LESSON 15
More Pronouns: Singular

This lesson introduces the other case forms of singular pronouns: the Accusative case, Locative/Allative case and Ablative case. It also looks at instances where Gamilaraay need not express third person singular pronouns (he, she, it, her, him). There are many other pronouns in later lessons.

We have been using the term ‘case’ since it makes it possible to formulate quite concise rules, but the idea, the concept, can be hard to get your head around. Appendix 3 has further discussion, and you may find it helpful to consult introductory linguistics texts.

Vocabulary

Play audio: GGU 15.1.mp3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garay</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nganha</td>
<td>me (done.to) (Accusative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngay</td>
<td>my/mine (Dative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nganunda</td>
<td>to/at/on/near me (Locative and Allative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nganundi</td>
<td>from me (Ablative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nginunha</td>
<td>you(1) (done.to) (Accusative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nginu</td>
<td>your/yours(1) (Dative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nginunda</td>
<td>to/at/on/near you(1) (Locative and Allative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nginundi</td>
<td>from you(1) (Ablative)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

=nhā, Ø, nhama* she/he/her/him/it (Nominative and Accusative)
nguru     she/he/it (doer.to) (Ergative)
ngurungu  her(s)/his/its (Dative)
ngurungunda to/at/on/near her/him/it (Locative and Allative)
ngurungundi from her/him/it (Ablative)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garay</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wamba*</td>
<td>mad, silly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngarragaa</td>
<td>hopeless, sad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bamba*</td>
<td>with energy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The words *wamba* and *ngarragaa* are common in the Aboriginal English of the Gamilaraay Yuwaalaraay area. *Ngarragaa* is generally pronounced *naragaa* because people have got used to English sounds, which do not include *rr*, or *ng* at the start of a word.

*Bamba* is used with lots of verbs, for example:

| bamba run | run hard          |
| bamba eat | have a big feed   |
| bamba hit | hit hard          |
| bamba look| stare             |
| bamba listen | listen carefully. |

By now you will be well aware that:

- the meanings/uses of *nhama* are quite complex – many more than listed here
- *nhama* is just one of many ways of translating English ‘she/he/her/him/it’.

**Grammar**

Remember that, for first person and second person pronouns, the Nominative (doer) and Ergative (doer.to) forms are the same: *ngaya* ‘I’ and *nginda* ‘you(1)’.

For third person pronouns, nouns, adjectives and other case marked words, the Nominative (doer) and the Accusative (done.to) are the same. For example:

= *nba, Ø* and *nhama* are used for *she, he, it*(doer) and *her, him, it*(done.to).

**Accusative case** is used for the ‘done.to’ in sentences with a transitive verb. English has some distinctive forms for this role (in bold below).

He/she saw me. I saw him/her.
With second person, however, English uses ‘you’ whether it means ‘doing the action’ (You ran. You ate it.) or the ‘done to’ (The car hit you.).

The ‘done to’ or **Accusative pronouns** are in bold in the following sentences.

play audio: GGU 15.2.mp3

*Giirr burumagu nganha yiyy.*
The dog bit **me**.

*Giirr burumagu nginunha yiyy.*
The dog bit **you(1)**.

*Giirr nbama burumagu yiyy.*
The dog bit **her/him**.

*Giirr nginda nganha ngamiy.*
You(1) saw **me**.

*Giirr ngaya nginunha ngamiy.*
I saw **you(1)**.

*Giirr=nha ngaya ngamiy.*
I saw **her/him**.

Remember, with third person pronouns you need to distinguish between the doer (=nha, Ø and nbama for singular pronouns) and the doer.to (nguru for singular pronouns), in other words you need to check whether the verb is intransitive (doer) or transitive (doer.to). Look at the following sentences.

play audio: GGU 15.3.mp3


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>She/he ran.</th>
<th><em>banaga-y intransitive</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Giirr nguru nganha ngamiy.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>She/he saw me.</th>
<th><em>ngami-li transitive</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
I saw her/him.

*Giirrig nguru nganha ngamiy.*
She/he saw me.

