

# Taungurung grammar 2

Pronouns

# Agents and patients

In English we use word order to distinguish agents and patients. We put the agent before the verb and the patient after. In Taungurung where word order is flexible, the agent is marked by a suffix -a.



yirrangan



gurnmil

**Yirrangan-a bundhayi gurnmil.**

The dog bit the snake.

**Yirrangan bundhayi gurnmil-a.**

The snake bit the dog.

# To and from

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   |  |
| <b>-dha 'to'</b>                                    |  |
| <b>Bubup gawarndayi gurnang-dha.</b>                | The baby crawled towards the creek.        |
| <b>-u 'from'</b>                                    |  |
| <b>Badjurr yanayi Djilang-u Seymour-dha.</b>        | The woman went from Geelong to Seymour.    |
| <b>Djilang = Geelong</b>                            |  |
| <b>Marram womayi ngarrap-u.</b>                     | The kangaroo came out of the bush.         |
| The –u suffix also marks what one is frightened of. |  |
| <b>Wirrk-wirrk bambayi djirring-u</b>               | The old woman was frightened of lightning. |
| <b>Bambayi buruny-u.</b>                            | He (she, it) was afraid of the dark.       |

# for

'for' as in 'she was going for water is expressed by a preposition **gundi**.

**Badjurr yanayi gundi baanh.**

The woman went for water.

**Badjurr wurrimayi yayn-yayn gundi baanh.**

The woman sent the young guy for water.

**Yayn-yayn = Yanyean**

# Location (at, on, in)

The locative suffix indicates proximity but does not specify 'in', 'at' 'on', etc.

**-duwi**

**Marram dhangabayi ngarrap-duwi.**

The kangaroo was grazing (eating) in the bush.

**-ut**

**Badjurr ngurnayi yilam-ut.**

The woman was sitting in the hut.

**budji + -duwi**

**Badjurr yulayi budji baanh-duwi.**

The woman jumped into the water.

# Instruments

| <b>Badjurr-a barragayi mirrnyong wuluwanh-a.</b> | The woman dug yams with a digging stick. |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |
| <b>Badjurr-a marrgayi mokra galap-a.</b>         | The woman sewed the rug with a needle.   |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

# English pronouns

|          | subject | object |
|----------|---------|--------|
| singular | I       | me     |
|          | you     | you    |
|          | he      | him    |
|          | she     | her    |
|          | it      | it     |
|          |         |        |
| plural   | we      | us     |
|          | you     | you    |
|          | they    | them   |

# Pronouns in Aboriginal languages

|    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
|    |  |                   |
| 1  | There are subject and object forms as in English.  |                   |
| 2. | There are free pronouns and bound pronouns   |                   |
| 3. | There is dual as well as plural.   |                   |
| 4  | The 'we' forms can be inclusive (including the addressee) or exclusive (excluding the addressee). This means there are 4 possibilities for 'we'. |                   |
|    | we two (inc. you)  | we two (exc. you) |
|    | we mob (inc. you)  | we mob (exc. you) |

# Taungurung pronouns

|          |                  | Free    | Subject bound | Object bound |
|----------|------------------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| singular | I                | wan     | -an           | -ik          |
|          | you              | warr    | -arr(a)       | -in          |
|          | he, she, it      |         |               | (-u)         |
|          |                  |         |               |              |
| dual     | we 2 (you and I) | wangal  | -ngal         | -ngal        |
|          | we 2 (exc. you)  | wangan  | -ngan         | -ngan        |
|          | you 2            | wabul   | -bul          | -mbul        |
|          | they 2           | bulabil | -bulanh       | -bulanh      |
|          |                  |         |               |              |

# Subject pronouns on the verb

|          |              | present                 | past                  |
|----------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| singular | I            | <b>nhang-unh-an</b>     | <b>nhang-adh-an</b>   |
|          | you          | <b>nhang-unh-arr</b>    | <b>nhang-adh-arr</b>  |
|          | he, she, it  | <b>nhang-unh</b>        | <b>nhang-ayi</b>      |
|          |              |                         |                       |
| dual     | we two (inc) | <b>nhang-u-ngal</b>     | <b>nhang-a-ngal</b>   |
|          | we two (ex)  | <b>nhang-u-ngan</b>     | <b>nhang-a-ngan</b>   |
|          | you two      | <b>nhang-unh-bul</b>    | <b>nhang-adh-ul</b>   |
|          | they two     | <b>nhang-unh-bulanh</b> | <b>nhang-a-bulanh</b> |

# Singular subject pronouns, present tense

|                           |                     | Present tense        |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| singular                  | I                   | <b>nhang-unh-an</b>  |
|                           | you                 | <b>nhang-unh-arr</b> |
|                           | he, she, it         | <b>ngang-unh</b>     |
|                           |                     |                      |
| <b>Nhangunhan walert.</b> | <b>Nhang-unh-an</b> | I see a possum       |
| <b>Yanunharr?</b>         | <b>Yan-unh-arr</b>  | Are you going?       |
| <b>Yanunh.</b>            | <b>Yan-unh</b>      | She is going.        |
|                           |                     |                      |

