



Australian Languages

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Introduction

At the time of the first European settlement of Australia in 1788, there were approximately 250 distinct languages spoken, representing about twenty-eight phylic families. In the early 21st century only twenty of these languages are being learned by children. These languages are important to all areas of linguistics as the only languages spoken by hunter-gatherers who were not in contact with agriculturalists and as languages with many interesting syntactic, phonological, and morphological features. Speakers of Aboriginal languages and heritage owners are also at the forefront of language preservation and revitalization activities. This article provides an overview of the main areas in the field, language resources, and both classic and state-of-the-art materials. A great number of important additional resources exist at present in manuscript form; this work is not cited here.

Textbooks

There are a few books that provide general overviews of Australian languages, though unfortunately there is as yet no single textbook for a class on Australian languages as a whole. Walsh and Yallop 1993 is a little dated now, as is Dixon 1980. McGregor 2004 comes closest. Though it is focused on a particular region, its coverage of linguistic topics is balanced and provides a good introduction for students with no background in Australian languages. Dixon 2002 was meant to be a general textbook and reference work on Australian languages, but it is not very suitable as an introduction to the subject. It is included as a major recent work on Australian languages but should be used with caution.

Dixon, R. M. W. 1980. *The languages of Australia*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

This is a classic work; although it is now rather dated (and out of print), it has good coverage of Pama-Nyungan languages and a variety of topics of general interest.

Dixon, R. M. W. 2002. *Australian languages: Their nature and development*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

References to the recent literature are very selective, and the author advocates a theory of change that is not widely accepted by other Australianists (see Bowern 2006, cited in Diffusion and Language Contact, for further discussion).

McGregor, William B. 2004. *The languages of the Kimberley, Western Australia*. New York: RoutledgeCurzon.

While the focus of this book is the Aboriginal languages of the Kimberley region (Northwest Australia), it is also suitable as a more general textbook for a class on Australian languages. It covers several language families (including some of the northern Pama-Nyungan languages) and presents a clear introduction to some of the most important features of Australian languages.

Walsh, Michael, and Colin Yallop, eds. 1993. *Language and culture in Aboriginal Australia*. Canberra, Australia: Aboriginal Studies.

An introduction to language and culture, with short chapters on topics such as language and law, song language, and sound systems.

Edited Collections

Some of the most important advances in Australian linguistics have appeared in edited collections. Dixon 1976, for example, is a

collection of comparative typological papers that provide a very useful overview of the state of knowledge for the languages. Some are thematic volumes: McConvell and Evans 1997 on prehistory, Mushin and Baker 2008 (cited in Discourse), and Bowern and Koch 2004 on reconstruction (cited in Historical Linguistics). Some contain sketch grammars in a standard format (Dixon and Blake 1983), others are more general collections (McGregor 2008; Simpson, et al. 2001), while others (Berndt and Berndt 1980; Wafer, et al. 2008) are focused on particular parts of the country.

Berndt, R. M., and C. H. Berndt, eds. 1980. *Aborigines of the west: Their past and their present*. Perth: Univ. of Western Australia Press.

There are some classic papers in this volume, including Kolig's on Captain James Cook as a trope in the western Kimberley region (pp. 274–282).

Dixon, R. M. W., ed. 1976. *Grammatical categories in Australian languages: Proceedings of the 1974 AIAS Conference*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Proceedings from the first conference on Australian languages held at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (now Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies [AIATSIS]). Some of this information is now superseded, but the volume contains some very important papers, such as Terry Crowley's demonstration that Nganyaaywana is Pama-Nyungan and Michael Silverstein's discussion of person hierarchies in ergativity.

Dixon, R. M. W., and Barry Blake, eds. 1983. *The handbook of Australian languages*. Vol. 4, *The Aboriginal languages of Melbourne and other grammatical sketches*. Melbourne, Australia: Oxford Univ. Press.

The fourth volume in the series contains sketches of languages traditionally spoken on the sites of major cities in Australia: Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. Other volumes in the series include a selection of other languages.

McConvell, Patrick, and Nicholas Evans, eds. 1997. *Archaeology and linguistics: Aboriginal Australia in global perspective*. Melbourne, Australia: Melbourne Univ. Press.

This volume grew out of a conference on the joint use of archaeological and linguistic data for reconstruction in prehistory. The papers present a varied set of case studies using a variety of techniques.

McGregor, William, ed. 2008. *Encountering Aboriginal languages: Studies in the history of Australian linguistics*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

A collection of papers discussing various facets of the history of research on Australian indigenous languages, including studies of individual languages and relations with linguists, the role of missionaries in language description, and a history of language revival. It is the first work on historiography of Australian linguistics.

Simpson, Jane, David Nash, Mary Laughren, Peter Austin, and Barry Alpher, eds. 2001. *Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

A Festschrift for Ken Hale, this book is a collection of papers on all areas of Australian languages (though with some focus on Hale's main research areas—syntax, Warlpiri, and historical linguistics). The book gives some sense of Hale's importance to the field.

Wafer, Jim, Amanda Lissarrague, and Jean Harkins. 2008. *A handbook of Aboriginal languages of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory*. Nambucca Heads, Australia: Murrumbidgee Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative.

A comprehensive compilation of resources for languages spoken in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (all Pama-Nyungan languages); entries are organized by subgroup and include information on primary and secondary sources, a word list in standardized orthography, and discussion of classification.

Reference Resources

There are some older (and rather out-of-date) compilations of language names and other more or less complete demographic information, but these have been supplanted by online resources hosted by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). The five reference works listed in this section are compilations. Ozbib: A Linguistic Bibliography of Aboriginal Australia and the Torres Strait Islands is a bibliography of published works, while Mura AIATSIS Collections Catalogue contains the complete holdings (manuscript, audiovisual, pictorial, and published) of the AIATSIS. Tindale's Catalogue of Australian Aboriginal Tribes and Austlang Australian Indigenous Language Database are also compilation sites, with Austlang being rather more up to date. There are also many Aboriginal archival resources in more online collections, such as National Library of Australia's Digital Collections.

Austlang Australian Indigenous Language Database.

A catalogue of languages with language locations, classifications, and speaker numbers, based on several earlier sources and supplemented by new information.

Mura AIATSIS Collections Catalogue.

Online catalogue of the library of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, which has extensive holdings on materials for these languages. This is the single best place to find materials on Australian languages.

National Library of Australia's Digital Collections.

Digital collection holdings of the National Library of Australia; this collection includes indigenous language materials as well as more general Australian cultural heritage.

Ozbib: A Linguistic Bibliography of Aboriginal Australia and the Torres Strait Islands.

Searchable reference work with published materials on Australian languages.

