LESSON 14
What for/Whose/Who for?

This lesson further considers the possessive/Dative case, the purpose use (purposive use) of Dative case, including the purposive forms of verbs. The extension looks at the use of pronouns/nouns when a transitive verb is followed by in intransitive, or vice versa.

Vocabulary

[Play audio: GGU 14.1.mp3]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garay</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dbiyamala!</td>
<td>pick up! tr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dbamala!</td>
<td>touch! tr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yilaa*</td>
<td>then, short time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>=nga</td>
<td>then, now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gu*</td>
<td>possessive/purpose (Dative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minyagu?*</td>
<td>what for? why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngaanngu*</td>
<td>whose? for who(m)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minya-gu-waayaa*</td>
<td>I don’t know what for*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See below.

Grammar

[Play audio: GGU 14.2.mp3]

Yilaa can mean ‘soon’ or ‘a little time before or after now’. It is also used to link sentences, when ‘then’ is a better translation. It will not generally occur in the first sentence of a passage. It is generally the first word in
the sentence. There is still some uncertainty about its meanings and uses. 
=nga, with current analysis, is more like ‘immediately after’, whereas yilaa is ‘short time’.

There is still more to be learnt about Gamilaraay linkage words. English tends to use time words extensively to link sentences and clauses – words such as ‘then, afterwards, soon’. GY does use yilaa and =nga ‘then’ as time ‘linkers’, but very frequently uses ngiyarrma, whose meaning seems to have changed from ‘there’ to being a general linker. For Gamilaraay 1 use yilaa and =nga.

Wiimala dhinggaa dhawunda.
put.down-Com meat ground-On
Put the meat on the ground.

Yilaa yinarru dhinggaa dhiyamali, wiyagi.
then women-Erg meat pick.up-Fut cook-Fut
Then the women will pick up the meat and cook it.

Nginda, wii wiimala, yilaa ngaya bandaarr gaagi.
You, make the fire and later I will bring a kangaroo.

‘I don’t know’ in Gamilaraay is most commonly a suffix. It is actually a two-stage suffix. Interrogatives, question words, can have a suffix added that adds (mostly) the meaning ‘some’. Three examples are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minya?*</th>
<th>What?</th>
<th>minyagaa</th>
<th>something</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dhalaa?</td>
<td>Where (at)?</td>
<td>dhalaawaa</td>
<td>somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngaandi?*</td>
<td>Who?</td>
<td>ngaandiyaa</td>
<td>someone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, the form of the suffix varies. The common form is -Waa, i.e. -waa after a and u, -yaa after i. Minya-gaa is irregular. Adding a further -yaa changes the meaning to ‘I don’t know’.

It may be that -Waa and -gaa have different functions – a topic for further research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minyagaayaa.</th>
<th>I don’t know what.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dhalaawaayaa.</td>
<td>I don’t know where.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngaandiyaaayaa.</td>
<td>I don’t know who.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*By now you would realise that word lists with one word in each language by no means have full information. Here, for instance, minya and ngaandi are Nominative and Accusative case. Nominative is used with intransitive verbs, and the done.to or object is Accusative case. For a sentence such as ‘Who drank my water?’ you would use the doer.to/Ergative form.

*Ngaandu gali ngay ngarunhi?
Who drank my water?

*Ngaanduwaa.
Someone.

**Possessive/purposive**

**Play audio:** GGU 14.3.mp3

So far we have used Dative case in two ways. The first use, shown in the next example sentence, is to indicate the owner or possessor. The second use, seen in the subsequent sentence, is to show the recipient when using the verb *wuurri* ‘give’.

*Gundhi maliyaa-gu.*
The friend’s house.

*Gali birralii-gu wuuna.*
Give the child some water.

Possessive/Dative case can also indicate purpose, as in the next two sentences. The first has a Dative noun, so with the -*gu* suffix. The second has a Dative pronoun.

*Yananhi ngaya dhuwarr-gu.*
went I bread-*gu*
I went for some bread.

*Gali ngaya nginu gaanhi.*
Water I you.for/you.of brought.
I brought some water for you.

Remember, Dative pronouns do not have a suffix, but a special form ending in -*ngu* apart from *ngay* ‘my’ and *nginu* ‘your(1)’.
The next two sentences show the purposive suffix on a verb. It is only found on the future form of verbs.

_Yananhi ngaya dhali-gu._
I went to eat.

_Wiimala gali gaalaga, birraliidhu ngarugi-gu._
Put the water in the cup, for the child to drink it.

The suffix form _-gu_ has a number of uses: movement to, possession and ‘purpose’. This may seem confusing, but there are clues as to the use. The movement.to/Allative use is usually with a motion verb. The possessive/Dative use is usually in a two noun phrase, for instance _wiyayl guniigu_ ‘mum’s pen’, and the noun with the purpose suffix is often at the end of the sentence.

Summary

- ‘For me’ is _ngay_, which also translates ‘my/mine’.
- ‘For you(1 person)’ is _nginu_, which is also ‘your/yours(1 person)’.
- ‘For her/him/it’ is _ngurungu_, which is also ‘her/his/its’.

Other possessive pronouns are used the same way, for instance:

_Ngaanngu_ is:

- possessive (whose?),
- dative/giving to (to who(m)?) and
- purpose (for who(m)?)

Since possessive and purposive nominals have the same form there is potential ambiguity. With nouns that form is also used for Allative case, so potentially more interpretations of the one statement. However, the context will generally indicate the meaning.

_Dhiyamala wiyayl Marygu._

This could be translated:

Pick up Mary’s pen.
Or
Pick up the pen for Mary.
I suspect that the way the sentence is said would make the meaning clear. In *Pick up Mary’s pen*, *wiyayl Marygu* would likely be said as one unit; in *Pick up the pen for Mary*, I suspect there would be a pause after *wiyayl*.

_Yananhi ngaya gali-gu.*

This could be translated:

I went for some water.
Or
I went to the water.

Play audio: GGU 14.4.mp3

_Ngaanngu, minyagu_

_Ngaanngu nhalay buruma?_
Whose dog is this? (possessive)

_Ngaanngu nginda nhalay buruma wuuri? / Ngaanngu=nda nhalay buruma wuuri?_
Who will you give this dog to? (giving to)

_Ngaanngu nginda nhalay nguu dhaay gaanhi._
Who did you bring this book here for? (purposive)

_Minyagu_ means ‘for what purpose?’. It is the first word in the sentence. It often translates English ‘why? what for?’ (see below for other translations of ‘Why?’). _Minyagu_ can be used in sentences like:

_Minyagunda (minya-gu=nda) dhaay yananhi?_
what.for-you(1) to.here came.
What did you come here for?

_Minyagunda birray ngamiy?_
What did you look at the boy for?

_Minyagu miyay dhaay yananhi?_
What did the girl come here for?

_Minyagu nhama garrawalgu yananhi?_
What did she go to the shop for?

_Minyagu=ndaay buruma bumay?_
Why did you(>2) hit the dog?
Some answers might include:

*Giirr nguru bamba garay guwaay.*
He talked really loud.

*Giirr nhama gaba ngulu.*
He is really good looking.

*Dhinggaagu.*
For meat.

*Maliyaa ngamiligu.*
To see her friend.

*Gagil nhama buruma.*
That dog is bad.

*Giirr burumagu dhingga ngay dhay.*
The dog ate my meat.

Other translations of ‘Why?’ include:

*Minyadhi*, for instance in ‘Why are you afraid?’, ‘Why did you laugh/What did you laugh at?’.

*Minya-nginda* (see Lesson 18 for -nginda) ‘what-wanting’, in ‘Why is the baby crying?’.

**Extension**

For transitive and intransitive verbs ‘near one another’, the rule is:

When there is a change in verb transitivity it must be signalled by a pronoun or noun or other nominal. When there is no change in transitivity there is no need for pronouns, especially in the second phrase.
In English and Gamilaraay you can say:

_Yananhi(=nha), banaganhi._
She walked and ran.

And in English you can say: ‘She walked and sang’.

But in Gamilaraay _yana-y_ ‘walk’ is intransitive and _bawi-li_ ‘sing’ is transitive. There needs to be a Nominative noun or pronoun with ‘walk’, and an Ergative one with ‘sing’.

_Yananhi=nha, bawiy nguru._
She walked and (she) sang.