# Singular subject pronouns, past tense

|   |                             | Past tense                         |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| singular  | I                           | <b>nhang-adh-an</b>                |
|   | you                         | <b>nhang-adh-arr</b>               |
|   | he, she, it                 | <b>nhang-ayi</b>                   |
|   |                             |                                    |
| <b>Nhangadhan gurnmil.</b>  | <b>nhang-adh-an gurnmil</b> | I saw a snake.                     |
| <b>Nhangadharr gubil.</b>   | <b>nhang-adh-arr gubil</b>  | You saw a koala.                   |
| <b>Nhangayi gubil.</b>  | <b>Nhang-ayi gubil</b>      | He saw a koala.                    |
| <b>Way-adh-an marram wanggim-a.</b><br><b>Waya</b> means 'hit with a missile' |                             | I hit a kangaroo with a boomerang. |

# He, she, it

As in many Australian languages there was no pronoun for he/she/it. The absence of forms for 'I' and 'you' was interpreted as he/she/it.

**Nhang-adh-an marram.**

I saw a kangaroo.

**Dhangab-ayi buwath.**

It was eating grass.

Words for 'this one' or 'that one' could be used.

**Munyi dhangab-ayi buwath.**

It(this one) was eating grass

# Free pronouns

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
|  |                               |
| <b>Gurnmil nhang-adh-an.</b>                 | I saw a snake.                |
| <b>Gurnmil nhang-adh-an wan.</b>             | <b>I</b> saw a snake.         |
| <b>Gubil nhang-adh-arr.</b>                  | You saw a koala.              |
| <b>Gubil nhang-adh-arr warr.</b>             | <b>You</b> saw a koala.       |
| <b>Gubil nhang-adh-arr warr?</b>             | Did <b>you</b> see the koala? |
| <b>Wandh-adh-an galk wan.</b>                | I got (fetched) the firewood. |
| With adjectives the free form has to be used |                               |
| <b>Djerriniyn wan.</b>                       | I'm sick.                     |

# Object pronouns

|             | subject | object |                   |                     |
|-------------|---------|--------|-------------------|---------------------|
| I           | -an     | -ik    | Nhang-unh-an-in.  | I see you.          |
| You         | -arr    | -in    | Nhang-unh-arr-ik. | You see me.         |
| He, she, it |         | (-u)   | Nhang-unh-an.     | I see him.          |
| We 2 (inc)  | -ngal   | -ngal  | Nhang-unh-ik.     | He sees me.         |
| We 2 (ex)   | -ngan   | -ngan  | Nhang-unh.        | She sees him.       |
|             |         |        | Dhumb-unh-an.     | I'm telling him.    |
|             |         |        | Dhumb-unh-ngan-in | We are telling you. |
|             |         |        |                   |                     |

# Dual pronouns

|                                     | free                             | subject          | object |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| we 2 (you and I)                    | wangal                           | nhang-u-ngal     | -ngal  |
| we 2 (exc. you)                     | wangan                           | nhang-u-ngan     | -ngan  |
| you 2                               | wabul                            | nhang-unh-bul    | -mbul  |
| they 2                              | bulabil                          | nhang-unh-bulanh | -bulan |
|                                     |                                  |                  |        |
| <b>Nhang-u-ngan buln-buln.</b>      | We see a lyre bird.              |                  |        |
| <b>Marrg-unh-bul walert-walert?</b> | Are you two making a possum rug? |                  |        |
| <b>Wabadjalin bulabil.</b>          | Those two are lazy.              |                  |        |
|                                     |                                  |                  |        |



# Inclusive construction

**The song 'Me and Bobby McGee' is in Pitjantjatjara 'Ngali Bobby McGee'.**

**Yan-a-ngan baban gurnang-dha.**

My mother and I went to the creek.

**Nhang-a-bul Bill walert?**

Did you and Bill see the possum?

**Ngurn-a-bulanh gagayi yilam-ut.**

He and his cousin stayed home.

**Gagayi** is father's sister's son, i.e. male cross-cousin

# Story

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   |  |
| <b>Yan-a-ngan warritj gundi wirrap.</b>                       | Father and I went for fish.                                      |
| <b>Gungayi wudjil-wudjil warritj-a.</b>                       | Father took a line.  |
| <b>Durru gung-adh-an wan.</b>                                 | I took bait.   |
| <b>Bagun-a-ngan bulabil-ba-gup wirrap.</b>                    | We caught three fish.  |
| <b>Gung-ayi warritj-a gup-dunh.</b>                           | Father took one.   |
| <b>Gung-adh-an yuwang bulabil ba<br/>dunab-adh-an wiinh-a</b> | I took the other two and cooked them<br>on the fire (with fire). |
|   |  |

# Subject pronouns on the verb (examples)

|                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                      |                                    |
| <b>Walert nhang-unh-an.</b>          | I see a possum.                    |
| <b>Way-adh-an guwiyim wanggim-a.</b> | I hit a kangaroo with a boomerang. |
| <b>Yan-unh-arr?</b>                  | Are you going?                     |
| <b>Gubil nhang-adh-arr.</b>          | You saw a koala.                   |
| <b>Warriyn nhang-ayi.</b>            | He/she saw a wombat.               |
|                                      |                                    |
| <b>Djerriniyn wan.</b>               | I'm sick.                          |
| <b>Wandh-adh-an galk wan.</b>        | I got (fetched) the firewood.      |
|                                      |                                    |

