

0. Introduction

0.1. The following grammar is based on studies carried out and texts gathered at Beagle Bay Roman Catholic Mission by the author. References are given below to relevant literature on the tribe, as it has come in for considerable anthropological study since the earlier years of this century. The only other linguistic study that has been published is that by Nekes and Worms, Australian Languages (Anthropos Microbibliotheca No. 10, 1953) and by the present writer in his "Some Myths of the Garadjari Tribe", in Mankind Vol. 4 Nos. 2 (March 1949), 3 (September 1949) and 4 (February 1950), where in addition to the tabulation of the chief points of morphology, ten myths are given in text and translation with notes. Further study of the myths from the literary standpoint might profitably be made, but would be out of place in this volume on linguistic structure.

0.2. The Garadjari language covers the area bounded by the 80 mile beach in Western Australia, from about Cape Jaubert to Thangoo and inland towards a not defined region of the desert. On the west it is bounded by Nyangumada, also a Western Desert language, and inland by other dialects of the Western Desert type. On the north it is bounded by Jauor, a language of the simple prefixing type (illustrated in this volume by Dalabon) and on the east by Mangala, another Western Desert language. It is divided into two dialects, coastal and inland. These do not have proper names, but are referred to as nadja and namu, 'here' and 'there' by a coastal speaker and of course in reverse direction by an inlander. The inland dialect, of course, tends towards Mangala, and only passing notice is taken of it here, as the texts and study were made from coastal informants. Part of a long phrase-compiled is in inland dialect.

0.3. The language belongs to the Western Desert Group, like Waljbiri, but it shows a different morphological type within that Group, and an even freer syntax. For still another sub-type, see W.H. Douglas, Introduction to the Western Desert Language, OLM No. 4, which shows the southern linguistic type of the family. The differences will be summarised at the end of this sketch. In passing it may be noticed that quite a number of the verbal roots in Garadjari are short - disyllabic or even monosyllabic - e.g., ja- 'go'; ji- - ju-, 'give'; dja- 'put', ma- 'take', djai- 'come'. To these roots various suffixes are added agglutinatively so that the resulting complex may be quite lengthy.

0.4. Studies of various aspects of the Garadjari (often spelled Karadjeri) tribe will be found in the following sources in addition to the two linguistic sources already mentioned:

- A.P. Elkin, Totemism in North-Western Australia, Oceania III, No. 3, 257-296. He also gave a sketch of social organisation in Oceania II, p. 296, 'Social Organisation in the Kimberley Division'.
- R.A. Piddington: "The Water Serpent in Karadjeri Mythology", Oceania, I, 352; "Report on Field Work in North Western Australia", Oceania, II, 373, ff: "Karadjeri Initiation", Oceania III

46 ff.

W. Nekes and A.E. Worms: "The pronoun in Nyol-Nyol (Nyul-Nyul) and related dialects" (Nekes), "Onomatopoeia in some Kimberley tribes of north-western Australia" (Worms); "Foreign Words in some Kimberley tribes in North-western Australia", all in Studies in Australian Linguistics (Oceania Monograph No. 3., 1938).

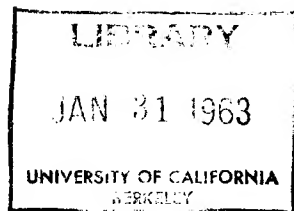
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[Handbook of Australian Languages, Part 2]



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