkan ‘tide go out’

awunduhulmurdanymin ‘be full tide’

arawurdin mambal ‘be spring tide’

p. 199 A few of these terms were already known from Pym and Larrimore's draft dictionary.²⁰ Birch had begun collecting some of these terms during the first phases of the ↵ DoBeS project, but again, it was only when Akerman joined us for joint fieldwork that most of the set emerged—in this case not because they are material culture items, but because of his experience doing other fieldwork (oriented to maritime technology) with other Aboriginal groups (e.g. Bardi) in areas with prominent tidal variation.

8.4.1.3 Are situations often described using highly specific denotations that incorporate reference to entities as well as processes?

A third aspect of Iwaidja's lexical style is the large number of verbs which have ‘semantically inherent arguments’, i.e. entities which must be included in the semantic representation of the verb's meaning but which do not form syntactically visible arguments (and which would not normally be represented by NPs in clauses containing these verbs).

This is most evident in the many verb classes which incorporate reference to a body part: