DiLegMa Workshop 24 April 2025

Adding value to linguistic legacy materials: two case studies

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Thanks and absolution to: Ed Garrett, Cheryl Leavy, David Nathan, and members of the Warren family

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Overview

- Issues for discussion
- Models for data representation and analysis
- Case studies:
  - Guwamu linguistic fieldnotes of S.A. Wurm
  - The Diari-German dictionary of J.G. Reuther
- Social lives of legacy materials and real world challenges and opportunities
- Discussion and conclusions

Issues to be addressed from the CfP

- What are possible **ways to make materials usable** and how can they be fruitfully integrated into a description project? What sort of elements can be extracted, both in terms of primary data and in terms of a meta-grammaticographical analysis of older practices? Do textual, grammatical, and lexicographical legacy materials require different approaches?
- How do we deal with unprocessed / raw **field notes** of other linguists?
- How can we extract **metadata** where no explicit metadata information is given?

Models for representation of structured text

- *Relational model* – identify **entities** and **relationships** (1-1, 1-many,many-many), typically encoded via **database** software, e.g. form, gloss in one-to-many relationship

ID	Form	Gloss
001	marda	stone
002	marda	money

- *Markup model* – hierarchical representation that uses tags (XML) and scoping to encode entities and dependency relationships, e.g. <entry><form>marda</form><gloss seq="1">stone</gloss><gloss seq="2">money</gloss></entry>

Case study 1: Wurm fieldnotes

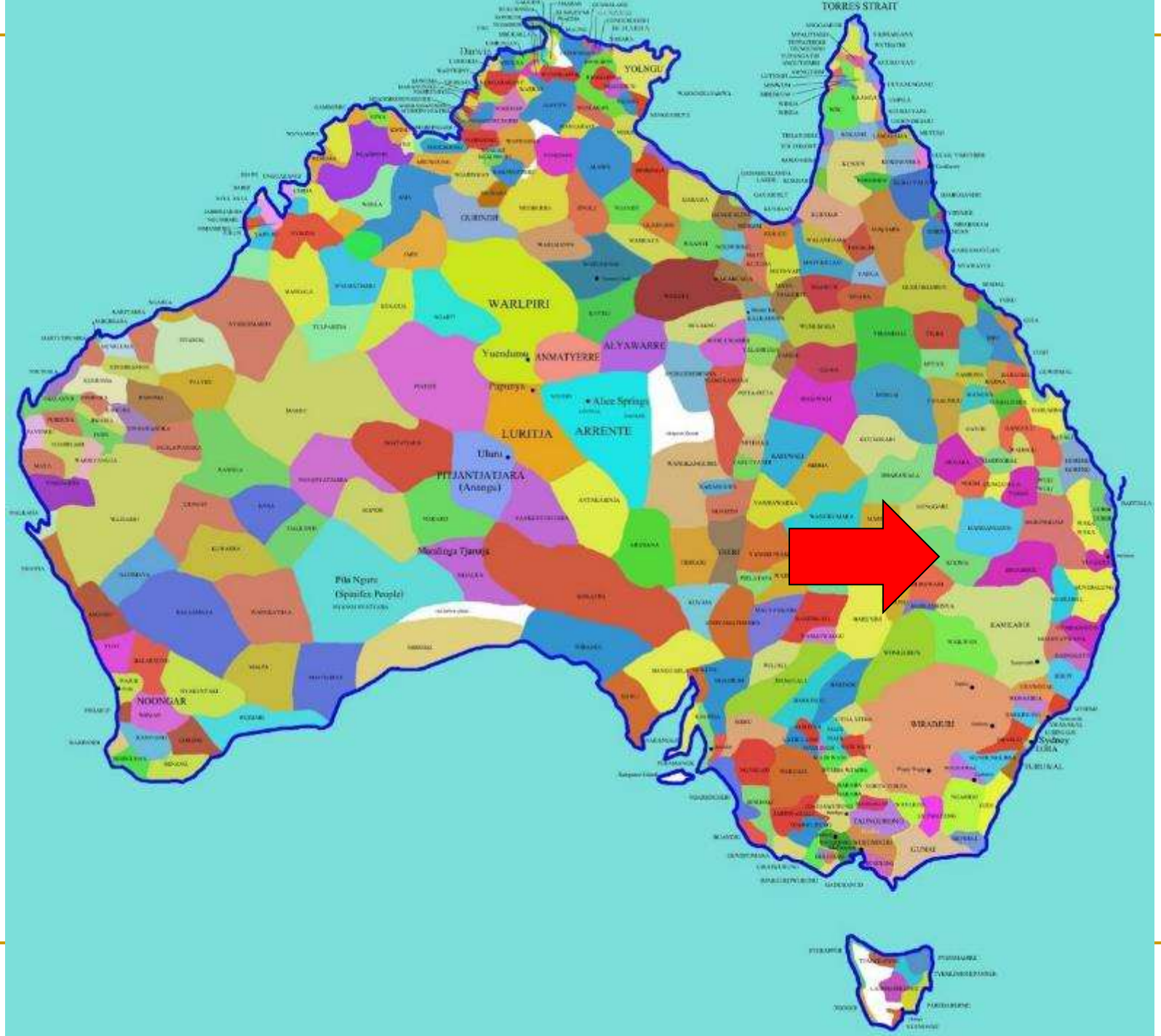
S.A. Wurm linguistic fieldwork

- In 1954 S.A. Wurm (1922-2001) arrived in Australia from Vienna to undertake fieldwork in Papua New Guinea
- While waiting for his research permit Arthur Capell funded him to survey and collect data on as many NSW and Qld Aboriginal languages as possible
- Wurm was a Turkic languages specialist, spoke multiple languages, and was well trained in phonetics. Capell provided a basic interview schedule (vocab, sentences)
- Capell provided £100 funding (= 2024 $A 6,400) and basic tape recorder. Wurm travelled by motor bike and sidecar
- Access to speakers restricted -- many Aboriginal people lived on “missions” or “reserves” with access controlled by white overseers (non-citizens, discriminated against, language and culture deprecated)

The materials

- Wurm's fieldnotes contain phonetic representations of elicited words and sentences, German shorthand translations; some selected utterances were tape recorded
- In 1975 Wurm worked with Peter Austin to hand copy his fieldnotes, tape-record translations of glosses into English which were then added to the notes by Austin
- Copies of all these prepared materials were lodged in the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
- For Guwamu (Kooma), southern Queensland we have 13 minute tape recording plus 60 pages of fieldnotes
- Vocabulary and a few sentences recorded by Ian Sim 1955
- Data on related languages recorded by Gavan Breen

- No speakers in 2025


TORRES STRAIT
YOLNGU
WARLPIRI
ALYAWARRE
ANMATYERRE
Yuendumu
Papunya
Alice Springs
LURITJA
ARRENTE
Uluru
PITJANTJATJARA
(Ansegu)
Martinga Tjaruja
Pila Nguru
(Spinifex People)
NOONGAR
BIRADJURI
KAMILAROI
Sydney
GUNAI

(Epistolae) (Mac Lachlane) (R) (Th. O.) (2)

wannju i:nipi punju=ɛ: daddja layambuni

ɛ'ɣ ~ ɣɛ, 'ɛ co / lahamt, ~ 'ɛ co)