Tindale's Catalogue of Australian Aboriginal Tribes. South Australian Museum Archives.

Based on the work of Norman B. Tindale (the published edition is Tindale 1974, cited in General Classifications). It is extensive although somewhat dated and inaccurate in places; especially useful for language locations and older language name spellings.

Journals

There are no journals devoted solely to Australian languages; however, several journals with an areal or regional focus often publish papers on Australian languages, including the Australian Journal of Linguistics and Oceania. Australian Aboriginal Studies Journal is devoted solely to Aboriginal topics but contains articles on anthropology, politics, and history as well as language. There are also extensive materials in older journals (such as Science of Man) and in anthropology sources (such as Anthropos).

Anthropos.

Journal of the study of "man"; a traditional four-field anthropology journal, including linguistics, published in Germany.

Australian Aboriginal Studies Journal.

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) journal publishes material on all aspects of the study of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with particular emphasis on the work of the institute.

Australian Journal of Linguistics

This is the journal of the Australian Linguistic Society. It publishes in all areas but is particularly strong in Australian language articles.

Oceania.

Languages and cultures of the Pacific and Australia, including some important publications on Australian languages.

Science of Man.

This journal appeared between 1896 and 1918; a general anthropological science journal, it contains many samples of early vocabulary. Some languages are known only from the vocabularies in this journal. Many of the articles would be considered sexist or racist by today's standards.

Language Classification

Early classificatory work on Australian languages was based on a few language features and rather small amounts of data. There are several current sources of information for language classification, including the Austlang Australian Indigenous Language Database (cited in Reference Resources), which provides a compilation of several sources, and Wurm and Hattori 1981 and Dixon 2002. Tindale 1974 is the book version of Tindale's Catalogue of Australian Aboriginal Tribes (cited in Reference Resources).

EARLY WORKS

Early work on Australian languages assumed that the languages were identical or closely related. Hale 1846 is the first explicit discussion of genealogical relationships of Australian languages; Curr 1886 is a compilation of sources and a set of word lists on which much subsequent classificatory work was based, including Schmidt 1919a and Schmidt 1919b. Hale 1846 is not part of that tradition but presents an interesting state-of-the-art article from a time when little was known of the languages.

Curr, Edward M., ed. 1886. *The Australian race*. 4 vols. Melbourne, Australia: Ferres.

The first compilation of language materials for Australian languages and our sole record of several languages. Word lists were sourced from fieldwork and were sent in from locals. The word lists are available online from Collectors of Words.

Hale, Horatio. 1846. The languages of Australia. In *Ethnography and Philology: United States Exploring Expedition during the years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1842, under the command of Charles Wilkes, U. S. N.* Vol. 6. By Horatio Hale, 497–531. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard.

A very early example of an attempt to classify Australian languages; Hale tentatively proposed that they were related.

Schmidt, Wilhelm. 1919a. *Die Gliederung der australischen Sprachen*. Vienna: Mechenaristen-Buchdruckerei.

This “comparison of Australian languages” divides Australian languages into “northern” and “southern” and sets out subgroups for a number of southern languages. Classification is, however, based on superficial structural features and a few words of vocabulary.

Schmidt, Wilhelm. 1919b. *Die Personalpronomina in den australischen Sprachen*. Vienna: Holder.

This collection of “personal pronouns in Australian languages” is a companion volume to Schmidt 1919a, using personal pronoun data.

GENERAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Two general classifications of Australian languages—O’Grady, et al. 1966b and Wurm and Hattori 1981—exist primarily in map form. O’Grady, et al. 1966a and O’Grady, et al. 1966b were classifications based primarily on lexicostatistics. Subsequent classifications have refined the earlier work or used composite classifications based on all available material (Wurm and Hattori 1981). Tindale 1974, based on the author’s fieldwork and available anthropological and linguistic sources, shows language locations but does not give genetic affiliations. Dixon 2002 is a further classification that differs in several ways from previous work, including in the designation of some

groups as genetic and others as areal.

Dixon, R. M. W. 2002. *Australian languages: Their nature and development*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Language list, classification, and discussion of Australian languages.

O'Grady, Geoffrey N., Carl F. Voegelin, and Florence M. Voegelin. 1966a. Languages of the world: Indo-Pacific fascicle 6. *Anthropological Linguistics* 8.2: 1–197.

For many years the standard classification and list of Australian languages.

O'Grady, Geoffrey N., Stephen A. Wurm, and Kenneth L. Hale. 1966b. *Map of Aboriginal languages of Australia*. Victoria, BC, Canada: Department of Linguistics, Univ. of Victoria.

The most accurate general map of Australian language locations.

Tindale, Norman B. 1974. *Tribes and boundaries in Australia*. Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Humanities Press.

Catalogue of tribal boundaries, names, and locations based on fieldwork and sources available at the time. Inaccurate in some areas but useful for alternative spellings of language names.

Wurm, Stephen A., and Shiro Hattori, eds. 1981. *Language atlas of the Pacific area Part 1: New Guinea Area, Oceania, Australia*. Canberra: Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Language atlas based on earlier materials that includes not only Australia but also surrounding countries. Maps 20–23 compiled by Michael Walsh. These are the best-available geographic information system (GIS) data. Available online.

Descriptions of Individual Languages and Families

There is far more material on the 250 individual Australian languages than can be listed here. These subselections are based on reference grammars for the best-described languages from different families and Pama-Nyungan subgroups from around the country. The Pama-Nyungan sections are based on major subgroups, while other sections are based on geographic area. This does not cover all areas within the continent.

PAMA-NYUNGAN LANGUAGES: WEST

There are extensive reference materials on Western Pama-Nyungan languages, including grammars, dictionaries, and text collections. Blevins 2001 and Dench 1995 are by linguists who worked with the last few speakers of the languages they were describing, while Janet Sharp (Sharp 2004) worked with speakers and with materials supplemented by earlier sources. Nyungar (Douglas 1976) was described from part speakers and old materials alone, while Glass and Hackett 2003 is a dictionary of a language with several thousand native speakers of all ages. Austin 1997 is an example of a text collection from a selection of Pilbara languages from the Northwest coast.

Austin, Peter. 1997. *Texts in the Mantharta languages, Western Australia*. Tokyo: Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo Univ. of Foreign Studies.

A book of interlinearly glossed texts from several languages of the Pilbara region, with some annotation.

Blevins, Juliette. 2001. *Nhanda: An Aboriginal language of Western Australia*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii Press.

The best-described language in the Kartu subgroup; a mid-length grammar based on old materials and work with the last speakers.