Pronouns (and proper nouns/names) are different from standard nominals in that the **Locative and Allative have the same form**, as seen below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locative</th>
<th>ngurungunda</th>
<th>Bubaa-ngunda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>dbinawan-da</em></td>
<td>on/at/near the emu</td>
<td>on/at/near him/her/it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>ngurungunda</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bubaa-ngunda</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allative</th>
<th>ngurungunda</th>
<th>Bubaa-ngunda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>dbinawan.gu</em></td>
<td><em>to the emu</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>ngurungunda</em></td>
<td>to him/her/it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Bubaa-ngunda</em></td>
<td>to Dad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For simplicity, when talking of pronouns and proper nouns we will sometimes use Locative rather than Locative/Allative. Note that some older pronoun charts do not describe Allative pronouns.

*‘to’ here means ‘movement to’. Allative case is not used to translate ‘to’ in ‘give to’, ‘listen to’ or ‘talk to’. Similarly with ‘at’/Locative case. Locative is not used to translate ‘look at’. The general principle: don’t expect translation to be simple.*

**Locative/Allative pronouns**

These are used where nouns have the Locative (-*Ga*: ‘on/at/in/near’) or Allative (-*gu*: ‘going to’) suffixes: see Lesson 7 for uses of the Locative case and Lesson 5 for Allative.

**Locative use**

*Warranhi Kim bubaa-ga.*
Kim stood on/near/with her father.

The Locative pronoun is used the same way: the pronoun is generally second.
Lesson 15. More Pronouns: Singular

Warranhi nganunda Kim.
Kim stood near/with me.

Warranhi nginunda Kim.
Kim stood near/with(on) you(1).

Allative use:

Yananhi Kim gunii-gu.
Kim went to/walked to mum.

Locative/Allative pronouns also have this role:

Yananhi nganunda Kim.
Kim came to me.

Yananhi nginunda Kim.
Kim came to you(1).

The main point here is that Locative and Allative pronouns have the same form, unlike nouns.

Another challenging verb

English speakers are used to having a verb ‘talk/speak’. In GR (and in some close languages), ‘talk/speak’ is translated by a phrase: garay guwaali. It is something like ‘words tell’. The person ‘spoken to’ is in place/Locative case.

Garay ngaya guwaa-li maliyaa-ga.
Word I tell-will friend-At.
I will talk to my friend.

Ngaandu nginunda garay guwaay?
Who talked to you?

Birray-dhu garay guwaay miyay-dha.
The boy spoke to the girl.

(Note that guwaali is pronounced like gu-or-li and guwaay is pronounced like gwoi – listen to them on Gayarragi, Winangali.)

However, guwaali also has another use, ‘telling’ someone to do something. With that use the ‘told.to’ is in done.to/Accusative case and the verb is purposive, i.e. future+gu.
Ngaandu nginunba guwaay yanay-gu?
Who told you to go?

Guwaala birray warray-gu.
Tell the boy to stand up.

Ablative pronoun use

You have already seen many uses of Ablative nouns. Ablative pronouns are used in the same circumstances: movement from, fear of/laugh at, and with some verbs.

Giirr nganundi buruma banaganhi.
The dog ran away from me.

Minyagu nginda man.garr ngurungundi gaanhi?
Why did you take the bag from her?

Yaamanda nganundi giyal?
Are you(1) scared of me?

Ngaandi nginundi gindama-nhi?
Who laughed at you?

Giirr giidjaa nganundi galiya-nhi.
An ant climbed on me.

Reminder:

The possessive/Dative pronouns (and nouns) are used for a number of things:

Owning

Buruma ngay.
My dog.

Buruma nginu.
Your dog.

Buruma ngurungu.
Her/his dog.
Lesson 15. More Pronouns: Singular

Giving to

Guniidhu nhama ngay wuunhi.
Mum gave me that.

Guniidhu nhama nginu wuunhi.
Mum gave you(1) that.

Guniidhu nhama ngurungu wuunhi.
Mum gave her/him that.

Purpose

Guniidhu ngay nhama gaanhi.
Mum brought that for me.

Guniidhu nhama ngurungu gaanhi.
Mum brought that for him/her.

Extension 1

Remember, this is for when you have understood the earlier material.