a'ɛ', wa(a do daddja layambunji i:nipi punjugu

ɣɛ 'o / co

minjpu i:nipi punju 'ɛ:3

banimaina leanhum

wanimma pragu(unu daddja lambumma

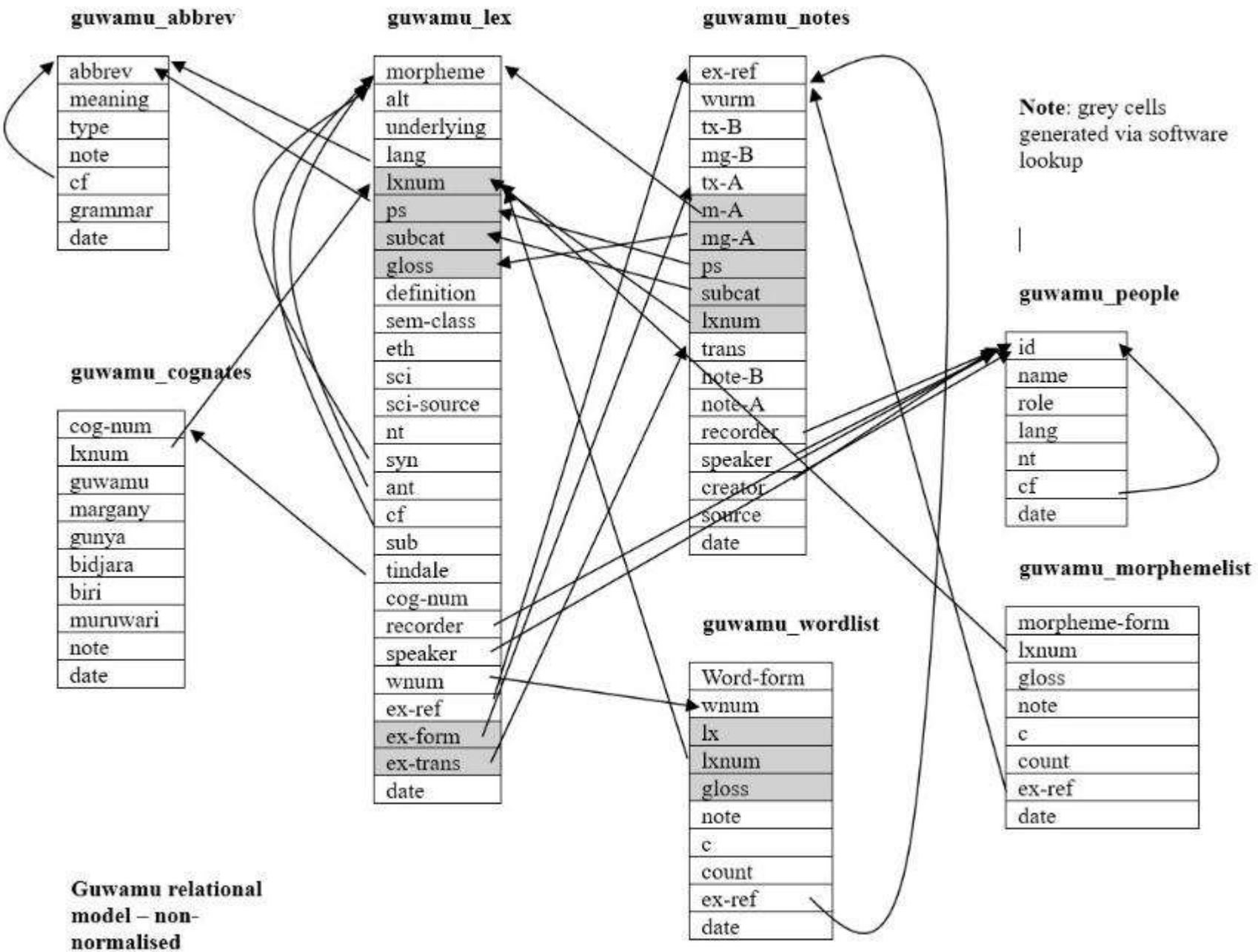
buppani punju or, 'ɛ 7 c 6/s co.

punju ɣɛ

inipida jalida (punju 2 'ɛ ho 2o

Guwamu data model

- Retype original notes, add consistent practical orthography, add metadata on sources (speaker, recorder, fieldnotes location), abbreviation definitions, date of last edit
- create **lexicon**: lemma, gloss, definition, scientific name, scientific name source, picture, semantic relations (synonym, antonym, cf), notes, cognates, derived forms, example sentence link (text, free translation)
- create **sentence analysis**: phonemicization, morpheme glossing, part of speech, free translation in English, notes, link to lexicon (lexnum), link to abbreviations
- Create word-level and morpheme-level **concordances**
- Incorporate previous work by Jeanie Bell in 2010


guwamu_abbrev
abbrev
meaning
type
note
cf
grammar
date
guwamu_lex
morpheme
alt
underlying
lang
lxnum
ps
subcat
gloss
definition
sem-class
eth
sci
sci-source
nt
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ant
cf
sub
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cog-num
recorder
speaker
wnum
ex-ref
ex-form
ex-trans
date
guwamu_notes
ex-ref
wurm
tx-B
mg-B
tx-A
m-A
mg-A
ps
subcat
lxnum
trans
note-B
note-A
recorder
speaker
creator
source
date
Note: grey cells generated via software lookup
guwamu_people
id
name
role
lang
nt
cf
date
guwamu_cognates
cog-num
lxnum
guwamu
margany
gunya
bidjara
biri
muruwari
note
date
guwamu_wordlist
Word-form
wnum
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lxnum
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note
c
count
ex-ref
date
guwamu_morphemelist
morpheme-form
lxnum
gloss
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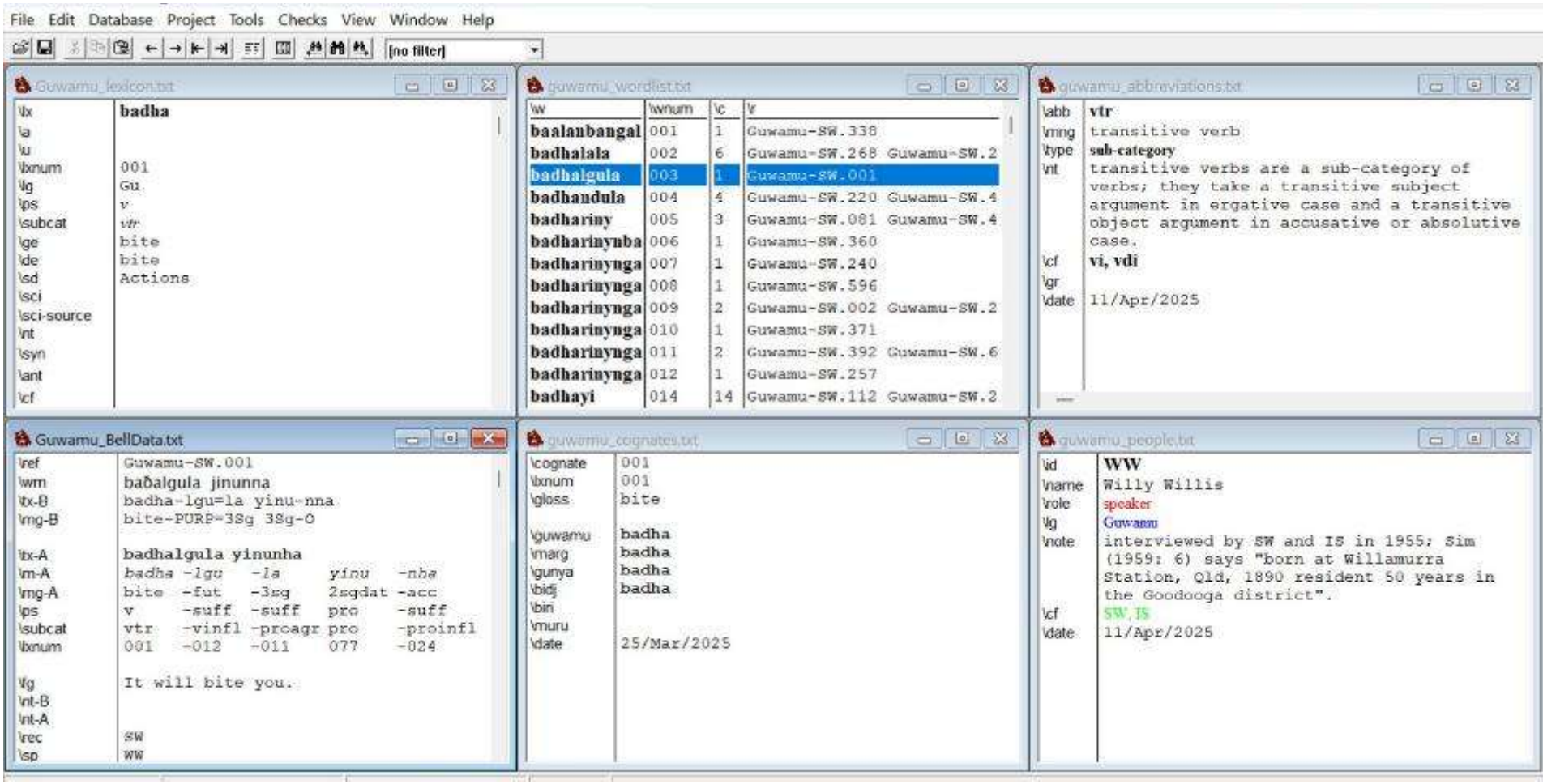
c
count
ex-ref
date
Guwamu relational model – non-normalised