Dench, Alan. 1995. *Martuthunira: A language of the Pilbara region of Western Australia*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

An excellent, full-length reference grammar of a language with complex multiple case exponence.

Douglas, Wilfred H. 1976. *The Aboriginal languages of the South-west of Australia*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Description of Nyungar (the language of the far southwest of Western Australia), including Neo-Nyungar, a young people's variety of Nyungar.

Glass, Ameer, and Dorothy Hackett. 2003. *Ngaanyatjarra and Ngaatjatjarra to English dictionary*. Alice Springs, Australia: IAD.

An excellent dictionary of an Australian language with a large amount of information; this language is still being learned as a first language by children. This is probably the largest published dictionary of any Australian language.

Sharp, Janet. 2004. *Nyangumarta: A language of the Pilbara region of Western Australia*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

Nyangumarta is a member of the Marrngu subgroup of Pama-Nyungan. This reference grammar is based on the author's PhD dissertation.

PAMA-NYUNGAN LANGUAGES: NORTH AND CENTRAL

Many of these languages were documented from the last speakers in the 1960s and 1970s (Hercus 1994), though some, such as the Western Torres Language (Bani 1987) still have sizable numbers of native speakers. Many grammars from this area have been influential in shaping views of Australian languages, such as those in Dixon 1972 and Austin 1981. Other languages in this area are not described in full reference grammar form but in sketches or comparative books, such as Sutton 1976. Since some languages of Queensland and New South Wales were documented by nonlinguists, there have been salvage grammars that assemble all available materials from old sources (Terrill 2002).

Austin, Peter. 1981. *A grammar of Diyari, South Australia*. Cambridge Studies in Linguistics 32. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press.

A classic grammar and one of the first that shows the possibilities for extensive syntactic work with last speakers.

Bani, Ephraim. 1987. Garka a ipika: Masculine and feminine grammatical gender in Kala Lagaw Ya. *Australian Journal of Linguistics* 7.2: 189–201.

This is the first and only article about an Australian language to be written in an Australian language; it describes the principles of gender classification in the Western Torres Strait language.

Dixon, R. M. W. 1972. *The Dyirbal language of North Queensland*. Cambridge Studies in Linguistics 9. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

An important grammar in Australian work that has served as the model for many subsequent descriptions. It is also important for its description of ergativity and antipassives.

Hercus, Luise Anna. 1994. *A grammar of the Arabana-Wangkangurru language, Lake Eyre Basin, South Australia*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

Arabana-Wangkangurru is a Karnic language of the Simpson Desert and west of Lake Eyre. Hercus's grammar is based on extensive work with the last speakers, particularly on grammar and culture.

Sutton, Peter, ed. 1976. *Languages of Cape York*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Edited volume of articles on various aspects of the Paman languages of Cape York, including synchronic (theoretical and descriptive) and historical topics.

Terrill, Angela. 2002. *Dharumbal: The language of Rockhampton, Australia*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

A salvage grammar drawing together early sources combined with interviews with the two last speakers of the language.

PAMA-NYUNGAN LANGUAGES: SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

Southern Australia was settled early, and many of the languages ceased to be actively spoken before the 20th century. There are 19th-century and some 18th-century documentary materials, which are here represented in Dawes 1790 (the first surviving, detailed description of an Australian language); Threlkeld, et al. 1892; and Dawson 1881. However, there are active communities working to revitalize languages based on these sources; some examples are Blake 2003 and Jones 2008. Another important example is Kurna, discussed in Language Endangerment and Revitalization. See also Teichelmann and Schürmann 1840 and Amery 2000.

Amery, Rob. 2000. *Warrabarna Kurna! Reclaiming an Australian language*. Lisse, The Netherlands: Swets and Zeitlinger.

A comprehensive survey of language revitalization and restoration from old sources, such as Teichelmann and Schürmann 1840.

Blake, Barry. 2003. *The Warrnambool language: A consolidated account of the Aboriginal language of the Warrnambool area of the western district of Victoria based on nineteenth century sources*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

An example of a grammar based on 19th-century materials from one of the languages of Victoria.

Dawes, William. 1790. *The Notebooks of William Dawes on the Aboriginal language of Sydney*. Marsden Collection, Ms. 41645:795–817. Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

The first detailed description of any Australian languages, these notebooks contain lexical and grammatica information about the Dharuk language of the Sydney region.

Dawson, James. 1881. *Australian Aborigines: The languages and customs of several tribes of Aborigines in the western district of Victoria, Australia*. Melbourne, Australia: G. Robertson.

An ethnography and word list of the Djabwurrung language of Victoria, an example of 19th-century materials; the source includes three languages with ethnographic notes.

Jones, Caroline. 2008. *Darkinyung grammar and dictionary: Revitalising a language from historical sources*. Nambucca Heads, Australia: Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative.

This book is one of a series published by Muurrbay of the languages of coastal New South Wales, aimed primarily at community members. This is a synthesis of all extant materials on the language.

Teichelmann, Christian G., and C. W. Schürmann. 1840. *Outlines of a grammar, vocabulary, and phraseology, of the Aboriginal language of South Australia, spoken by the natives in and for some distance around Adelaide*. Adelaide: Libraries Board of South Australia.

A sketch grammar, vocabulary (including sense and ethnohistorical information) of about eighteen hundred words, and miscellaneous other language samples.

Threlkeld, L., W. Ridley, H. Livingstone, J. Günther, and G. Taplin. 1892. *An Australian language as spoken by the Awabakal, the*

people of Awaba, or Lake Macquarie (near Newcastle, New South Wales): Being an account of their language, traditions, and customs. Sydney: C. Potter.

An early grammar of a language of New South Wales (the 1892 edition is revised) based on a Latinate model.

VICTORIA RIVER, THE DALY REGION, AND THE SOUTHERN TOP END

These languages are grouped together solely for convenience in the article, not because of any historical relation. There are a large number of diverse languages in this region. Unfortunately, there are few published descriptions of these languages, though there are some partial descriptions, such as Wilson 1999 and Schultze-Berndt 2000, on the complex verb constructions of Wagiman and Jaminjung, respectively; these works have featured prominently in cross-linguistic syntactic analysis of complex predication. Most of the languages that have descriptions are documented in unpublished dissertations (e.g., Ford 1999); exceptions are Harvey 2001 and Harvey 2002. These languages are known for their complex verb morphology.

Ford, Lysbeth. 1999. *A grammar of Emmi*. PhD diss., Australian National Univ.

This is one of the rare Australian languages to have fricatives (in this case, β and z) and a five-vowel system. The language has very complex verb morphology.

Harvey, Mark. 2001. *A grammar of Limilngan: A language of the Mary River Region, Northern Territory, Australia*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

Limilngan is an isolate family within non-Pama-Nyungan languages; Harvey wrote the grammar on the basis of work with the last speaker.

