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Working on the dictionary

Rhonda Inkamala

Aranda¹

Imanka kngarriparta ntjarra purta urrkapumala ngkitja Aranda nurnaka kngartiwuka pa intalhilaka. Ngkitja intalhilakala nhanha nama marra, rilha ntjarrala, artwala, arrkutjala, kitjia itna kaltjirramala ngkitja nurnakanha ritamilatjika, intalhilatjika, kitjia ntjarranha ikarlta kuta kaltjanthitjika. Kuka yatinya ntjarraka pmara ntilatjika, ngkitja Arandala pmara rritnya ilatjika, marna pa tnuntha rilhakanha ingkarraka ntyarra nthitjika. Kaltjala ntama ngkitja nurnakanha ikarlta kuta tnyinatjinanga.

Pipa Dictionary nhanhala ngkitja nurnakanha Luritja pa Aranda lhangkarama, nthakanha intalhilatja, ritamilatjika ngkitja nurnakanha ikarlta kuta tnyinatjika.

Kwaiya kngarra nuka ‘Nangalanha’ Clara Ngala Inkamala ira imangka urrkaputjarta CAAMA² Radio Imparja Television—*Nganampa Anwernekenhe* Language and Culture Programme. Nhanha ntama ngkitja kuka irala ngkama: ‘Ngkitja nurnakanha ilkarlta kuta tnyinatjika’.

1 I choose to use this spelling of our language, because it is phonetic and reflects our history.

2 Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association.



Figure 8: Rhonda Inkamala working at the Strehlow Research Centre, 2017.

Source: Adam Macfie, Strehlow Research Centre, Alice Springs.

Luritja

Irriti Anangu nganampa tjuta tjungungkuya wangka Luritja kampa kutjupa nguru walkatjunu. Wangka nganampa kwarri palya ngaranyi, uwankarrangku ritamilanytjaku walkatjunkunytjaku.

Nganampa waltja tjtutaya irriti ngurra nyanga tjanala nyinapayi, Ungkungka-la wilurarra, Warumpi-la, ulparirra Meerinee-la, alinytjara Kularata-la. Anangu winkingku wangka nyangatja kantilya wangkapayi.

Kwarri Anangu mankurrrpa wangka Luritja nyangatja wangkanyi, ka Dictionary nyangatja wiru ngaranyi Anangungku, watingku, minymangku, tjtjingku nyakula ritamilanytjaku, walkatjunkunytjaku.

Ngayuku kangkuru pulka Lorna Wilsonalu paluru wangkangu: 'Wangka nganampa kantilya kutu kanyintjaku'.

English

Many of my people and I were involved in the translation of this dictionary into English from Aranda and Luritja. Some of the men, including my father, have taken out the old, restricted words so that I and other Aboriginal people can read it without any problems. It was an enriching experience to work on this dictionary because our language is our culture. Before I say more about working on this dictionary, I will introduce myself. It will help you understand what language and culture means to us.

I am an Aboriginal Australian woman of central Australia. I am multilingual and so a fluent speaker of Western Aranda, Luritja and Pitjantjatjara. I also read and write in these languages and understand other Arandic and Western Desert dialects. My language connections are through my parents and grandparents.

My *mia* (mother) speaks Western Aranda and Luritja. My *mia kanha pmara nama* (mother's country), *tjamia kanha pmara nama* (mother's father's country) and my *lyurra kanha pmara nama* (mother's mother's country) are on Tjoritja (also known as West MacDonnell National Park).

My *karta* (father) spoke Western Aranda and Pitjantjatjara. My *mamaku ngurra* (father's country) and *tjamuku ngurra* (father's father's country) lies on Pitjantjatjara territory in the south-west Petermann Ranges. My father spoke Western Aranda because he was adopted by the Inkamalas who grew him up as an Aranda and as their own.