File Edit Database Project Tools Checks View Window Help
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Guwamu_lexicon.txt
\lx badha
\a
\u
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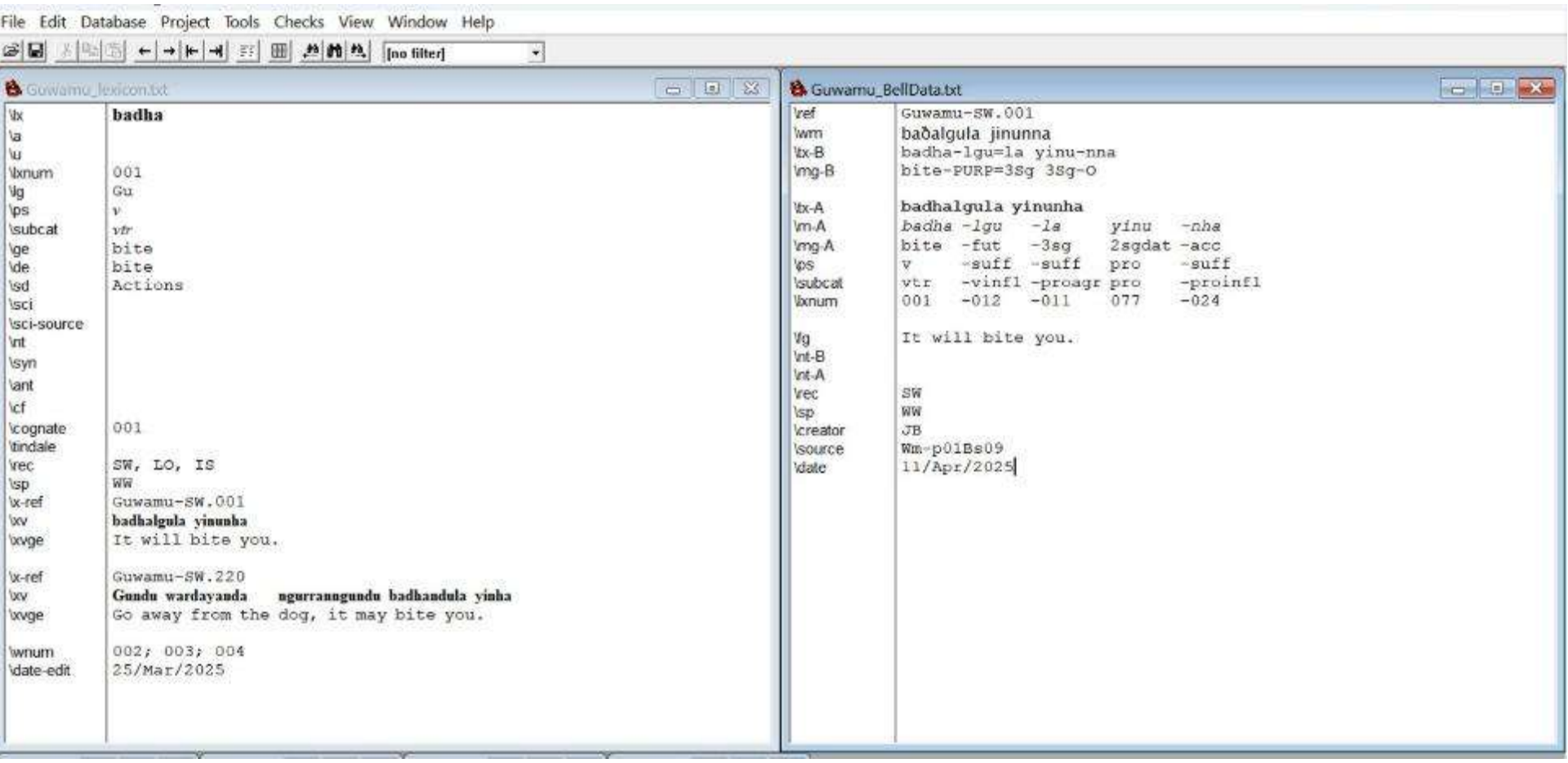
\lg Gu
\ps v
\subcat vtr
\ge bite
\de bite
\sd Actions
\sci
\sci-source
\nt
\syn
\ant
\cf
guwamu_wordlist.txt
\w \wnum \c \r
baalanbangal 001 1 Guwamu-SW.338
badhalala 002 6 Guwamu-SW.268 Guwamu-SW.2
badhalgula 003 1 Guwamu-SW.001
badhandula 004 4 Guwamu-SW.220 Guwamu-SW.4
badharimy 005 3 Guwamu-SW.081 Guwamu-SW.4
badharimynba 006 1 Guwamu-SW.360
badharimynga 007 1 Guwamu-SW.240
badharimynga 008 1 Guwamu-SW.596
badharimynga 009 2 Guwamu-SW.002 Guwamu-SW.2
badharimynga 010 1 Guwamu-SW.371
badharimynga 011 2 Guwamu-SW.392 Guwamu-SW.6
badharimynga 012 1 Guwamu-SW.257
badhayi 014 14 Guwamu-SW.112 Guwamu-SW.2
guwamu_abbreviations.txt
\abb vtr
\mng transitive verb
\type sub-category
\nt transitive verbs are a sub-category of verbs; they take a transitive subject argument in ergative case and a transitive object argument in accusative or absolutive case.
\cf vi, vdi
\gr
\date 11/Apr/2025
Guwamu_BellData.txt
\ref Guwamu-SW.001
\wm baḏalgula jinunna
\tx-B badha-lgu=la yinu-nna
\mg-B bite-PURP=3Sg 3Sg-O
\tx-A badhalgula yinunha
\m-A badha -lgu -la yinu -nha
\mg-A bite -fut -3sg 2sgdat -acc
\ps v -suff -suff pro -suff
\subcat vtr -vinfl -proagr pro -proinfl
\lxnum 001 -012 -011 077 -024
\lg It will bite you.
\nt-B
\nt-A
\rec SW
\sp WW
guwamu_cognates.txt
\cognate 001
\lxnum 001
\gloss bite
\guwamu badha
\marg badha
\gunya badha
\bidj badha
\bin
\muru
\date 25/Mar/2025
guwamu_people.txt
\id WW
\name Willy Willis
\role speaker
\lg Guwamu
\note interviewed by SW and IS in 1955; Sim (1959: 6) says "born at Willamurra Station, Qld, 1890 resident 50 years in the Goodooga district".
\cf SW, IS
\date 11/Apr/2025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\sci-source
\nt
\syn
\ant
\cf
\cognate 001
\tindale
\rec SW, LO, IS
\sp WW
\x-ref Guwamu-SW.001
\xv badhalgula yinunha
\xvge It will bite you.
\x-ref Guwamu-SW.220
\xv Gundu wardayanda ngurranngundu badhandula yinha
\xvge Go away from the dog, it may bite you.
\wnum 002; 003; 004
\date-edit 25/Mar/2025
Guwamu_BellData.txt
\ref Guwamu-SW.001
\wm baðalgula jinunna
\tx-B badha-lgu=la yinu-nna
\mg-B bite-PURP=3Sg 3Sg-O
\tx-A badhalgula yinunha
\m-A badha -lgu -la yinu -nha
\mg-A bite -fut -3sg 2sgdat -acc
\ps v -suff -suff pro -suff
\subcat vtr -vinfl -proagr pro -proinfl
\lxnum 001 -012 -011 077 -024
\g It will bite you.
\nt-B
\nt-A
\rec SW
\sp WW
\creator JB
\source Wm-p01Bs09
\date 11/Apr/2025

Outputs to date

- Draft Guwamu-English reference dictionary
- Draft reference grammar chapters (cf. Skinner 1985)
- Published Guwamu children's story by Cheryl Levy and Christopher Bassi

banggard *n.* back. *Category:* Body part. *Etym:* Gunya, Margany.

banggu *n.* hard dirt, stone. *Category:* Nature. **Dhambal banggunggu gudjayanda gardarru gundu** Hit the snake with a stone before it gets away. **Marda waayanda ngadjunha banggu banyaarri yilunha dhabalguli** Give me a hand, we two will roll this big stone.

banggun *n.* head. *Category:* Body part. *Etym:* Gunya.

banyaarri *n.* big. *Category:* Qualities. *Ant:* **gayugaanba**. *Etym:* Gunya.

banydja *vtr. to* sing. *Category:* Language. *Note:* southern Guwamu dialect *Syn:* **wumba**. *See:* **mudhun**. *Etym:* Gunya, Margany. **Muginydju mudhun banydjalgula** The woman will sing.

banydjurd *n.* belly, stomach. *Category:* Body part. *Etym:* Bidjara, Gunya, Margany.

bara *vtr. to* hit with hand. *Category:* Actions.

bardal *adv.* tomorrow. *Category:* Time.

bardi *adv.* maybe. *Category:* **Particle**. *Etym:* Margany.

bardu *n.* river. *Category:* Nature. *Etym:* Gunya, Margany.