Harvey, Mark. 2002. *A grammar of Gaagudju*. The Hague: Mouton de Gruyter.

This language (also spelled Kaakadjju) is the traditional language of the area now within Kakadu National Park; the last speaker died in 2003.

Schultze-Berndt, Eva. 2000. *Simple and complex verbs in Jaminjung: A study in event categorisation*. PhD diss., Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen.

A careful study of Jaminjung complex predicates, with a particular focus on the semantics of the classification system within the framework of construction grammar.

Wilson, Stephen. 1999. *Coverbs and complex predicates in Wagiman*. Center for the Study of Language and Information Publications. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

This lexical-functional grammar analysis of Wagiman complex verbs is the first to provide a detailed unification account of complex predicates in an Australian language.

GUNWINGYUAN AND MANINGRIDA

The Gunwinyguan family is one of the largest of the non-Pama-Nyungan families. Despite there being very little lexical material shared among the languages in the family, there are similarities in the complex verb paradigms that provide evidence of genetic relationship. Gunwinyguan languages include Bininj Gun-wok (Evans 2003) and Dalabon (Evans, et al. 2004). The western Arnhem area has also been home to learners' guides and dictionaries for languages such as Rembarnga (Saulwick 2003) and Dalabon. The Maningrida languages are a small group of four languages; one of the languages, Gurr-Goni (Green 1995), is very small, with only sixty speakers, but is still quite healthy and is being learned by children. Another language of the family, Burarra (Glasgow 1994), is used as a lingua franca at Maningrida and surrounding areas and has several thousand speakers.

Evans, Nicholas. 2003. *Bininj Gun-wok: A pan-dialectal grammar of Mayali, Kunwinjku, and Kune*. 2 vols. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

A two-volume grammar of Gunwinygu and related dialects, with detailed coverage of topics such as polysynthesis, morpheme scope, and morpheme interaction.

Evans, Nicholas, Francesca Merlan, and Maggie Tukumba. 2004. *A first dictionary of Dalabon (Ngalkbon)*. Maningrida, Australia: Maningrida Arts and Culture.

A learner's dictionary of the language, with examples, one of a series of small dictionaries and learner's guides.

Glasgow, Kathleen. 1994. *Burarra-Gun-nartpa dictionary with English finder list*. Darwin, Australia: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

This is a large dictionary of a language with complex morphology; it is especially useful for its extensive examples and illustrations.

Green, Rebecca. 1995. *A grammar of Gurr-goni*. PhD diss., Australian National Univ.

A reference grammar of one of the languages of the Maningrida family. This language is spoken by fewer than one hundred people but unlike many such languages is not immediately endangered (see Green 2003, cited in Historical Linguistics).

Saulwick, Adam, comp. 2003. *A first dictionary of Rembarnga*. Maningrida, Australia: Bawinanga Aboriginal Corp.

A dictionary in the Maningrida Arts Centre aimed at an audience of language owners.

Phonology

It has been noted by several people that Australian languages are quite uniform in their phonological systems; Hamilton 1996 is a study. There have been some particular topics that have occupied Australianists, such as the place of the feature rhotic (e.g., McGregor 1988) and vowel harmony (van der Hulst and Smith 1985, Pensalfini 2002). Australian languages are also known in the wider literature for their stress systems (see Kager 1996 for an example) and for the possibilities that languages such as Arrernte might have vowel-consonant rather than consonant-vowel as underlying syllable types (Breen and Pensalfini 1999). Evans 1995 gives a general overview of the current issues, and Breen 2001 provides a discussion of phenomena in one language (Arrernte).

Breen, Gavan. 2001. The wonders of Arandic phonology. In *Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages*. Edited by Jane Simpson, David Nash, Mary Laughren, Peter Austin, and Barry Alpher, 45–70. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

A good survey article on some of the phonological and phonetic features of the Arandic languages of Central Australia. Suitable for introductory students.

Breen, Gavan, and Rob Pensalfini. 1999. Arrernte, a language with no syllable onsets. *Linguistic Inquiry* 30.1: 1–25.

Presents evidence that Arrernte has vowel-consonant syllables as the underlying basic type (rather than consonant), based on evidence from phonology and language games.

Evans, Nicholas. 1995. Current issues in the phonology of Australian languages. In *Handbook of phonological theory*. Edited by John A. Goldsmith, 723–761. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Survey of phonological topics in Australian languages between c. 1960 and 1995, including historical phonology, metrical theory, and structural problems.

Hamilton, Philip James. 1996. *Phonetic constraints and markedness in the phonotactics of Australian Aboriginal languages*. PhD diss., Univ. of Toronto.

Extremely useful PhD dissertation establishing empirical generalizations about Australian language phonotactics, using data from more

than fifty languages.

Kager, R. 1996. Stem disyllabicity in Guugu Yimidhirr. In *Dam phonology: HIL phonology papers II*. Edited by M. Nespø and N. Smith, 59–101. The Hague: Holland Academic.

Discussion of the prosodic word structure in the Paman language Guugu Yimidhirr and the implications for stress placement.

McGregor, William. 1988. On the status of the feature rhotic in some languages of the north-west of Australia. In *Aboriginal linguistics 1*. Edited by Nicholas Evans and Steve Johnson, 166–187. Armidale, Australia: Univ. of New England.

Discussion of whether Australian languages have a natural class of sounds termed “rhotics.”

Pensalfini, Robert. 2002. Vowel harmony in Jingulu. *Lingua* 112.7: 561–586.

Analysis of the regressive vowel harmony on verbs and nouns in Jingulu, a Mirndi language from the Northern Territory, and the problems it poses for traditional harmony analyses.

van der Hulst, Harry, and Norval Smith. 1985. Vowel features and umlaut in Djingili, Nyangumarda, and Warlpiri. *Phonology* 2.1: 277–303.

Discussion of consonant and vowel harmony patterns in three Australian languages (Jingulu [see Pensalfini 2002], Nyangumarda, and Warlpiri), using these languages as evidence for whether languages have binary or single-valued features.

Phonetics

Comparatively little work has been done on the phonetics of Australian languages, and this area remains very understudied. An early sketch of phonetic structures in a language (Yaraldi) is McDonald 2002. Subsequent work (e.g., Butcher 2006 and Tabain, et al. 2004) has described aspects of stress manifestation, intonation, and coarticulation for several languages. A topic that crosscuts phonetics and phonology is the characteristics of the languages with several series of stop consonants (Anderson and Maddieson 1994) or the loss of initial segments (Blevins 2001). Recently there has been a rise in work on intonation (such as Fletcher, et al. 2004).