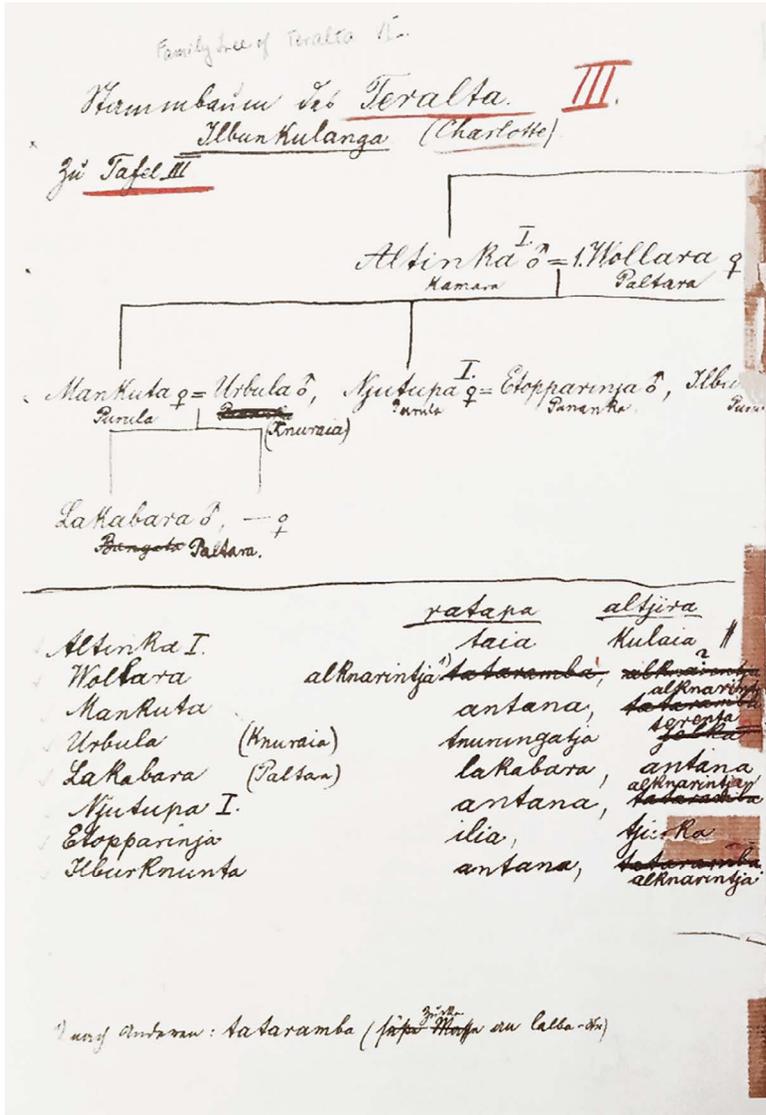
There are many central Australian Aboriginal languages that consist of a variation of dialects. Arandic dialects may have some common words such as *kwatja* (water) in Western Aranda and *kwatye* (water) in Central/Eastern Arrernte; *marra* (good) in Western Aranda and *mwerre* (good) in Central/Eastern Arrernte. Western Desert dialects also have some common words, *kapi* (water), *malu* (kangaroo) or *palya* (good) in Luritja and Pitjantjatjara. At the same time all these dialects of a language are also very different from each other.

	unkara anda ifa pteridijika, aai' unka nekanga hankitijika. ✗		
	ā haka	anda	
1	ai' ^{ai' unka pteridijika, aai' unka nekanga hankitijika. ✗} ai' unka pteridijika, aai' unka nekanga hankitijika. ✗	anda	anda
2	āba	anda	anda
3	adiltha	anda	anda
4	ai'etama	anda	anda
5	ai'ya	anda	anda
6	ai'umbinjala	anda	anda
7	akutnama	anda	anda
8	ala	anda	anda
9	alabaria	anda	anda

<i>Dieri</i>	<i>Narrinyeri</i>
<i>adi</i>	* <i>nuntu ngaiulangura ngulurekewa, adi, nuntu ngaruku kukularakem saku.</i>
<i>jelawa (2)</i>	<i>ambarknara zorniy.</i>
<i>haijipaterina,</i>	
<i>najina</i>	
<i>ngunari</i>	
<i>miba</i>	
* <i>miba ngurru, dako,</i>	
<i>miba ngurru, puljura ? miba ngalava,</i>	

Figure 9: Page 1 of Carl Strehlow's unpublished dictionary manuscript.

Source: Strehlow Research Centre, Alice Springs.