–bari *nder.* having nominal derivational affix allomorph. *Category:* Grammar. *Note:* used after consonant-final stems *Syn:* **–wari**.

barra *vtr. to* scratch. *Category:* Actions. *Syn:* **baa**. **Barrayanda nganha banggarda** Scratch me on the back!

barra–la *vi. to* scratch oneself. **Bawurra barralanbangala** The red kangaroo is scratching itself.

barran.girri *n.* vulgar, coarse. *Category:* Qualities.

barrangirri *quant.* one. *Category:* Quantities. *See:* **bulardi**; **gagurbarri**.

barrarru *adv.* quietly. *Category:* Qualities. *Ant:* **mirra**.

barrbirda *n.* echidna. *Category:* Animals. *Tachyglossus aculeatus*.

barrbu *vtr. to* spear. *Category:* Actions.

barri *vi. to* cry, weep. *Category:* Language. *Etym:* Bidjara.

barriny *n.* burnt. *Category:* Qualities.

barrugirri *n.* name of Southern dialect, spoken by Willy Willis. *Category:* Language.

bawul *n.* chicken, fowl. *Category:* Birds. *Note:* loan from English

bawurra *n.* male red kangaroo. *Category:* Animals. *Osphranter rufus*. *Note:* used as a generic term for kangaroos *See:* **gula**; **gumbarr**; **dhugandu**.

bayuli *vi. to* crawl. *Category:* Motion. **Ngunan dhambal bayulinydjangala** A snake is crawling along there.

–bi *suff.* plural? *Category:* Grammar.

bidhal *n.* bark of tree. *Category:* Trees. *Etym:* Bidjara.

bidhu *n.* other, other one. *Category:* Quantities. **gandu gaba yibanydjangala yilunggu bidhunggu bundhalala nhunga gardarru gamu ganydjagirri** The child really drowned. That other one (child) picked it up, before the water would have choked him.

bigany *n.* fingernail. *Category:* Body part. *Etym:* Muruwari.

bii *adv.* can. *Category:* **Particle**.

5 PRONOMINAL MORPHOLOGY

5.1 Free Pronouns

Pronouns in Guwamu operate in a Nominative-Accusative pattern, distinguish singular, dual and plural, numbers, and the third person forms may refer to non-human animate nouns. Inflection is regular in most instances, and case endings are added to the item in a fixed order. Table 5.1 shows the full paradigms. There were no tokens of the forms in brackets; they have been predicted from the rest of the paradigm. The third person pronoun is usually used in accusative form. Oblique third person reference uses the demonstrative 'yilungu-', which inflects more like a pronoun than the other demonstratives. There are not many examples of the oblique forms. The accusative form of the first person singular is most often 'ngana'. The dative form of a pronoun is used to indicate a possessor-possessed relationship if the possessed noun is absolutive. Otherwise, the genitive stem form is used, and a co-referential case marking is suffixed to this stem.

(180) thurri ngatyu ngurran
good 1Sg:DAT dog
"My dog is good"

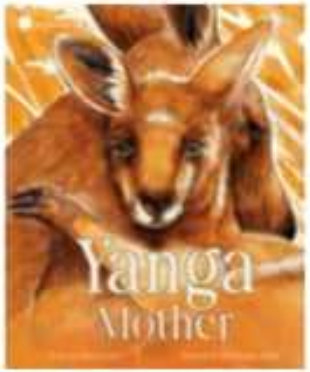
(1A)

(181) ngurran yinuriny-tyu thara patha-la -la
dog 2Sg:GEN -ERG thigh bite -PAST-3Sg
ngatyuna
1Sg:ACC
"Your dog bit my leg"

(34A)

FIRST NATIONS

BILINGUAL



ISBN (978) 7022 6831 1
ANZ release July 2024
RRP AU$24.99
Category Picture book
Format Hardback | 215 x 280mm | full colour
Extent 32pp
Rights held World inc. film/TV

Cheryl Leavy and Christopher Bassi

Yanga Mother

***Yanga Mother* is a timely and poetic celebration of First Nations languages. This powerful bilingual story honours connection to Country and the unbreakable bonds of never-ending motherly love.**

Wandaguli Yanga. There is always Mother.

From award-winning writer Cheryl Leavy comes this beautiful picture book in Kooma and English about a grey kangaroo and her joey, and the unbreakable bonds of family.

With artwork from renowned Meriam and Yupungathi artist Christopher Bassi, this gentle yet powerful story honours the Stolen Generations, First Nations matriarchs, and never-ending motherly love.

'Yanga Mother is a beautiful, heart-warming story that celebrates the power of Language to comfort young readers and teach them the importance of Country and how it nurtures us always.'

— Yasmin Smith, Editor

Cheryl Leavy is an award-winning writer and poet from the Kooma and Noiri Nations in western and central Queensland. She is passionate about language revitalisation and working in her own language. In 2022, Cheryl won the Dodgeroo Noonuccal Poetry Prize and has appeared at Brisbane Writers Festival, Byron Writers Festival, with the Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, and more. She has served on several boards including the Queensland Art Gallery, Canberra Museum and Gallery, ACT Cultural Council, the Queensland Music Festival, and currently the Brisbane Writers Festival and the Institute of Modern Art.

Christopher Bassi is an artist of Meriam, Yupungathi and British descent. Working with archetypal models of representational painting, his work engages with the medium as sociological and historical text and as a means to address issues surrounding cultural identity, alternative genealogies, and colonial legacies in Australia and the South Pacific. Chris's recent work will be included in the Museum of Contemporary Art's exhibition, *Primavera 2023: Young Australian Artists*.

Yilungga yabangga
Everywhere

Wandhandja-wandhandja
Everywhen

Page Proofs | Final pages from Yanga Mother by Cheryl Leavy and Christopher Bassi

Yanga dhurdu

Mother is sun

Case study 2: Reuther-Scherer Dieri-English dictionary

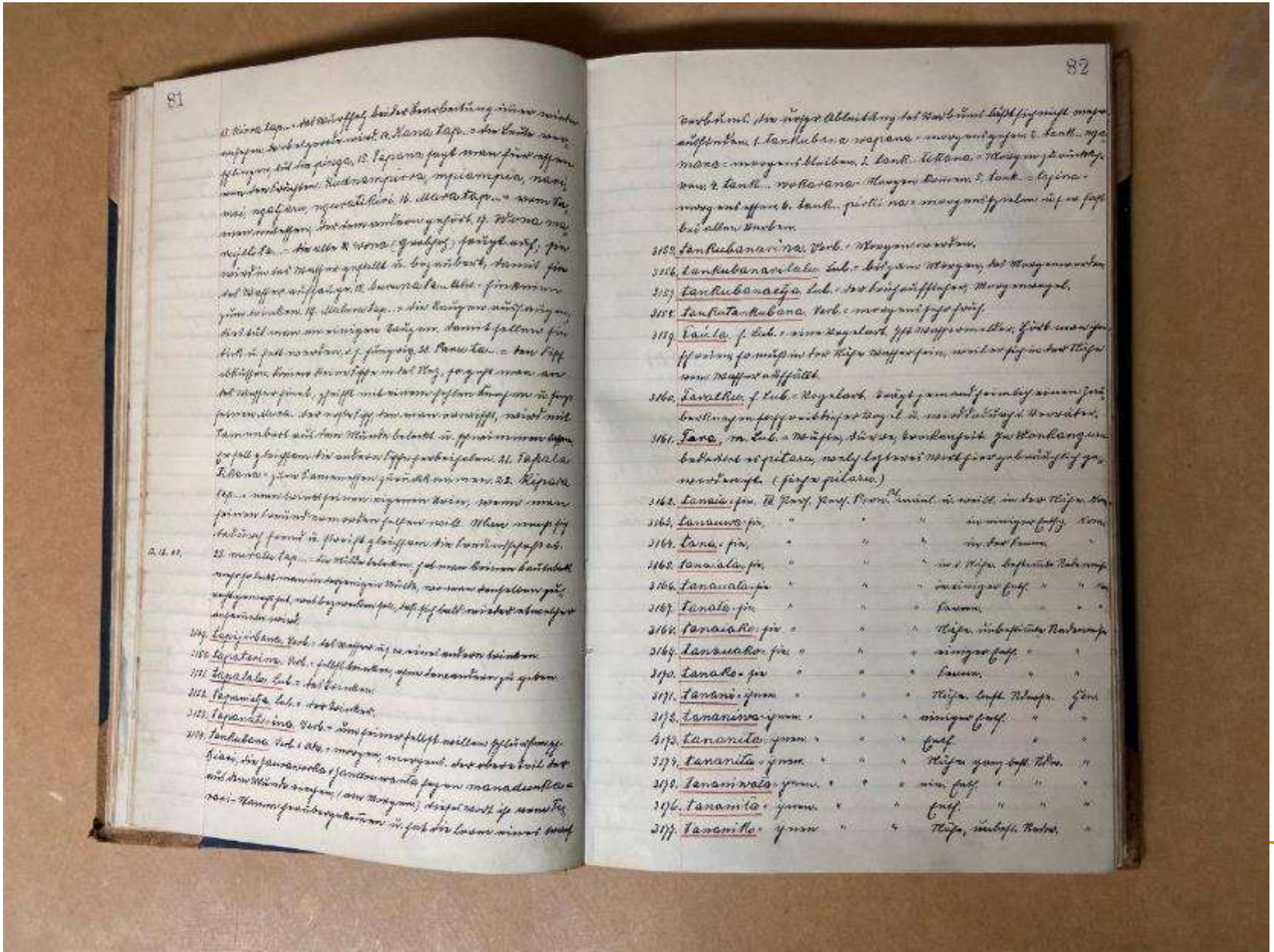
Diyari language and Dieri people

Mission timeline

- 1866 German Lutheran mission established at Killalpaninna on Cooper Creek
- 1888 J.G. Reuther joins mission (27 y.o.)
- 1892-1894 Reuther and Strehlow translate Bible
- Reuther & Strehlow 1897 *Testamenta Marra*
- 1906 Reuther leaves mission
- 1914 Reuther dies in freak accident
- 1916 mission closed, people disperse (Austin 2014)
- 1917 SA Museum buys Reuther MS and ethnographic collection

