

APPENDIX 5

Pronoun Summary

This document has summarised information on Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay pronouns. For more on this, see Chapter 4 of *Yaluu* (Giacon, 2017). There is much more information here than is covered in Gamilaraay 1.

The first table has the main pronoun forms, but does not include exclusive pronouns – i.e. forms of ‘we’ used when the person(s) spoken to are not included in ‘we’. This topic is covered in more detail later. The rules for use of pronouns in sentences follows.

Pronouns in sentences

Nominative and Ergative pronouns are predominantly in second position in the sentence. If they are the focus, the main information, they can be first.

The position of other pronouns is more flexible. They, and demonstratives, are often in second position, or third position if there is a Nominative or Ergative pronoun in second position.

Gamilaraay personal pronouns

Simpler name	Doer/ Doer.to	Done to	Owner/ given to	Place at; Movement to	Source
Case	Nominative, Ergative	Accusative	Dative	Locative, Allative	Ablative
Speaker(s) [first person]					
Singular	<i>ngaya</i>	<i>nganha</i>	<i>ngay</i>	<i>nganunda</i>	<i>nganundi</i>
	I	me	my/mine	to, at, on me	from me
Dual	<i>ngali</i>	<i>ngalinya</i>	<i>ngalingu</i>	<i>ngalingunda</i>	<i>ngalingundi</i>
	we(2)	us(2)	our(s)(2)	to, at, on us(2)	from us(2)

Simpler name	Doer/ Doer.to	Done to	Owner/ given to	Place at; Movement to	Source
Case	Nominative, Ergative	Accusative	Dative	Locative, Allative	Ablative
Plural	<i>ngiyani</i>	<i>ngiyani</i>	<i>ngiyaningu</i>	<i>ngiyaningunda</i>	<i>ngiyaningundi</i>
	we(>2)	us(>2)	our(s>(>2)	to, at, on us(>2)	from us(>2)

Spoken to [second person]

Singular	<i>nginda</i>	<i>nginunha</i>	<i>nginu</i>	<i>nginunda</i>	<i>nginundi</i>
	you(1)	you(1)	your(s)(1)	to, at, on you(1)	from you(1)
Dual	<i>ngindaali</i>	<i>nginaalinya</i>	<i>nginaalingu</i>	<i>nginaalingunda</i>	<i>nginaalingundi</i>
	you(2)	you(2)	your(s)(2)	to, at, on you(2)	from you(2)
Plural	<i>ngindaay</i>	<i>nginaaynya</i>	<i>nginaayngu</i>	<i>nginaayngunda</i>	<i>nginaayngundi</i>
	you(>2)	you(>2)	your(s>(>2)	to, at, on you(>2)	from you(>2)

Spoken about [third person]

Singular	<i>nguru</i>	See below*	<i>ngurungu</i>	<i>ngurungunda</i>	<i>ngurungundi</i>
	s/he, it	her/him/it	his/her(s)/ its	to, at, her/ him/it	from him/ her/it
Dual	See below				
Plural	<i>ganugu</i>	<i>ganunga</i>	<i>ganungu</i>	<i>ganungunda</i>	<i>ganungundi</i>
	they(>2)	they/ them(>2)	their(s>(>2)	to, at them(>2)	from them(>2)

*Gamilaraay and Yuwaalaraay do not have pronouns that directly correspond to he/she/it her/him/it. We do not have a full description of what to translate these with, but the most common form is =NHa (=nha, =nya or =na) on the first word of the clause. Also common is Ø, i.e. nothing; *Nhama* is sometimes used but is more like 'that one'.

The pronoun pages from *Gaay Garay Dhadhin* (Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay Language Program, 2006) – a GY picture dictionary – may help you to understand the **main** functions of these pronouns. Note that there is an error in the first row of the third person singular – see above for the correct form.

Yuwaalaraay pronouns

The pronouns in the table above are also found in Yuwaalaraay, **except** that YR uses *nguu* where GR has *nguru*; e.g. *ngurungu* GR/ *nguu* YR 'her/his/its'.