Anderson, Victoria, and Ian Maddieson. 1994. Acoustic characteristics of Tiwi coronal stops. *UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics* 87:131–162.

Phonetic description of Tiwi coronal stops, describing duration, amplitude, and shape of burst spectrum.

Blevins, Juliette. 2001. Where have all the onsets gone? Initial consonant loss in Australian Aboriginal languages. In *Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages*. Edited by Jane Simpson, David Nash, Mary Laughren, Peter Austin, and Barry Alpher, 481–492. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

A paper on the phonetic motivations for a sound change that is common in Australia but rare in the rest of the world.

Butcher, Andrew. 2006. Australian Aboriginal languages: Consonant-salient phonologies and the place-of-articulation imperative. In *Speech production: Models, phonetic processes, and techniques*. Edited by J. M. Harrington and M. Tabain, 187–210. New York: Psychology.

Article examining the acoustic and articulatory measures of coarticulation in several Australian languages.

Fletcher, Janet, Nicholas Evans, and Belinda Ross. 2004. Pausing strategies and prosodic boundaries in Dalabon. In *Proceedings of the 10th Australian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*. Edited by Australian Speech Science and Technology Association, 436–439. Sydney: Australian Speech Science and Technology Association.

Description of the relation between pauses and prosodic structure in the Gunwinyguan language Dalabon; discussion of the pause that can be placed after a pronominal prefix.

McDonald, Maryalyce. 2002. *A study of the phonetics and phonology of Yaraldi and associated dialects*. Munich: Lincom Europa.

Apparently the only example of an acoustic study of an Australian language based on salvage materials; description of phonetic structures using recordings from the 1940s.

Tabain, Marija, Gavan Breen, and Andrew Butcher. 2004. VC vs. CV syllables: A comparison of Aboriginal languages with English. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 34.2: 175–200.

Presentation of phonetic correlates of vowel-consonant as an underlying syllable type (see Breen and Pensalfini 1999, cited in Phonology, for the phonological background).

Morphology

Most of the work on morphology in Australian languages is either historical (Koch 1996) or in the context of particular languages (Evans 1995, Baker 2008), though Australian languages also raise questions for morphological theory (Koch 1990) and optimality theory approaches to morphophonology (Baker 2008). Australian languages have also been prominent in the morphological literature on multiple case-marking strategies (Austin 1991, Dench and Evans 1988).

Austin, Peter. 1991. Double case marking in Kanyara and Mantharta languages, Western Australia. *La Trobe University Working Papers in Linguistics* 4:19–35.

Analysis of multiple case marking in some languages from the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Baker, Brett. 2008. *Word structure in Ngalakgan*. Stanford, CA: Center for the Study of Language and Information.

The first major optimality theory morphological analysis of an Australian language; discussion of word formation and stress systems.

Dench, Alan, and Nicholas Evans. 1988. Multiple case-marking in Australian languages. *Australian Journal of Linguistics* 8:1–47.

Survey of Australian languages that allow multiple morphological case exponence on a single word; division of case functions into four types.

Evans, Nicholas. 1995. *A grammar of Kayardild, with historical-comparative notes on Tangkic*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Reference grammar of the Tangkic language Kayardild, with extensive discussion of Kayardild's very complex morphophonology and morphosyntax.

Koch, Harold. 1990. Do Australian languages really have morphemes? Issues in Kaytej morphology. In *Language and history: Essays in honour of Luise A. Hercus*. Edited by Peter Austin, 193–208. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

Discussion of whether morpheme-based theories of morphology can appropriately capture morphological patterns in Australian languages as well as paradigmatic/nonmorphemic theories, with special attention paid to morphological issues in the Arandic language Kaytetye.

Koch, Harold. 1996. Reconstruction in morphology. In *The comparative method reviewed: Regularity and irregularity in language change*. Edited by M. Durie and M. Ross, 218–263. New York: Oxford Univ. Press.

This is a general article on morphological change and how to reconstruct morphology, drawing heavily on examples from Australian languages.

Syntax

The reference grammars listed in the sections on individual language materials in this article provide information about the syntax of those languages. Most syntactic work on Australian languages is functional-typological in orientation, though there is also work within minimalism and government and binding theory as well as within lexical-functional grammar. Australian languages are known in the wider syntactic literature because some have featured prominently in discussion of nonconfigurationality (where the clausal constituent structure provides little, if any, information about grammatical relations) and of multiple case marking.

LEXICAL-FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

Rachel Nordlinger's work has been particularly influential and largely responsible for bringing features of these languages to the attention of the field. Particularly interesting problems include the marking of tense on constituents other than the verb (Nordlinger and Sadler 2000), nonconfigurationality (Sadler and Nordlinger 2010, Nordlinger and Saulwick 2001), and work on the syntax of multiple case marking (Nordlinger 1997; see also Dench and Evans 1988, cited in Morphology). Other work in a lexical-functional grammar framework includes Wilson 1999 on complex predication and Simpson 1991 on Warlpiri.

Nordlinger, Rachel. 1997. Morphology building syntax: Constructive case in Australian languages. In *Proceedings of the LFG97 Conference, University of California, San Diego*. Edited by Miriam Bull and Tracy Holloway King, 1–16. Stanford, CA: Center for the Study of Language and Information.

The author's Stanford PhD dissertation, which presents a unified account of several interesting phenomena involving syntax and case. Nordlinger proposes that morphology can build structure in the syntax and provide features for words that are slotted into phrase structure.

Nordlinger, Rachel, and Louisa Sadler. 2000. Tense as a nominal category. In *Proceedings of the LFG00 Conference, University of California, Berkeley*. Edited by Miriam Butt and Tracy Holloway King, 197–214. Stanford, CA: Center for the Study of Language and Information.

Survey of Australian (and other) languages that mark tense in places other than the verb, with lexical-functional grammar analysis. The authors show that this is a phenomenon that constructive morphology (see Nordlinger 1997) is particularly well suited to handle.

Nordlinger, Rachel, and A. Saulwick. 2001. Infinitives in polysynthesis: The case of Rembarrnga. In *Problems of polysynthesis*. Edited by Nicholas Evans and Hans-Jürgen Sasse, 185–201. Berlin: Akademie Verlag.

Discusses the case of Rembarrnga, a language that has many properties of a pronominal argument language but also has productive infinitives, which poses problems for current analyses of such languages.

Sadler, Louisa, and Rachel Nordlinger. 2010. Nominal juxtaposition in Australian languages: An LFG analysis. *Journal of Linguistics* 46.2: 415–452.