J.G. and Pauline Reuther

Reuther Diari-German dictionary



Scherer Diari-English translation (Reuther 1901)

IV,80 9) kumari tapana = 'to drink blood; to suck at a wound'

When he is first being made a man, the wiljaru opens his mouth widely and drinks the blood [offered to him],

10) kumari tapana = 'to drink blood', i.e. to drink the blood that has been washed off a spear, wherewith a man has been killed. The young men have to do this, in order to become fearless,

11) danju tapana = 'to drink danju 'a variety of fruit'. In this instance one does not [use the term] 'eat',

12) paljangani tapana = 'to chew[1] a variety of [tree] gum'

IV,81 13) kirra tapana = 'to inspect a boomerang time and again' (during the making, to see if it is straight).

14) kana tapana = 'to devour the people.' The kutji does this.

15) tapana is used for 'eating' of the following fruits: kudnampirra, mpiampia. narimai. ngaliaru [and] nguratikiri.

16) mara tapana = 'to join in the eating of seed' which belongs to someone else.

17) wona marujeli tapana = 'for an old wona 'digging stick' to absorb' the water. This is placed in the water and enchanted, so that it may absorb the water,

1. Reuther: "schnullen." P.A.S.

Diari-English dictionary: some statistics

- 2,180 page typescript (published as microfiche)
- Digitisation and XML markup (Austin 2023): 4,262 entries, 15,955 sub-entries, 27,472 Diyari expressions, 13,133 (classified) notes, 3,879 examples (Diyari, literal translation, free translation), 1,766 translator footnotes, 1,273 German expressions
- Main dictionary XML file 162,870 lines (110,165 tags) 6.05 Mbytes
- Supplement XML files: comparative lexicon, comparative sentences, placenames, ancestral beings, missing entries

XML sample

```
4945  </entry>
4946  <entry lbl="66" num="66" suf="">
4947     <lemma>
4948        <di>bununu pirna</di>
4949        <pos val=""/>
4950     </lemma>
4951     <note type="editor" subtype="morphology"><ortho>pununu pirna</ortho></note>
4952     <gloss>large itch</gloss>
4953     <note type="idiom">This is used in a figurative sense of a man who rejects his wife, in
4954        order to look around for another [woman], and after that for [still] another. The idea
4955        is thereby expressed: 'He is a man driven by sensual appetite for one girl or woman
4956        after another'. Cf. <di>baka pirna</di>.</note>
4957     <note type="mythology">the term <di>bununu parana</di> relates to the <di>Mura</di><mura
4958           value="female">Warilani</mura>
4959        <fn author="Scherer" num="fn1"><note>In all probability this name should read <mura value="female"
4960              >Wariliwulani</mura>.</note></fn> an old woman who once had many sores and rashes
4961           (<di>tapa</di>). While these were [in the process of] healing,
4962        they [still] caused her considerable itching. So she used her hands to soothe this
4963        irritation of the skin. That is how the word is said to have originated.</note>
```

Strengths

- Huge number of entries, sub-entries, and examples gives rich information about possible semantics of Diyari lexicon, especially collocations and contexts
- 610 idioms represented, many not present in modern sources
- Rich encyclopedic information on culture and society (e.g. 915 ethnographic notes with 18 sub-types: 39 artefacts, 52 death, 30 kinship, 22 ceremony)
- Basic information on mythology for 461 entries (cf. other Reuther volumes)
- Comparative wordlist (157 entries), sentences (10)

Editorial interventions

- Typos corrected in Diyari, English, German
- Where forms are known from modern sources they are added in the current orthography (for 2,486 entries)
- Translator's English language errors corrected
- Removed 'a' and 'the' in glosses, as per lexicographic practice
- Scopal ambiguities resolved (e.g. multiple modifiers of head noun), e.g. 'clear, unobscured view' → 'clear view, unobscured view'

Editing

- Contextual information (e.g. selection) moved from “gloss” to “context note”, e.g. ‘to duck from the boomerangs, (when they come flying through the air)’ → <gloss>to duck from boomerangs</gloss><note type=”context”>when they come flying through the air.</note>

- All/any of the above, e.g. ‘to eat, chew (e.g. tobacco) for someone else’ → <gloss>to eat for someone else, to chew for someone else</gloss><note type=”context”>e.g. tobacco.</note>; e.g. ‘to look well after (e.g. widows, children)’ → <gloss>to look after well</gloss> <note type="context">e.g. widows, children.</note>

Editing

- glosses of idioms are clearly divided into literal gloss and idiomatic meaning, e.g. '[lit: to insult the water], i.e. not to take any fish out of forbidden waters' → 'to insult water' *Idiom*: not to take fish out of forbidden waters;

- Footnotes appear at their relevant location in the text (not at bottom of page) and are popups triggered by mouse over;

- Other editorial notes, e.g. essential clarifications, corrections of translator's comments in footnotes. Additions by the editor appear preceded by an asterisk

Editing – sensitive expressions

Reuther's dictionary contains expressions and opinions that were common among missionaries and other non-Indigenous people in the 19th and early 20th century which Aboriginal people and others may now find offensive. Examples are "witchdoctor", "heathen", "pagan", and "native". There are 386 instances of such potentially offensive expressions. In the XML file these are tagged and a substitute provided,

e.g.1 like the cap on a <substitute val="">native</substitute> man's head

e.g.2 in conformity to <substitute val="the Law">pagan [or tribal] law</substitute>

User interfaces

1. **Specialist edition** for researchers and advanced learners -- presents all material in Scherer translation with editorial amendments. It is formatted by a CSS that converts XML tags to display as format (colours, bold, italics, indentation, alignment, pop ups) in a browser

2. Limited search capabilities within the browser, minimal use of hypertext

Interface1

10

bakina *vi*

Spelling:* **paki-rna

to break open; to open up of its own natural force or instinct; to burst open; to crack; to burst asunder

Context: Used in Diari of clouds, when they send forth rain in torrents, or when they disperse. Examples in Diari follow.

[1]

> **tapa bakina warai**
> ***the sore has opened up; the wound has burst***

{page 11} [Vol. I, p. 9]

[2]

> **nguramarali bakila wapaia**
> ***the rosy-fingered morning has dawned***

[3]

> **nauja marda bakina warai**
> ***the stone has cracked***
> *Context:* from the heat.

[4]

> **nauja turu bakina warai**
> ***the fire has burst into flame***
> *Context:* from wood laid on the coals

Supplements (e.g. missing entries)

Presented as per the Specialist edition but with lots of additional materials added by the editor, including references to additional sources, cognates in related languages, scientific identifications, hypertext links to Wikipedia entries, images, hypertext links back to the main dictionary

Sorted in proper alphabetical order – looks more like a "proper" dictionary

Balance between "faithfulness" and adding value

Supplement

3S

bakubaku *n*

**Spelling:* unknown

type of animal

Editorial Note:* this is probably **pakupaku 'crested bellbird'. See also Hercus (2014: 215) for the cognate term in Arabana-Wangkangurru.