Changes in description of pronouns

The analysis of some pronouns has changed, with the most recent description in *Yaluu* (Giacon, 2017). The table above differs from previous descriptions in Williams (1980) and Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay Language Program (2006), which have *nguru* GR/ *nguu* YR as the Nominative singular third person pronoun. Closer examination of the sources shows that *nguu* is not used in those circumstances.

Third person dual pronouns

While most pronouns have a consistent form across the range of sources, the **third person duals** are rare and a range of forms are recorded, given below. These are unique in having quite different forms in GR and YR. They are also unique in having three different forms for the Ergative, Nominative and Accusative.

(Different texts will have different information for these pronouns, depending on when they were written/updated.)

Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay third person pronoun dual pronouns

Ergative	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Locative/ Allative	Ablative
Yuwaalaraay dual					
<i>gaaladhu</i>	<i>gaalanha</i>	<i>gaalayngu</i>	<i>gaalayngunda</i>	<i>gaalayngundi</i>	
<i>bulaayu</i>	<i>bulaarrnga</i>	<i>bulaarrngu</i>	<i>bulaarrngunda</i>	<i>bulaarrngundi</i>	
Gamilaraay dual					
<i>nguru-gaalay</i>	<i>nhama-gaalay</i>	<i>nhama-gaalaynya</i>	<i>nguru-gaalayngu</i>	<i>nguru-gaalayngunda</i>	<i>nguru-gaalayngundi</i>

There are relatively few examples of these pronouns in the sources, so it is not clear how they were used. It may be that different forms had different meanings. It is also quite likely that not all forms were recorded.

Suffixed pronouns

Suffixed pronouns are common in Aboriginal languages. In many, including Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay, they are suffixed on the first word of the clause. The highlighted suffixed pronouns in the table are commonly found, the others rare or likely, based on what usually happens, and forms in related languages.

Reconstructed GY clitic Nominative/Ergative pronoun paradigm

	Clitic forms		Full forms	
	Nominative	Ergative	Nominative	Ergative
First person				
Singular	=DHu		<i>ngaya</i>	
Dual Incl.	=li		<i>ngali</i>	
Dual Excl.	=li-nya	=li-lu	<i>ngali-nya</i>	<i>ngali-lu/ylu</i>
		=li-nguru GR		<i>ngali-nguru GR</i>
Plural Incl.	=ni		<i>ngiyani</i>	
Plural Excl.	=ni-nya	=ni-lu	<i>ngiyani-nya</i>	<i>ngiyani-lu/ylu</i>
Second person				
Singular	=nda		<i>nginda</i>	
Dual	=ndaali		<i>ngindaali</i>	
Plural	=ndaay		<i>ngindaay</i>	
Third person				
Singular	=NHa			
Plural		=nugu	<i>ganugu</i>	

Inclusive and exclusive pronouns

(See Giacon, 2017, p. 377)

The inclusive/exclusive distinction applies to dual and plural first person pronouns, i.e. ‘we’. Inclusive means that both the speaker(s) and listener(s) are part of ‘we’, exclusive means that the listener(s) are not part of ‘we’.

If A is talking to B and says: ‘We (A+B) will go now’, ‘we’ is inclusive. If A is talking to B and says: ‘We (A+C) will go now’, ‘we’ is exclusive. Many languages have different inclusive and exclusive pronouns. In GY the inclusive/exclusive distinction is found only in Nominative and Ergative pronouns.

Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay inclusive/exclusive pronouns (we)

	Inclusive	Exclusive	
			Nominative Ergative
Dual	<i>ngali</i>	<i>ngali-nya</i>	<i>ngali-lu</i>
Plural	<i>ngiyani</i>	<i>ngiyani-nha?nya</i>	<i>ngiyani-lu(u)</i>

Inclusory constructions

This will be touched on very briefly here. (See Giacon, 2017, p. 377)

In GY if you want to say ‘Kim and I’ you say *ngali Kim* ‘we(2) Kim’. ‘Jack and Jill and Kim’ is *Kim ganunga Jack, Jill* (*ganunga* ‘they>2’). The inclusory construction consists of the pronoun that includes everyone then lists the people who are not speakers – i.e. ‘I’ is not mentioned. GY exclusive pronouns are actually inclusory constructions.

