Text 3: Pumping water for a thirsty bull
Mervin Street, 1982.

This is story, designated a humorous story by the narrator (see McGregor forthcoming-g), is about pumping water for a thirsty bull in the early days. The narrator is perhaps the youngest fluent speaker of the language. (This text is discussed at length in McGregor forthcoming-g; see also Allan forthcoming for an alternative analysis.)

1 / *niyi -nhingi ngirndaji thangarndi* / *joolang jijag -ji* /
      that ABL   this   word   [name] say (3sg)N+I
   ngaddagi -nhingi /
      my   ABL
   'Now that Frank has told his story, it's my turn.'

2 *babiddi ngirnda birnboorni -ya* / *baajathngarna* /
     below this   [name]   LOC [name]
   woombadda / *warang -biddi* / *bambim -bidda*   *gamba* /
     [name]   sit   (3pl)N+I pump (3pl)N+A water
   booloomarni -yoo /
     cattle   DAT
   'Below here at Birnboorni, Baajathngarna and Woombadda were living
      pumping water for cattle.'

3 *niyi -nhingi* / *yoowarni nyiddaji ward -ji*   *gamba -yoo* /
     that ABL   one   bull   go (3sg)N+I water DAT
   'Then one bull came up for water.'

4 *yoowarni -ngga* / *gamba bambim -gila* *-nga* /
     one   ERG water pump   FACT (3sg)N+A
   'One of them was pumping water.'

5 *bambim -nga:*   *niyaji* / *nyiddaji wara -yi* /
     pump   (3sg)N+A this   bull   stand (3sg)N+I
   'He pumped, while the bull stood there.'

6   well .. *ngirndaji -ngga / bambim -gila   -nga   gamba /*
            this   ERG   pump   FACT (3sg)N+A water
    'This one was really pumping water.'

7   *wara -mi   wara -mi   wara -mi   · niyaji*
    stand (3sg)N+MI stand (3sg)N+MI stand (3sg)N+MI this
    nyiddaji /
    bull
    'It stood and stood and stood, the bull.'

(This is the only instance in the entire corpus of the verbal lexeme *wara-* 'stand'
collocating with a classifier other than +I.)

8   *ngirndaji / ngoonyoo -nhingi nyiddaji ngirndaji /*
    this   where   ABL   bull   this
    joowoorloo nyamani / ward -ji /
    stomach   big   go   (3sg)N+I
    '"Where did this bull come from, the one with the big stomach?"'

9   nd *ngirnda bida   -wa   -yi   no? / wayaddmi /*
    and this   get:stiff PROG (3sg)N+I now   (he:left:off??)
    bambim -nhingi gamba /
    pump   ABL   water
    'He was getting stiff, and left off (??) from pumping water.'

(The meaning of the term *wayaddmi* is uncertain. On playing back the tape
recording of this story, I was informed by the narrator that it meant 'arm'. It is
not, however, among the terms I have elicited for 'arm'. The most likely
possibility — both semantically and formally — seems to me to be that it is a
careful, or dialectal variant of the verb *wadd-* 'leave off, forget'.)

10 *baa -mi   -nhi / yaanya -yoo / nginyji -ga   now /*
    call (3sg)N+MI (3sg)O other   DAT you   ERG
    bambim -ja   -wa   ngirndaji -yoo / nyiddaji -yoo /
    pump   SUBJ FUT+(2sg)N+A this   DAT   bull   DAT
    'He called out to the other one, "You now, you can pump water for this
       bull."'

11 well *niyi -ngga / miga -mi   -nhi / nginyji -ga /*
          he   ERG   tell (3sg)N+MI   (3sg)O you   ERG
    nyiddaji / thangarndi gard -boowoo / joowoorloo nyamani
    bull   mouth   hit (2sg)N+BINI stomach   big

niyaji   nyiddaji /
this   bull
'Well, he said, "You should punch the bull in the mouth; it's got too big
    a stomach."'

12 *gad -bi -ya   -wani /   yaabja -yoo /*
   leave IT SUBJ (3sg)N+BINI some   DAT
   boorloomani -yoo /
   cattle   DAT
   "'Let it leave some water for the other cattle."'

13 well *niyi -nhingi wila / ngirndaji thangarndi*
       that ABL   finish   this   word
   ngaddagi -nhingi /
   my   ABL
   'Well, that's all my story.'

McGregor, William. 1990. A Functional Grammar of
Gooniyandi. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.