**Scientific name:* Oreoica gutturalis

**Scientific reference:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crested_bellbird

Wikipedia link (opens new tab)

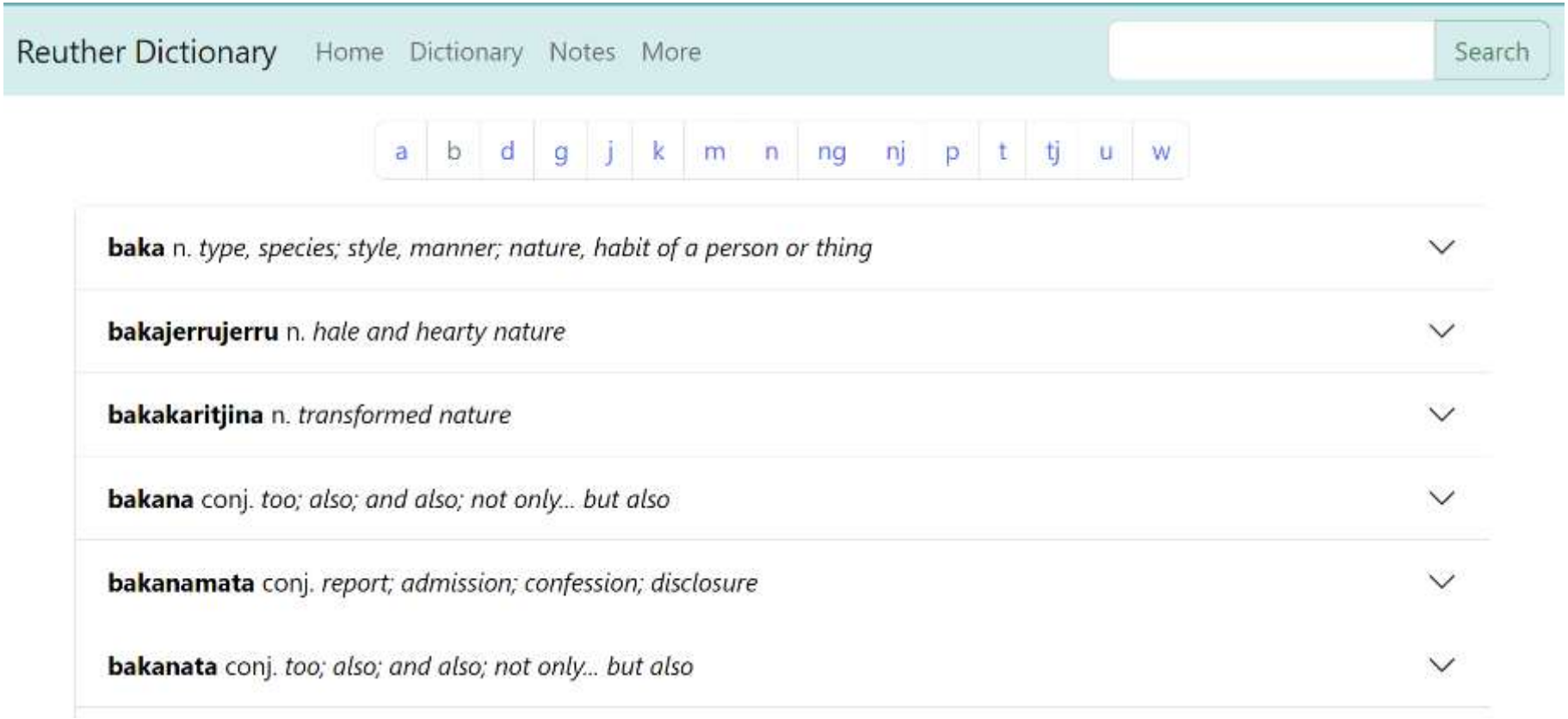
Editorial Note:* this item only appears as a sub-entry of **thidna ***foot***

**See:* No. 3270-76

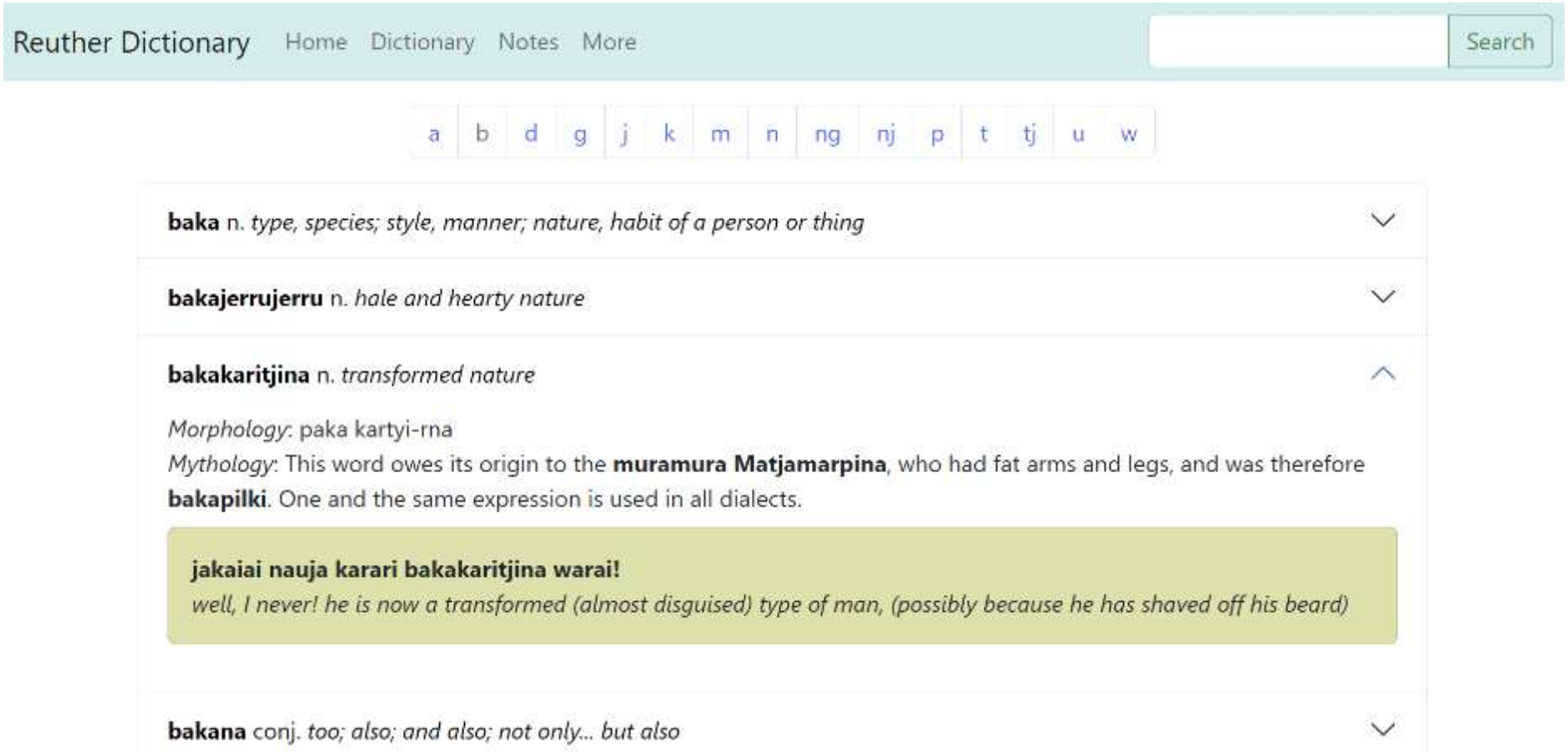
Interface 2

2. **User-friendly edition** for learners, community members, interested others -- presents all material in Scherer translation with editorial amendments, but without footnotes, page numbers, and with substitutions of sensitive vocabulary.
3. Three interaction methods:
   - by letter groups that show Diyari vocabulary and English gloss only. Users can click to open up full entry display for items that interest them