Some Australian languages, such as Warlpiri (see Simpson 1991), are known for their use of discontinuous constituents and the difficulty in defining a noun phrase in them. This article provides an analysis of the phenomenon within lexical-functional grammar.

Simpson, Jane. 1991. *Warlpiri morphosyntax: A lexicalist approach*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic.

Reference grammar of Warlpiri within the framework of lexical-functional grammar, exploring issues in configurationality and morphology (and morphosyntax).

Wilson, Stephen. 1999. *Coverbs and complex predicates in Wagiman*. Stanford, CA: Center for the Study of Language and Information.

This lexical-functional grammar analysis of Wagiman complex verbs is the first to provide a detailed unification account of complex predicates in an Australian language.

MINIMALISM

To date, most of the work on Australian languages within government and binding (GB) theory and the Minimalist Program has been done on Warlpiri. Hale 1983 is an early work that discusses some of the problems in using a GB framework to describe the grammar of a free word order language; Laughren 1989 and Legate 2002 continue discussion of topics in configurationality and Warlpiri syntax. Legate 2003 and Legate 2008 are further examples of topics of more theoretical interest where the problems arose from the analysis of Warlpiri and other Pama-Nyungan languages.

Hale, Kenneth L. 1983. Warlpiri and the grammar of non-configurational languages. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 1:5–59.

A very important paper in the literature on nonconfigurational languages, the first paper to set out the grounds on which Warlpiri could be considered nonconfigurational.

Laughren, Mary. 1989. The configurationality parameter and Warlpiri. In *Configurationality*. Edited by László Marácz and Pieter Muysken, 319–353. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Foris.

One of a collection of papers on configurationality and lexical structure, looking at the assignment of theta roles and case marking in Warlpiri.

Legate, Julie Anne. 2002. Warlpiri: Theoretical implications. PhD diss., Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The author's dissertation, which provides an analysis of Warlpiri nonconfigurationality and free constituent order within the Minimalist Program.

Legate, Julie Anne. 2003. The morphosemantics of Warlpiri counterfactual conditionals. *Linguistic Inquiry* 34.1: 155–162.

Another example of a minimalist analysis of Warlpiri.

Legate, Julie Anne. 2008. Morphological and abstract case. *Linguistic Inquiry* 39.1: 55–101.

The author uses evidence from Australian and other languages, such as split ergative systems by person hierarchies (see Silverstein 1976, cited in *Functional Syntax and Construction Grammar*), to study the relationship between abstract and morphological case.

FUNCTIONAL SYNTAX AND CONSTRUCTION GRAMMAR

The bulk of syntactic work on Australian languages has been functional or typological in orientation, although there is a little work within construction grammar, such as Schultze-Berndt 2000. Some work contributes to debate on topics of general theoretical interest, such as complex predication (McGregor 2002, Schultze-Berndt 2000) or nonconfigurationality (Austin 2001), which crosscut specific syntactic theories. Other work originating from Australian languages has adduced general principles of linguistic organization, such as Silverstein 1976, a seminal article on person hierarchies, or Evans 2003, describing the process by which cultural structures may lead to preferential grammaticalization of certain syntactic structures.

Austin, Peter. 2001. Word order in a free word order language: The case of Jiwarli. In *Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages*. Edited by Peter Austin, Barry Alpher, Jane Simpson, David Nash, and Mary Laughren, 305–324. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

This article is a contribution to the debate on whether Australian languages can be shown to have syntactically determined word order.

Evans, Nicholas. 2003. Context, culture, and structuration in the languages of Australia. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32:13–40.

Evans argues here that culture plays a strong role in shaping the discourse structures that are grammaticalized in languages.

McGregor, William. 2002. *Verb classification in Australian languages*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Extensive survey of complex predicates in Northern Australia, with a focus on the semantics of the light verbs that participate in the construction.

Schultze-Berndt, Eva. 2000. Simple and complex verbs in Jaminjung: A study in event categorisation. PhD diss., Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen.

The author's PhD dissertation, this is a careful study of Jaminjung complex predicates, with a particular focus on the semantics of the classification system within the framework of construction grammar.

Silverstein, Michael. 1976. Hierarchy of features and ergativity. In *Grammatical categories in Australian languages: Proceedings of the 1974 AIAS Conference*. Edited by R. M. W. Dixon, 112–171. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

An important and classic paper that sets out the person hierarchy and its application to split ergativity, with examples from Australian languages.

Semantics

Semantic work on Australian languages has been mostly lexical semantics, though this covers not only areas such as geography (Bromhead 2011) and body part semantics (Gaby 2006, Wilkins 1996) but also more general semantic organization (Hale 1986) and patterns of polysemy (Evans and Wilkins 2000, Wilkins 1996). Harkins 2001 is an example of a paper using the theory of natural semantic metalanguage.

Bromhead, Helen. 2011. Ethnogeographical categories in English and Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara. *Language Sciences* 33:58–75.

Provides evidence for diverse categorization of lexical features in different languages and gives a case study of the geographical terms in the Wati (Pama-Nyungan) language Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara.

Evans, Nicholas, and David Wilkins. 2000. In the mind's ear: The semantic extensions of perception verbs in Australian languages. *Language* 76.3: 546–592.

An important article on the grammaticalization of cognition terms cross-linguistically, with discussion of how “knowing” is associated with visual perception in some languages but with auditory perception in others.

Gaby, A. R. 2006. The Thaayorre “true man”: Lexicon of the human body in an Australian language. *Language Sciences* 28.2–3: 201–220.

Thorough and interesting study of body part lexicalization in the Paman language Kuuk Thaayorre, including the derivation of complex terms and metaphorical term uses.

Hale, Kenneth. 1986. Notes on world view and semantic categories: Some Warlpiri examples. In *Features and projections*. Edited by Pieter Muysken and Henk C. van Riemsdijk, 233–254. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Foris.

Discussion of lexicalization of certain semantic oppositions in Warlpiri (Ngumpin-Yapa) in auxiliary languages and their relation to

everyday language.

Harkins, Jean. 2001. Talking about anger in Central Australia. In *Emotions in crosslinguistic perspective*. Edited by Jean Harkins and Anna Wierzbicka, 201–220. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Discussion of the conceptualization of what it means to be “angry” in the Arrernte (Arandic) language of Central Australia, in the framework of natural semantic metalanguage.

Wilkins, David. 1996. Natural tendencies of semantic change and the search for cognates. In *The comparative method reviewed: Regularity and irregularity in language change*. Edited by Mark Durie and Malcolm Ross, 264–304. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.

Very detailed study of tendencies of semantic change in body part terms, using data from Pama-Nyungan languages and other families.