Body parts and inalienable possession

In Lesson 8 there was a discussion of ‘inalienable possession’. This is an interesting topic for Gamilaraay since there is little information, and perhaps some of the historical material has already been influenced by English. So, it is not clear what the rules of traditional Gamilaraay were. For expressions like ‘my hand’, many Aboriginal languages do not use the possessive pronoun but instead the pronoun is the same case as ‘hand’. The following pairs of sentences show Gamilaraay alternatives – one closer to most Aboriginal languages, one more like English.

Play audio: GGU 15.6.mp3

Giirr nginda nganha mara dhamaay.
You touched my hand.
(using nganha mara ‘me hand’)
Wiimala yarral nganunda maraga.
Put the money in my hand.
(nganunda and maraga are Locative case)

Yarral nganundi maradhi dhiyamala.
Pick up the money from my hand.
(nganundi and maradhi are Ablative case)

Gagil ngaya mara.
My hand is sore.
(ngay and mara are Nominative case)

Maraga ngurungunda wiyal wiimala. // Maraga wiyal ngurungunda wiimala.
Put the pen in her/his hand.
Lesson 15. More Pronouns: Singular

A: Wiyayl nganunda maraga wiimala.
   Put the pen on/in my hand.

B: Yawu, wiyayl ngaya wiimali nginunda maraga. Wiimay ngaya nginunda maraga.
   Yep, I will put the pen in your hand. I put it in your hand.

C, to A: Giirr Bdhu wiyayl wiimay nginunda maraga.
   B put the pen in your hand.

C, to B: Giirr nginda wiyayl wiimay ngurungunda maraga.
   You put the pen in her hand.

Wiyayl mara-dhi gaanga nganundi.
Take the pen from my hand.
(inalienable possession: ‘from my hand’ in GY is ‘from-me hand-from’)

Giirr giidjaa nganundi bina-dhi wuru-nhi.
An ant went in my ear.
(inalienable possession: ‘(go) in my ear’ in GY is ‘(go) me-from ear-from’)

Extension 2

Remember, this is for when you have understood the earlier material.

In Gamilaraay, and many Aboriginal languages, you can leave out the ‘she, he, him, her’ words on many occasions, generally when the identity of who you are talking about is clear from the situation you are in or from the previous conversation.

Play audio: GGU 15.7.mp3

Billy dhaay yananhī.
Billy came here.
(so we are talking about Billy)

Giirr ngaya ngamiy.
I saw him.
(no him in Gamilaraay)

Giirr ngaya burumagu wuunhi.
I gave (it) to the dog.
(the conversation was about some meat)
The following are all good Gamilaraay, but again they presume the people know who or what is being referred to, they know who ‘she/he/him/her/it’ means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bumala</td>
<td>Hit (it/him/her)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhala</td>
<td>Eat (it)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhay</td>
<td>He ate it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balunhi</td>
<td>(She/he/it) died</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Practice**

Play audio: GGU 15.8.mp3

Practice in pairs is good for learning the first and second person pronouns, with three in the group it is easy to practise third person pronouns as well.

**Accusative**

**Bulaarr/2**

A:  
Dhamala nganha.  
Touch me.

B:  
Giirr ngaya nginunha dhamali.  
Giirr ngaya nginunha dhamay.  
I will touch you.  
I touched you.

A:  
Giirr nginda nganha dhamay.  
You touched me.

Repeat with other verbs: Ngamila, winangala, bumala, garrala, etc.

**Buligaa+, 3 or more**

A:  
Dhamala nganha.  
Touch me.

B:  
Giirr ngaya nginunha dhamali.  
Giirr ngaya nginunha dhamay.  
I will touch you.  
I touched you.

C, to A:  
Giirr nguru nginunha dhamay.  
She touched you.
A, to C:  *Yawu, dhamay nguru nganha. // Giirr nguru nganha dhamay.*  
Yes, she touched me.

B, to C:  *Giirr ngaaya dhamay. Or Giirr=na ngaaya dhamay.*  
I touched her. (=*nha can be =na after rr*)

And so on. Repeat with other verbs as above.

**Play audio:** GGU 15.9.mp3

Locative/at.near/with

With ‘at/near/with’ use.