Letter group display



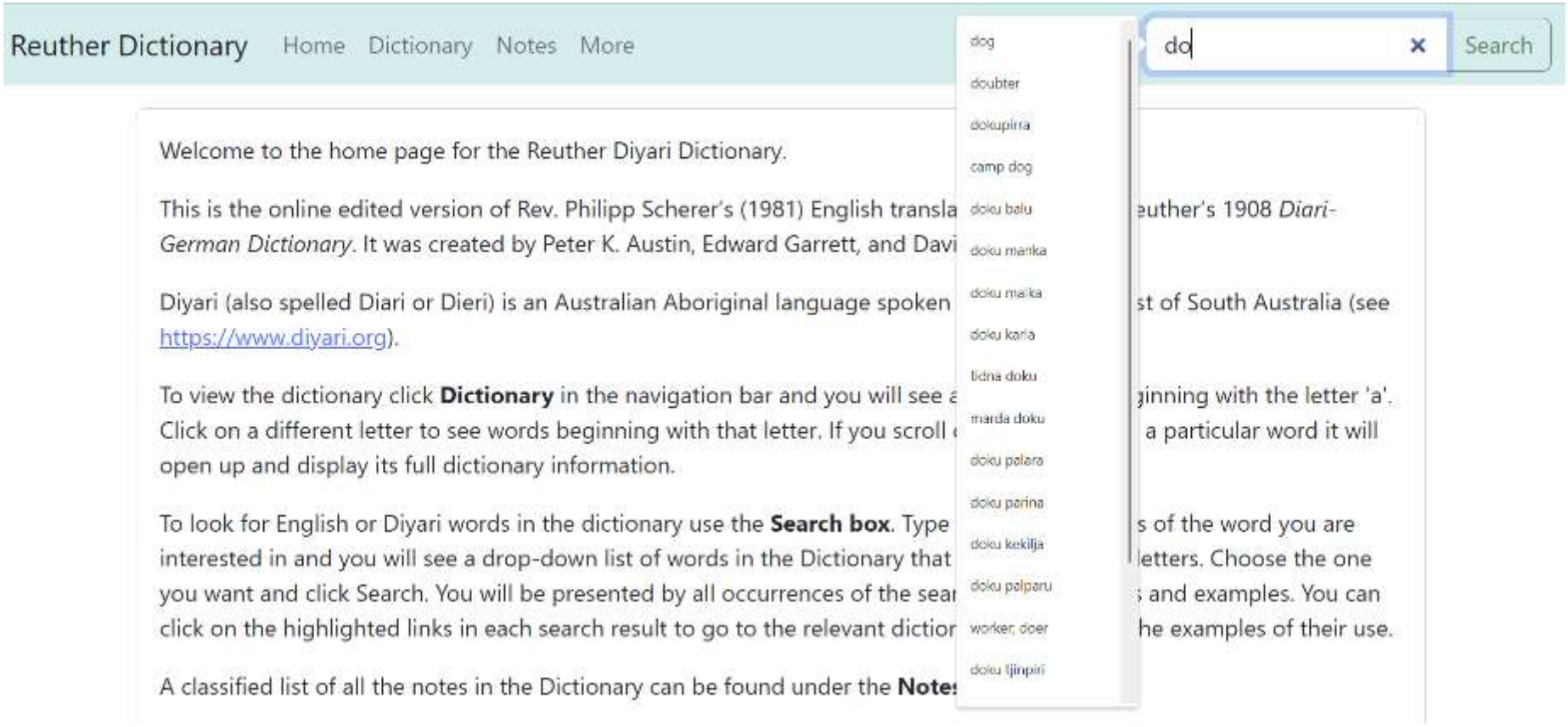
Expanded entry



For users

2. other interaction methods:
   - by search over Diyari or English expressions. The search box presents pop-up lists of available terms in forms or glosses and returns all entries with the search term – search begins with first typed letter and narrows as user types
   - by categorized Notes

Search “do”


Reuther Dictionary
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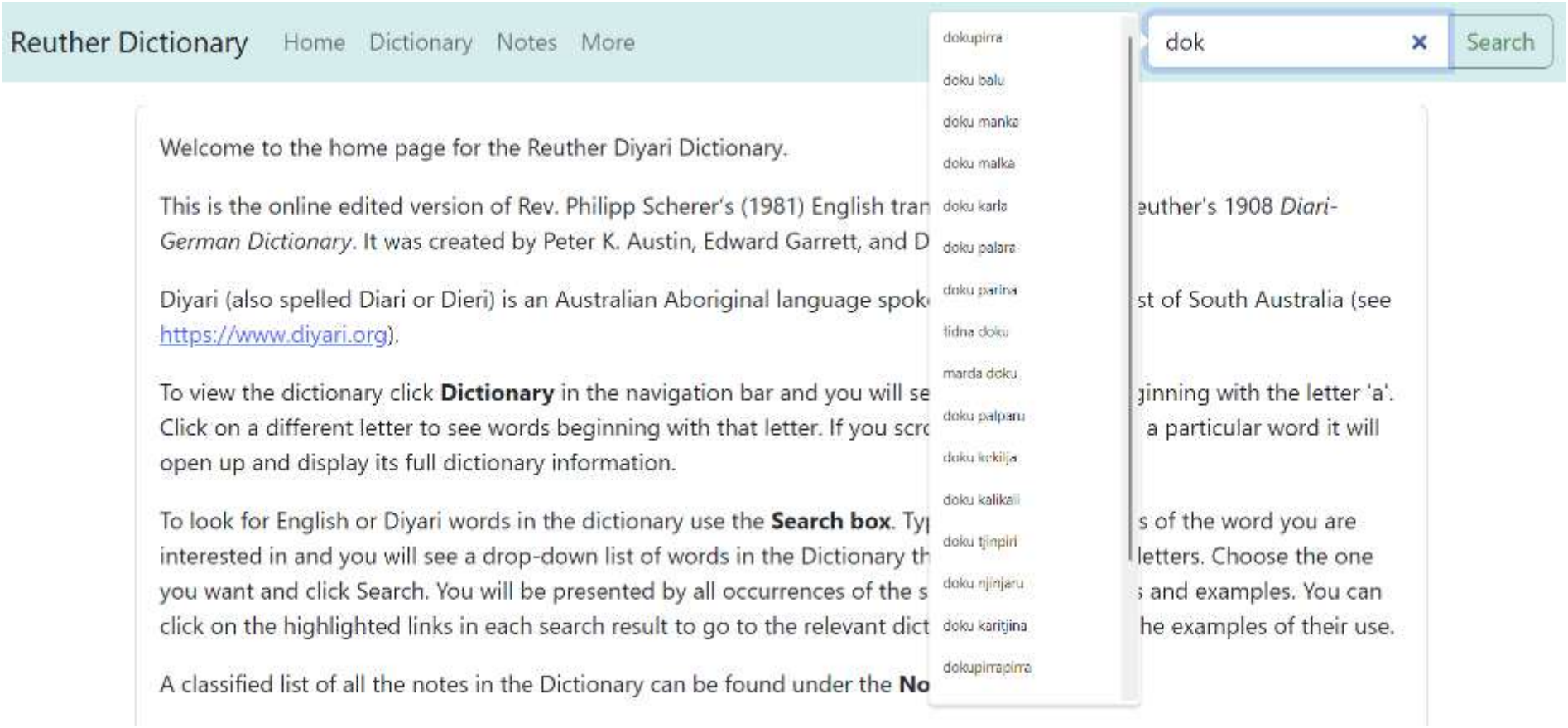
Dictionary
Notes
More
do
Search
dog
doubter
dokupirra
camp dog
doku balu
doku manka
doku marka
doku karla
lidna doku
marda doku
doku palara
doku parina
doku kekilja
doku palparu
worker, doer
doku tjinpiri
Welcome to the home page for the Reuther Diyari Dictionary.
This is the online edited version of Rev. Philipp Scherer's (1981) English transla
euther's 1908 Diari-
German Dictionary. It was created by Peter K. Austin, Edward Garrett, and Davi
Diyari (also spelled Diari or Dieri) is an Australian Aboriginal language spoken
st of South Australia (see
https://www.diyari.org).
To view the dictionary click Dictionary in the navigation bar and you will see a
ginning with the letter 'a'.
Click on a different letter to see words beginning with that letter. If you scroll
a particular word it will
open up and display its full dictionary information.
To look for English or Diyari words in the dictionary use the Search box. Type
s of the word you are
interested in and you will see a drop-down list of words in the Dictionary that
letters. Choose the one
you want and click Search. You will be presented by all occurrences of the sear
and examples. You can
click on the highlighted links in each search result to go to the relevant dictior
he examples of their use.
A classified list of all the notes in the Dictionary can be found under the Note

Search “dok”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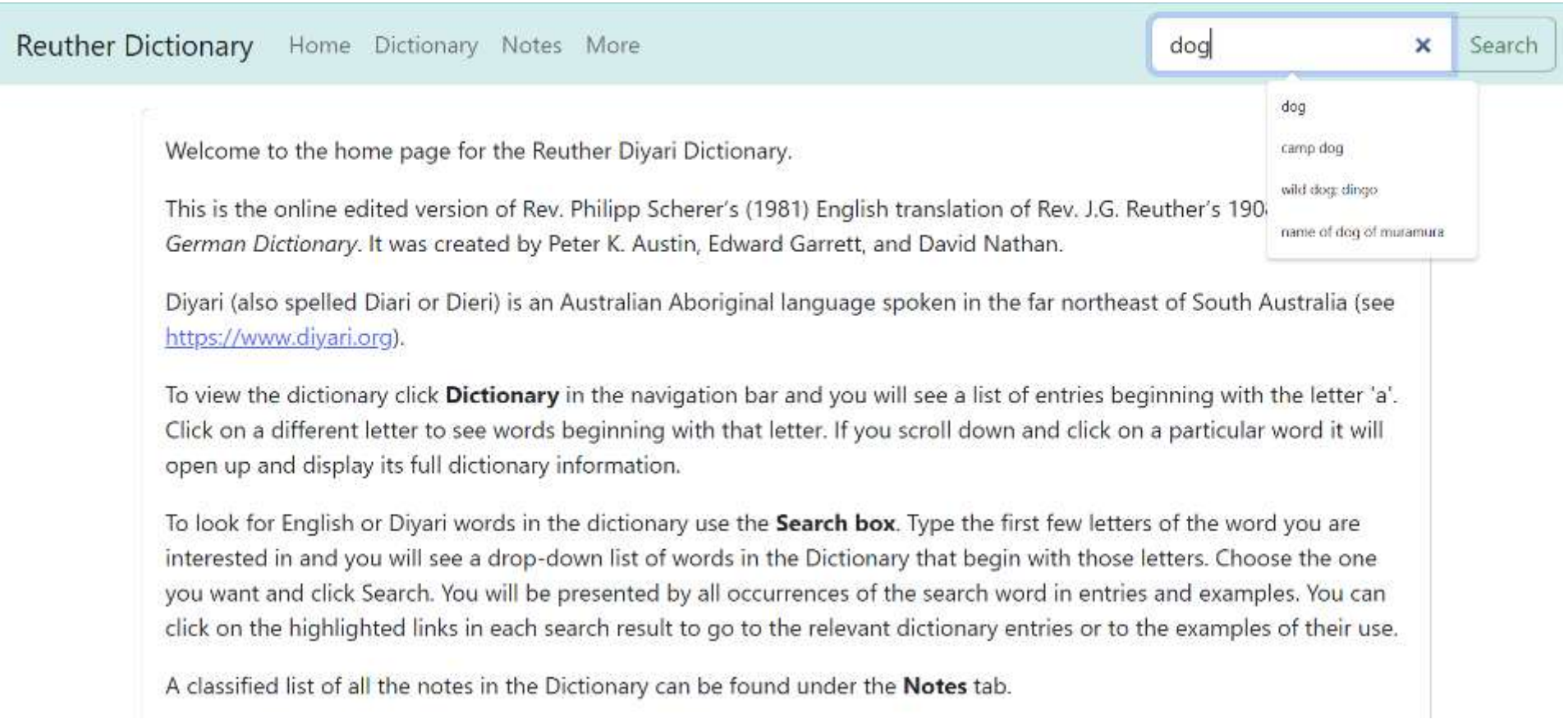
s and examples. You can
click on the highlighted links in each search result to go to the relevant dict
he examples of their use.
A classified list of all the notes in the Dictionary can be found under the No