Discourse

There are many and varied studies of aspects of discourse in Australian languages, ranging from book-length treatments (Garde 2003) to shorter notes on the relationship between clause structuring and discourse (Heath 1985). Others report on how language is used to convey information (Bavin 2003), such as in particular contexts (Laughren 1984), or how discourse marking can undergo rapid change (Pensalfini 1999). An overview and collection of papers on discourse in Australian languages is Mushin and Baker 2008.

Bavin, Edith. 2003. Focusing on “where”: An analysis of Warlpiri frog stories. In *Relating events in narrative: Typological and contextual perspectives*. Edited by Sven Strömquist, 17–36. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

One of the few published analyses of frog storytelling for an Australian language. The “frog stories” are wordless picture books (illustrated by Mercer Meyer) that have become very popular as a field elicitation technique.

Garde, Murray. 2003. Social deixis in Bininj Gun-wok conversation. PhD diss., Univ. of Queensland.

A very interesting dissertation and a rare study of conversation in a polysynthetic language.

Heath, Jeffrey. 1985. Discourse in the field: Clause structure in Ngandi. In *Grammar inside and outside the clause: Some approaches to theory from the field*. Edited by Johanna Nichols and Anthony Woodbury, 89–110. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press.

An early example of an analysis of clause chaining, making reference to principles of discourse organization for the Gunwinyguan language Ngandi.

Laughren, Mary. 1984. Warlpiri baby talk. *Australian Journal of Linguistics* 4.1: 73–88.

A rare study for Australia: discussion of the baby talk register for the Ngumpin-Yapa language Warlpiri.

Mushin, Ilana, and Brett Baker, eds. 2008. *Discourse and grammar in Australian languages*. Studies in Language Companion Series 104. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

A collection of papers on the relationship between discourse functions and grammar in Australian languages. This book includes papers from a variety of languages.

Pensalfini, Rob. 1999. The rise of case suffixes as discourse markers in Jingulu: A case study of innovation in an obsolescent language. *Australian Journal of Linguistics* 19.2: 225–240.

Study of the way former case markers (such as the ergative) are now used by the last speakers, with discourse functions to mark topic

and focus.

Historical Linguistics

Historical linguistics is younger in Australia than in some other areas, and research has tended to concentrate on language classification based on grammatical features, typology, or lexicostatistics (some of this work is listed in General Classifications). Exceptions include Alpher 1991 and the earlier Crowley 1976, which shows through lexical reconstruction that a language previously thought to be unrelated to other Australian languages is in fact Pama-Nyungan. Surveys are in Bown and Koch 2004 and McConvell and Bown 2011. Historical work in Australia has tended to pay a lot of attention to archaeology; McConvell and Evans 1997, for example, brings together linguists and archaeologists in reconstruction of Australian prehistory. Some have questioned whether traditional methods can be applied to Australian languages; Black 2005, for example, notes that bilingual speakers can create pseudo-correspondence sets that cloud regular reflexes of lexicon; in other areas reconstruction has focused on morphology in the absence of extensive numbers of lexical cognates (Green 2003). McConvell 2009, however, shows that with careful reconstruction it is possible to uncover a great deal of linguistic history. Simpson 2001 is an example of grammatical reconstruction in Australia, a topic that is rather rare so far.

Alpher, Barry. 1991. *Yir-Yoront lexicon: Sketch and dictionary of an Australian language*. Trends in Linguistics: Documentation 6. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Dictionary of an important language for Cape York reconstruction, with sketch grammar and detailed etymologies. For a long time this was the only set of detailed Pama-Nyungan etymologies.

Black, Paul. 2005. Ethnoreconstruction in Kok-Papónk. In *Historical linguistics 2003: Selected papers from the 16th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Copenhagen, 11–15 August 2003*. Edited by Michael Fortescue, Eva Skafte Jensen, Jens Erik Mogensen, and Lene Schøsler, 21–29. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Looks at regularity of sound change in Cape York languages and argues that multilingual speakers are aware of correspondences between their own and neighboring languages; details a case of correspondence mimicry.

Bown, Claire, and Harold Koch, eds. 2004. *Australian languages: Classification and the comparative method*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

This volume is a collection of subgroup sketches for Pama-Nyungan languages along with further papers on classification and reconstruction for some non-Pama-Nyungan families (such as Gunwinyguan and Nyulnyulan). The introduction and first chapter produce a methodological overview of problems and prospects for comparative-historical linguistics in Australia.

Crowley, Terry. 1976. Phonological change in New England. In *Grammatical categories in Australian languages*. Edited by R. M. W. Dixon, 19–50. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

An important article that is an early example of using the comparative method to show that a language (Nganyaaywana) that was thought to be non-Australian was in fact a member of the Pama-Nyungan family.

Green, Rebecca. 2003. Proto Maningrida within Proto Arnhem: Evidence from verbal inflectional suffixes. In *The non-Pama-Nyungan languages of northern Australia: Comparative studies of the continent's most linguistically complex region*. Edited by Nicholas Evans, 369–421. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

Presents historical-comparative evidence for the classification of the four languages of the Maningrida family within a larger family covering many of the non-Pama-Nyungan languages of Arnhem Land; an alternative proposal to Geoffrey N. O'Grady's and Nicholas Evans's "macro-Pama-Nyungan," which groups some non-Pama-Nyungan languages (such as those of the Gunwinyguan family) as forming a higher-level family with Pama-Nyungan, Garrwan, and Tangkic.

McConvell, Patrick. 2009. Loanwords in Gurindji. In *Loanwords in the world's languages: A comparative handbook*. Edited by Martin Haspelmath and Uri Tadmor, 790–822. The Hague: Mouton de Gruyter.

The sole representative of an Australian language in this loanword typology project, this article sets out the borrowing patterns and etymology of the lexicon of Gurindji (Ngumpin-Yapa, Pama-Nyungan).

McConvell, Patrick, and Claire Bower. 2011. The prehistory and internal relationships of Australian languages. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 5.1: 19–32.

Overview article of current research into historical linguistics and prehistory in Australian languages, focusing on Pama-Nyungan. Written for a general audience.

McConvell, Patrick, and Nicholas Evans, eds. 1997. *Archaeology and linguistics*. Melbourne, Australia: Melbourne Univ. Press.

This volume grew out of a conference on the joint use of archaeological and linguistic data for reconstruction in prehistory. The papers present a varied set of case studies using a variety of techniques.

Simpson, Jane. 2001. Grammaticalisation of associated path. In *Time over matter: Diachronic perspectives on morphosyntax*. Edited by Miriam Butt and Tracy Holloway King. Stanford, CA: Center for the Study of Language and Information.