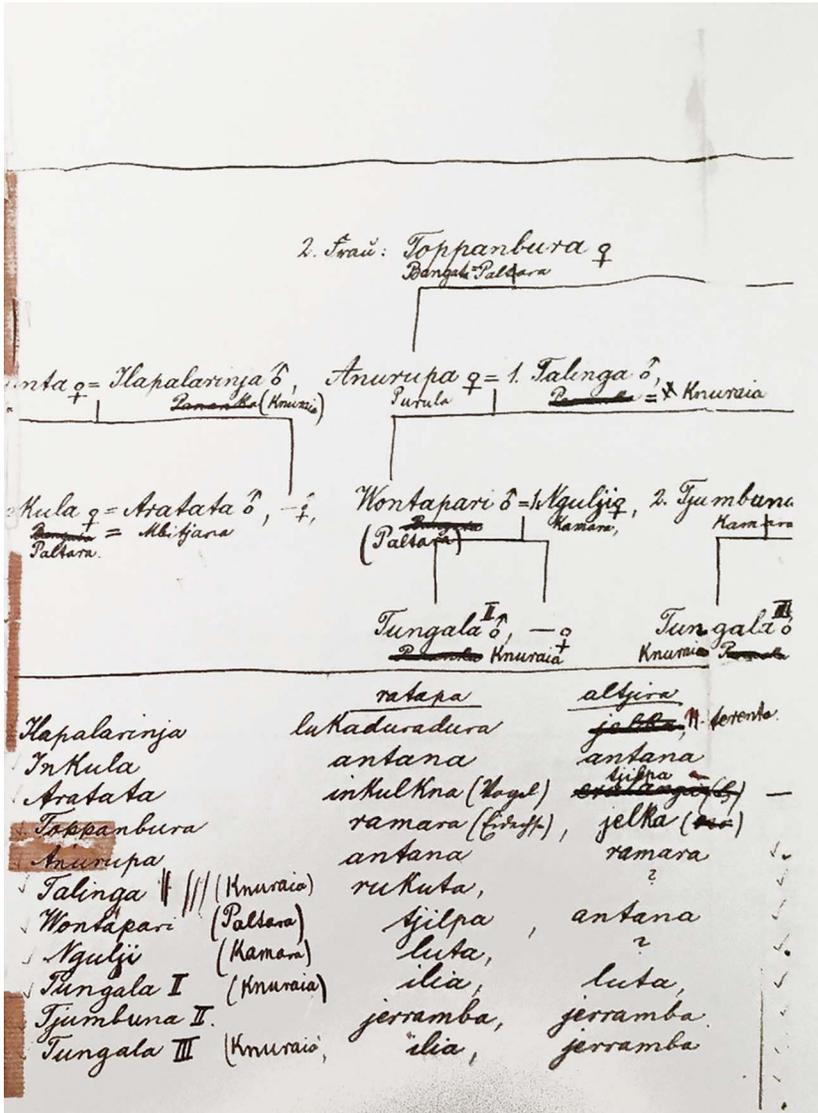


Figure 10: Family tree of Rhonda Inkamala's mother's mother's father Altingka collated by Carl Strehlow circa 1906.

Source: Strehlow Research Centre, Alice Springs.

Languages are an important part of our cultural heritage. A language is a complex of cultural knowledge, identity and spiritual connection through dreamings of our land and ancestors as well as our flora and fauna. Language is empowering, it enables speakers such as myself to communicate with others by expressing thoughts and ideas about subjects such as significant cultural sites and land marks on country.

As a vernacular teacher and cultural principal at the Yipirinya School, I believe teaching and learning our languages is a study of cultural knowledge and their systematic structure and orthographies, which utilise selected letters of the Latin alphabet. Translating the words of the dictionary that my ancestors and Carl Strehlow put down was very difficult as the Aranda words were written down in an old spelling system. Working very closely with both my parents, my mother Trudy Inkamala and my father the late Ingkarta (Pastor) Davie Inkamala, was tremendously helpful as the words were old Aranda words that were used by our great ancestors, and I learnt a lot and gained so much new vocabulary and understanding.

This text is taken from *Carl Strehlow's 1909 Comparative Heritage Dictionary: An Aranda, German, Loritja and Dieri to English Dictionary with Introductory Essays*, edited by Anna Kenny, published 2018 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

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