_Yananhi miyay, bawiy nguru._
The girl walked and (she) sang.

‘She’ with an intransitive verb can be Ø, =nha, nhama or have other forms.
She with a transitive verb is Ø or nguru. However, when there is a change in transitivity Ø is rarely used.

**Examples of change in transitivity**

![Audio button] Play audio: GGU 14.7.mp3

_Giirr=nha banaga-nhi, winanga-y nguru._
true she(Nom) walk-PAST, sang-PAST she(Erg)
She ran and listened.

Compare:

_Giirr nguru bawi-y, yana-nhi nhama._
She sang and walked.

_Marygu bawi-y, yana-nhi=nha._
Mary sang and walked.

_Yana-nhi Mary, bawi-y nguru._
Mary walked and sang.
No change in transitivity

Both verbs intransitive:

Giirr=nha yana-nhi, bara-nhi.
true she walk-PAST, hop-PAST
She walked and hopped.

or

Giirr yana-nhi, bara-nhi.
true walk-PAST, hop-PAST
She walked and hopped.

Both verbs transitive:

Giirr nguru ngaru-nhi, dha-y.
true she drink-PAST, eat-PAST
She drank and ate.

or

Giirr ngaru-nhi, dha-y.
true drink-PAST, eat-PAST
She drank and ate.

Practice

A:  Man.gagu yananga, wiyaylgu.
    Go to the table, for a pen.  (vary the place, object: gali, yuul, nguu, man.ga, gaala)

B:  Wiyaylgu ngaya man.gagu yanay.
    I will go to the table for a pen.

B:  Yananhi ngaya man.gagu, wiyaylgu.
    I will go to the table for a pen.

A:  Man.gagu nginda yananhi, wiyaylgu.
    You went to the table for a pen.
Lesson 14. WHAT FOR/WHOSE/WHO FOR?

A: *Dhaay=wadhaay gulaban gaanga, ngarriygu ngaya.*
   (Please) Bring a chair here, for me to sit down.

B: *Ngamila, dhaay ngaya gulaban gaanhi, ngarriygu nginda.*
   Look, I brought a chair for you to sit on.

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A: *Minyagu nhalay gali?*
   What’s this water for?

B: *Ngarugigu.*
   To drink.

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A: *Minyagu=nda garravalgu yananchi?*
   What did you go to the shop for?

B: *Dhuwarr ngaya dhiyamaligu.*
   To pick up/get some bread.

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A: *Ngaannugu nginda gali dhaay gaanhi?*
   Who(m) did you bring the water for?

B: *Nginu. Giirr ngaya nginu gali gaanhi.*
   For you. I brought the water for you.

Or

B: *Ngaannguwaa.*
   For someone.

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A: *Ngaannugu nhalay yuul.*
   Who is this food for? // Whose food is this?

B: *Ngaannuguwaayaa. Ngaannuguwaayaa nhalay yuul.*
   I don’t know. I don’t know who this food is for. // I don’t know whose food this is.
Winangala, garay guwaala, yawala.
Listen, say and read.

Play audio: GGU 14.10.mp3

Ngaanggu nhama wiyayl man.gaga?
Whose is that pen on the table?

Giirr ngaya burlulaa dhay, yilaa ngaya gagil ginyi.
I ate a lot, and then I got/felt bad.

Minyagu wandagu burlulaa dhinggaa dhay?
What did the whitefella eat a lot of meat for?

Garriya nhama dhamaal biibabiiba ngay.
Don't touch that book of mine.

Play audio: GGU 14.11.mp3

Ngaandu dhamaay nhama man.garr Billygu? (or Billyngu)
Who touched Billy's bag?

Ngaanggu nhalay wiyayl guwaymbarru?
Whose is this red pen?

Dhuru ngamiy yinarru, yilaa-nha gundhigu banaganhi.
The woman saw the snake and ran to the house.

Yilaa ngaya gunii ngamili.
I will see my mother soon.

Banagaya gundhigu, galigu.
Run home for some water.

Ngaandi yanay man.gagu, wiyaylgu?
Who will go to the table for a pen. (to get a pen)

A: Minyadhiyaayaa nguru bamba gagay.
I don’t know why she talked loudly.

B: Giirr burumagu=nha yiiy.
A dog bit her.