Other pronoun suffixes

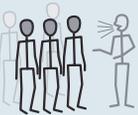
Another suffix found on pronouns has the forms *-yuu/-uu/-wu*. Examples and meaning are seen below.

<i>ngali</i>	we(2)	<i>ngali-yuu</i>	both of us
<i>ngiyani</i>	we(>2)	<i>ngiyani-yuu</i>	all of us
<i>ngindaali</i>	you(2)	<i>ngindaali-yuu</i>	both of you
<i>ngindaay</i>	you(>2)	<i>ngindaay-uu</i>	all of you
<i>bulaarr</i>	two	<i>bulaarr-uu</i>	both of (them)
<i>ganunga</i>	they	<i>ganunga-wu</i>	all of them

The particle *yiyal* ‘just, only’ is also found immediately after pronouns. It is not clear if it is a suffix or a separate word that immediately follows the pronoun.

Visual guide to pronouns talking about people¹

First person pronouns

Singular	Dual	Plural
<p>ngaya I (doer)</p> 	<p>ngali we two people (doers)</p> 	<p>ngiyani we more than two people (doers)</p> 
<p>ngaya I (doer to)</p> 	<p>ngali we two people (doers to)</p> 	<p>ngiyani we more than two people (doers to)</p> 
<p>nganha me (done to)</p> 	<p>ngalinya us two people (done to)</p> 	<p>ngiyanyinya us more than two people (done to)</p> 
<p>ngay my, to me</p> 	<p>ngalingu our, to us two people</p> 	<p>ngiyangu our more than two people our more than two people</p> 
<p>nganunda to/at/on me</p> 	<p>ngalingunda to/at/on us two people</p> 	<p>ngiyangunda to/at/on us more than two people</p> 
<p>nganundi from me</p> 	<p>ngalingundi from us two people</p> 	<p>ngiyangundi from us more than two people</p> 

¹ Reproduced from Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay Language Program, 2006.

Second person pronouns

Singular

nginda
you
one person
(doer)



-nda (clitic)

nginda
you one person (doer to)



-nda (clitic)

nginunha
you one person (done to)



nginu
your
one person,
to you
one person



nginunda
to/at/on you
one person



nginundi
from you
one person



Dual

ngindaali
you
two people
(doers)



-ndaali (clitic)

ngindaali
you two people (doers to)



-ndaali (clitic)

nginaalinya
you two people (done to)



nginaalingu
your
two people,
to you
two people



nginaalingunda
to/at/on you
two people



nginaalingundi
from you
two people



Plural

ngindaay
you
more
than two
people
(doers)



-ndaay (clitic)

ngindaay
you more than two people
(doers to)



-ndaay (clitic)

nginaaynya
you more than two people
(done to)



nginaayngu
your
more than
two people
to you
more than
two people



nginaaygunda
**to/at/
on you**
more than
two people



nginaaygundi
from you
more than
two people



Third person pronouns

Singular

often clitic =NHa, or Ø,
sometimes nhama.
he, she (doer)



nguru^{GR} / nguu^{YR}
he, she (doer to)



often clitic =NHa, or Ø,
sometimes nhama.
her, him (done to)



ngurungu^{GR} / nguungu^{YR}
her(s), his, to her, him



ngurungunda^{GR} / nguungunda^{YR}
to/at/on him/her



ngurungundi^{GR} / nguungundi^{YR}
from him/her



Dual

nhamagaalay^{GR} / gaalanha^{YR} /
bulaarrnga^{YR}
they two people (doers)



ngurugaalay GR
gaaladhu YR
bulaayu YR

nhamagaalaynya GR
gaalanha YR
bulaarrnga

ngurugaalayngu GR
galaayngu YR
bulaarrngu YR

ngurugaalayngunda GR
gaalayngunda YR
bulaarrngunda YR

ngurugaalayngundi GR
gaalayngundi YR
bulaarrngundi YR

Plural

ganunga
they more than two people
(doers)



