

Taungurung grammar 3

verbs

Outline

This lesson is about suffixes on verbs

Tense

Reflexive

Reciprocal

Imperative

Past participle

And concludes with an example of translating a Kulin story from English into Taungurung.

Tense

	present	past	future
I	nhang-unh-an	nhang-adh-an	nhang-anh-an
You	nhang-unh-arr	nhang-adh-arr	nhang-anh-arr
He, she, it	nhang-unh	nhang-ayi	nhang-anh
We 2 (inc)	nhang-u-ngal	nhang-a-ngal	nhang-anha-ngal
We 2 (exc)	nhang-u-ngan	nhang-a-ngan	nhang-anha-ngan
You 2	nhang-unh-bul	nhang-adh-ul	nhang-anha-nhbul
They 2	nhang-unh-bulanh	nhang-a-bulanh	nhang-anha-nhbulanh

Examples of the tenses

dhangaba	To eat
Yalinbu dhangabunhan wirrap.	Today I'm eating fish.
Yalingguwith dhangabadhan bulgana.	Yesterday I ate beef.
Yerrambuwi dhangabanhan djak-djak.	Tomorrow I'll have chicken.

Reflexive

I	djilbabalinhan	'I hit myself'
you	djilbabalinharr	'You hit yourself'
He, she, it	djilbabalinh	'He hit himself', 'She hit herself', 'It hit itself'
Gulinh garrwabalinh		The man is washing (himself)
Wurribalinh	bidhidil.	The cat is cleaning itself.

Reciprocal

djilp-djirri-ngal	We two (you and I) hit one another
djilp-djirri-ngan	We two (not including you) hit one another
djilp-djirri-bul	You two hit one another
djilp-djirri-bulanh	They two hit one another

Reciprocal examples

djilba	hit	djilp-djerri	to fight
yuma	give	yuma-djerri	to share
dhumba	speak, tell	dhum-djerri	to argue, quarrel; meet, chat
		djilp-djerring	a fight
		dhum-djerring	a chat, a conversation

Imperative examples

Yani!	Go!
Yani yilam!	Go home!
Yani dhuwi!	Go away!
Ngurni!	Stay!
Wandhak baanh!	Fetch water!
Wirrgak wiinh!	Make fire!
Mabak balina.	Put on your belt.

-adj- with imperatives

A suffix –adj often precedes the imperative and is always followed by the intransitive imperative -i.

Gamadji!

Get up!

The word for ‘welcome’ may contain this suffix

Womendjika!

Come all of you!

Wandhak baanh!

Get water!

Wandhadji wiinh!

Get firewood!

It is not clear what the difference is between –**adj-i** and –**ak**

Examples of –adj-i

Wolbiyadjik!	Forgive me.
Ngirrbadjik!	Help me.
Daatbadjiik!	Take care of me. Look after me.
Gungadjik (gung-adj-i-ik)	Give me it!
Bamarradji!	Make him do it!
Yuwang gungadjik!	Give me more! Give me another!

Past participle

ngobiya	drink	ngobiyan	drunk
djilba	hit, kill	djilban	having been hit
wiga	die	wigan	dead
		ngaya wigan	alive (not dead)
		djilban wigan	killed

Translating a story back into language

Why the kangaroo has a tail and the emu has not

Koim, the Kangaroo, and Wareen, the Wombat, were once great friends, and shared everything. One day Wareen made a home for himself in a hole underground, and slept there in comfort during the long, cold winter nights. One very wet day Koim came to his friend and asked to be allowed to shelter in the hole and dry his fur by the fire. But Wareen would not let him come in. A quarrel ensued in which Koim cut off Wareen's tail with a blow of his axe, but as he was running off Wareen drove his spear at the base of his back where it stuck fast. This the reason why kangaroos carry a heavy tail which sticks straight out behind them, and wombats have no tail at all.

Story 1

A. Massola: Bunjil's Cave. Melbourne: Lansdowne Press, p47

Nhanbu Marram ba Warriyn bulidu gurrgayi ba yuma-djerri-bulanh ganalwarrabil.

Koim, the Kangaroo, and Wareen, the Wombat, were once great friends, and shared everything.

Gupdunh-duwi ngamayi-duwi Warriyn monmayi yilam miring-ut gunduwi bik-ut

One day Wareen made a home for himself in a hole underground

ba yimayi burndap-bil berrinh-duwi burunh-birrm-duwi nhirrim-duwi.

and slept there in comfort during the long, cold winter nights.

Story 2

Gupdun-duwi ngamayi-duwi gundji barnabil-dhak Marram birnayi gurrgayi-dha-u

One very wet day Koim came to his friend

ba biladayi Warriyn galang wilibanh miring-ut ba bit-guna-bal-anh biilgurin wiinh-a.

and asked to be allowed to shelter in the hole and dry his fur by the fire.

Ngabunh Warriyn gunayi Marram birnanh.

But Wareen would not let him come in

Story 3

Marram ba Warriyn galap-djerri-bulanh ba djilp-djerri-bulanh

A quarrel ensued (Kangaroo and Wombat quarrelled and fought)

ba Marram-a dibayi Warriny-al muwibu garrginy-a.

in which Koim cut off Wareen's tail with a blow of his axe

**Guwing ngerrewa Marram wulwayi, Warriny-a wayayi Marram ngarrk-u gayinu
mum guyun-a ba guyun grubayi ngarrk-duwi**

but as he was running off Wareen drove his spear at the base of his back where it stuck fast.

Story 4

Munyi dhumbath dhumbunh yinhing marram-al muwibu barn-barn ba nhirrim

This the reason why kangaroos carry a heavy tail which sticks straight out behind them

ba warriyn ngabun muwibu.

and wombats have no tail at all.