A:  *Warraya nganunda.*  
Stand near/with me.

B:  *Yawu, warray ngaaya nginunda.*  
Yep, I will stand with/near you.

C:  *B, warranhi nginda ngurungunda.*  
B, you stood near/with him.

Develop your own conversations. Some starting points are:

A:  *Garriya ngurungunda ngarriya.*  
Don’t sit near him.

A:  *Yaamanda nganunda ngarriy?*  
Will you sit with me?

Allative/go.to

A:  *Banagaya nganunda.*  
Run to me.

B:  *Yawu, banagay ngaaya nginunda.*  
Yep, I will run to you.

C:  *B, banaganhi nginda ngurungunda.*  
B, you ran to him.

**Play audio:** GGU 15.10.mp3
Ablative/from

With movement function:

A:  *Banagaya nganundi.*
    Run away from me.
B:  *Yawu, banagay ngaya nginundi. Banaganhi ngaya nginundi.*
    Yep, I will run away you. I ran away from you.
C:  *B, banaganhi nginda ngurungundi.*
    B, you ran away from him.

Then use questions, *gariya* ‘don’t’, *gamil* ‘not’, and other verbs.

Use both Allative and Ablative in one sentence.

A, to B:  *Bamba nganundi banagaya, ngurungunda.*
    Run quickly away from me, to him.
B, to A:  *Yawu, wamba nginda. Bamba ngaya nginundi banagay, maliyaagu.*
    Yes, you are mad. I will race away from you to my friend.

You can make many similar sentences.

With other functions:

*Giyal* ‘afraid’

A:  *B, giyal nginda nganundi?*
    B, are you afraid of me?
B:  *Giiir ngaya nginundi giyal. Gamilbala ngaya nginunda warray.*
    I am afraid of you. I won’t stay near you.

*Gindama-y* ‘laugh’ (intransitive)

A:  *Ngaandi nganundi gindamanhi?*
    Who laughed at me.
B:  *Giiir ngaya nginundi gindamanhi. Ngarragaa nginda.*
    I laughed at you. You are hopeless/pitiful.
C:  *B, gagil nginda, gariya ngurungundi gindamaya.*
    B, you are bad. Don’t laugh at him.
Lesson 15. More Pronouns: Singular

Wuru-gi ‘go in’ (intransitive)

A:  Giirr burruluu nganundi murudhi wurunhi.  
A fly went up my nose.
B:  Dhalaadhi wurunhi? Murudhi?  
Where did it go? In your nose?

Winangala, garay guwaala, yawala. 
Listen, say and read.

Play audio: GGU 15.12.mp3

Ngaandu nginunha ngamiy? 
Who saw you(1)?

Chris-gu nganha ngamiy. 
Chris saw me.

Ngamiy=nha dbigaraagu. 
The bird saw him.

Yaama nguru dbigaraa ngamiy? 
Did he see the bird?

Ngaandi nginda ngamiy? 
Who did you see?

Gamil ngaya nginunha ngamiy. 
I did not see you.

Yaamanda nganha ngamiy? 
Did you see me?

Bamba nginda garay guwaay. 
You talked loudly.

Yaamanda nganha winangay? 
Did you hear me.

Giirr ngaya nginunha winangay. 
I sure heard you.
Dhalaa nhama buruma?
Where is that dog?

Giirr nginda nhama bamba bumay.
You really hit him.

Yaama nguru nginunha yiyy?
Did it bite you?

Gamilbala, gamil nguru nganha yiyy.
No, it didn’t bite me.

Banaganhibala nhama.
He ran away.

Bamba banaganhi.
He really ran. (He really took off)

Ngaandi yananhi gundhigu, baabiligu?
Who went home to sleep?

Giirr nguru nginunha ngamiy, gamilbala nginda nhama ngamiy.
She saw you, but you did not see her.

Man.garr ngay gaanga, wuuna ngurungu.
Take my bag and give it to him.

Giirr wamba nginda.
You are mad.

Birray ngarragaal bundaanhi galidha.
That hopeless boy fell in the water.

Yarral wuuna birraygu ngarragaagu.
Give that sad kid some money.