This article discusses the marking of motion within the verb and the sources from which it has been grammaticalized within a lexical-functional grammar framework.

Diffusion and Language Contact

Language contact has long been important in the historical study of Australian languages in the development of general theories (Dixon 1997, Clendon 2006), in their rebuttal (Bower 2006), and in aspects of the study of specific contact phenomena. Within the latter category, there are ample examples of “new” languages and young people’s varieties (Schmidt 2009), linguistic areas (Hercus 1987), pidgin formation (Dench 1998), and casual contact (Walker and Zorc 1981). McConvell 1997 provides an example where language contact can be used in reconstruction of prehistory.

Bower, Claire. 2006. Another look at Australia as a linguistic area. In *Linguistic areas*. Edited by Yaron Matras, April McMahon, and Nigel Vincent, 244–265. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

A rebuttal to the Dixon 1997 punctuated equilibrium model, with a particular concentration on Australian data; discussion of the age of the family and relative borrowing patterns.

Clendon, Mark. 2006. Reassessing Australia’s linguistic prehistory. *Current Anthropology* 47:39–61.

A programmatic article (with commentary by others and a reply by Clendon) on a theory of Pama-Nyungan prehistory that places the homeland of Pama-Nyungan in Southern Australia.

Dench, Alan. 1998. Pidgin Ngarluma: An indigenous contact language in north Western Australia. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 13.1: 1–61.

Account of the structures of a pidgin variety based on the Ngarluma (Pama-Nyungan) language of the Pilbara in Western Australia and the social circumstances of its formation.

Dixon, R. M. W. 1997. *The rise and fall of languages*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Dixon sets out a model to account for what he sees as the exceptionality of Australian languages; he uses a model of “punctuated equilibrium” to discuss differential rates in language change and different levels of language contact.

Hercus, Luise Anna. 1987. Linguistic diffusion in the Birdsville area. In *A world of language: Papers presented to Professor S.*

A. Wurm on his 65th birthday. Edited by Donald Laycock and Werner Winter, 245–255. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.

A study of a linguistic area in Central Australia and the types of features that have most likely diffused among Karnic languages of the Lake Eyre Basin.

McConvell, Patrick. 1997. Long lost relations: Pama-Nyungan and northern kinship. In *Archaeology and linguistics: Aboriginal Australia in global perspective*. Edited by Patrick McConvell and Nicholas Evans, 207–236. Melbourne, Australia: Melbourne Univ. Press.

An important paper on combining linguistic stratigraphy and prehistory for reconstruction population movement, with a focus on kinship terminology along the northern Pama-Nyungan border.

Schmidt, Annette. 2009. *Young people's Dyirbal: An example of language death from Australia*. Cambridge Studies in Linguistics. London: Cambridge Univ. Press.

The first detailed study of a language where the speech of the children was very different from that of the traditional language in the community. This reference refers to the reprinted volume; originally published in 1985.

Walker, Allen, and R. David Zorc. 1981. Austronesian loanwords in Yolngu-Matha of northeast Arnhem Land. *Aboriginal History* 5:109–134.

A useful presentation of the loanwords from Makassar and other Austronesian languages into Yolngu varieties in northeast Arnhem Land, providing evidence for contact over hundreds of years.

Language Endangerment and Revitalization

Australian languages have also been important in shaping the discourse of language endangerment and revitalization. Amery 2000, a study of Kurna revitalization, has been very important in showing both the possibilities for such projects and the work they involve. The Kurna project is based on Teichelmann and Schürmann 1840 (cited in Pama-Nyungan Languages: Southern Australia), among other sources. Wafer and Lissarrague 2008 is an example of a compilation of old language and source materials. Eira 2008 concentrates specifically on the linguistic side of revitalization, while Eira 2007 and Mushin 2003 provide important social perspectives. Tsunoda 2006 is a general work on endangerment, but one that draws from extensive work in Australia. Evans 2001 is also a general work but describes particular problems of defining the death of a language.

Amery, Rob. 2000. *Warrabarna Kurna! Reclaiming an Australian language*. Lisse, The Netherlands: Swets and Zeitlinger.

A comprehensive survey of language revitalization and restoration from old sources, such as Teichelmann and Schürmann 1840 (cited in Pama-Nyungan Languages: Southern Australia). This is the first study of revitalization in Australia and talks about the creation of one of the longest-running programs in the country.

Eira, Christina. 2007. Addressing the ground of language endangerment. In *Working together for endangered languages: Research challenges and social impacts; Proceedings of the Foundation for Endangered Languages Conference XI*. Edited by N. Ostler and C. Dealwis. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Foundation for Endangered Languages.

Uses evidence from Victorian languages to raise issues of language revitalization and the causes of language attrition; also discusses how linguists perceive their roles in the process.

Eira, Christina. 2008. Not tigers—sisters! Advances in the interpretation of historical source spellings for Dhudhuroa and Waywuru. *Aboriginal History* 32:151–164.

Discussion of the linguistic processes involved in determining phonemicization for historical orthographies and analysis of historical sources of languages not currently spoken; uses data from the Dhudhuroa and Waywuru languages of northern Victoria.

Evans, Nicholas. 2001. The last speaker is dead; long live the last speaker. In *Linguistic fieldwork*. Edited by Paul Newman and Martha Ratliff, 250–281. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Discusses the difficulties of identifying the “last speaker” of a language and the political consequences of doing so, with extensive discussion of fieldwork with last speakers (full and partial) in Northern Australia.

Mushin, Ilana. 2003. The politics of language revitalisation: Balancing Yanyuwa and Garrwa in the Borroloola Language Project. In *Maintaining the links: Language, identity, and the land; Proceedings of the seventh conference presented by the Foundation for Endangered Languages, Broome, Western Australia, 22–24 September 2003*. Edited by Joe Blythe and R. McKenna Brown. Bath, UK: Foundation for Endangered Languages.

One of a number of important papers in a volume on language and identity in endangered languages (including several papers on Australian languages). Includes Yanyuwa and Garrwa self-designations.

Tsunoda, Tasaku. 2006. *Language endangerment and language revitalization*. Trends in Linguistics Studies and Monographs. The Hague: Mouton de Gruyter.

General work on the causes and results of language endangerment and prospects for language revitalization; Tsunoda takes a global view, but the work is heavily informed by the author's fieldwork in several parts of Australia.

Wafer, Jim, and Amanda Lissarrague. 2008. *A handbook of Aboriginal languages of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory*. Nambucca Heads, Australia: Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative.

A comprehensive compilation of resources for languages spoken in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (all Pama-Nyungan languages); entries are organized by subgroup and include information on primary and secondary sources, a word list in standardized orthography, and discussion of classification.

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