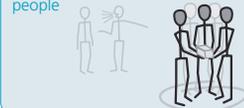
ganugu
they more than two people
(doers to)



ganunga
them more than two people
(done to)



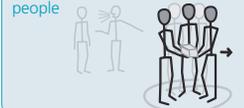
ganungu
their, to them more than two
people



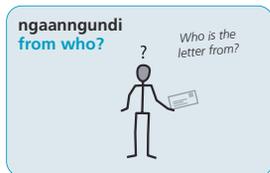
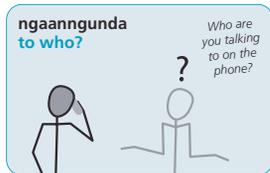
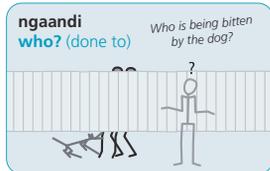
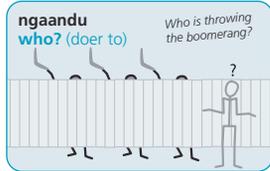
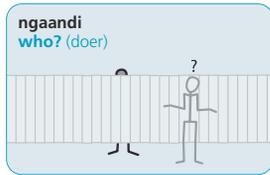
ganungunda
to/at/on them more than two
people



ganungundi
from them more than two
people



Question pronouns



About pronouns

The GY pronoun system has much in common with the English system; both have first, second and third person pronouns, and some distinctions between singular (I, he, she) and plural (we, they). It also distinguishes the role that the pronoun plays in the sentence.

(doer) **I** saw the dog.

(done to) The dog saw **me**.

(owner) **My** dog.

The significant differences are that GY pronouns have dual forms (i.e. referring to two people) and they do not have a gender distinction – there are no separate words for ‘he’ and ‘she’. Also, many English phrases which consist of a pronoun and preposition (‘to me’, ‘from you’, ‘on them’) have one-word equivalents in GY.

There are other more complicated aspects of pronoun use which are not covered here. For more information about pronouns see Chapter 3 of the *Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay Yuwaalayaay Dictionary*, and the entries for individual pronouns in the body of the dictionary.

In general, when using pronouns you need to work out:

1. Who the pronoun is **about**:

The person/people **speaking** (I, we, us, our, etc.)

First person (p. 276)

The person/people **spoken to** (you, your, yours etc.)

Second person (p. 277)

The person/people **spoken about** (she, them, etc.)

Third person (p. 278)

2. **How many people** are involved:

If it is **one** person: use the singular form (the left-hand column on pp. 276–8)

If it is **two** people: use the dual form (the middle column on pp. 276–8)

If it is **more than two** people: use the plural form (the right-hand column on pp. 276–8)

3. What do you **want to say about** the person/people?

To translate ‘**She** ate the meat’ go to third person (p. 278) singular (left-hand column) ‘doer to’ (row 2). The word you need is *nguru* (in Gamilaraay) or *nguu* (in Yuwaalaraay).

If you want to say to two people ‘your house’ (house is *gundhi*), then you go to second person (p. 277), dual (middle column), owner (row 4). The word you find is *nginaalingu* and so you get: *gundhi nginaalingu* ‘your house’.

Some second person pronouns have an abbreviated form: *=nda*, *=ndaali*, *=ndaay* (see rows 1 and 2, p. 277). These are called clitics because they are usually attached to the first word in the sentence or clause, whereas unabbreviated pronouns are found in different positions in the sentence.

So, to say to one person ‘What will you eat?’, you can say:

Minya nginda dhali? or

Minya=nda dhali?

These abbreviated pronouns are generally found with *gariya* (don’t) and with question words such as *minya* (what) and *yaama* (hello).

This text is taken from *Wiidhaa: An Introduction to Gamilaraay*,
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