Search “dog”


Reuther Dictionary
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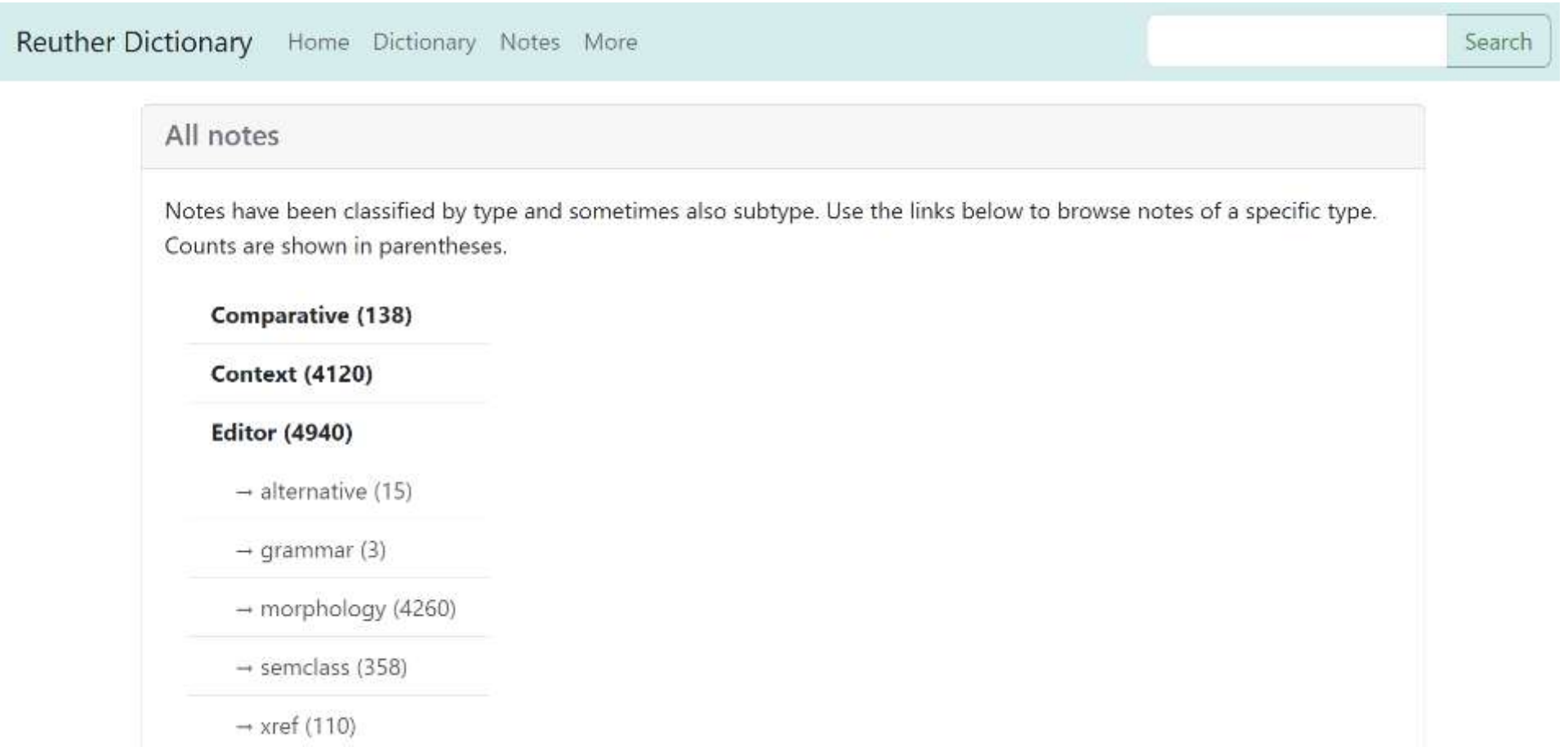
camp dog
wild dog; dingo
name of dog of muramura
Welcome to the home page for the Reuther Diyari Dictionary.
This is the online edited version of Rev. Philipp Scherer's (1981) English translation of Rev. J.G. Reuther's 190
German Dictionary. It was created by Peter K. Austin, Edward Garrett, and David Nathan.
Diyari (also spelled Diari or Dieri) is an Australian Aboriginal language spoken in the far northeast of South Australia (see https://www.diyari.org).
To view the dictionary click Dictionary in the navigation bar and you will see a list of entries beginning with the letter 'a'. Click on a different letter to see words beginning with that letter. If you scroll down and click on a particular word it will open up and display its full dictionary information.
To look for English or Diyari words in the dictionary use the Search box. Type the first few letters of the word you are interested in and you will see a drop-down list of words in the Dictionary that begin with those letters. Choose the one you want and click Search. You will be presented by all occurrences of the search word in entries and examples. You can click on the highlighted links in each search result to go to the relevant dictionary entries or to the examples of their use.
A classified list of all the notes in the Dictionary can be found under the Notes tab.

Notes list


Reuther Dictionary
Home
Dictionary
Notes
More
Search
All notes
Notes have been classified by type and sometimes also subtype. Use the links below to browse notes of a specific type. Counts are shown in parentheses.
Comparative (138)
Context (4120)
Editor (4940)
→ alternative (15)
→ grammar (3)
→ morphology (4260)
→ semclass (358)
→ xref (110)

Lexicographic issues

- Entries are sometimes partially duplicated, e.g.
  - **dapana** ‘to drink; to suck, to suck up; to kiss; to chew; to eat (of grounded seed); to belch or burp; to wet or moisten; to pour, to swallow’
  - **tapana** ‘to drink’, but its sub-entries contain glosses ‘to slurp, to suck, to absorb (water), chew, lick’

- Sub-entries are often randomly listed in an apparent stream of consciousness (by Reuther or his teachers)

- Some common terms have dozens of sub-entries, with tenuous semantics, e.g.
  - **tidna** ‘foot’ has 223 sub-entries, many of which are names for animals that have tracks
  - **tandra** ‘fruit’ has 127 sub-entries, most of which are names for unidentified plants

Lexicographic challenges

- some relatively common words are mistranslated, e.g.
  - **kaku** ‘sister (brother speaking)’ → ‘older sister’
  - **ngatata** ‘younger brother’ → ‘younger sibling’
  - **kami** ‘paternal grandmother’ → ‘father’s mother, father's mother’s brother’
- over 300 items do not have a headword entry but appear only as a sub-entry, often under a semantically loosely connected headword, or in examples, e.g. **tindritindri** ‘willy wagtail’ appears under **tidna** ‘foot’ only (as an animal that has tracks), **karku** ‘red ochre’ appears in 33 sub-entries and 10 examples but has no entry itself (c.f. **bukatu** ‘pink ochre’)
- Entries Supplement for these – many terms refer to flora and fauna, which Reuther apparently had no interest in but which we can identify from other sources, some contemporary to him, e.g. Gason (1886)
- Significant sense, reference, and cultural information can be scattered across entries in notes or examples

Proposal

- The main Reuther-Scherer dictionary needs a **stand-off XML index** that also incorporates material from all other legacy and modern sources (something like what we have done for the missing items Supplement)
- It should be properly sorted and structured lexicographically to create a stronger Diyari-English bilingual encyclopaedic dictionary that builds on Reuther's strengths while filling the gaps and correcting his errors (especially in phonology and morphology)
- We are working on this currently using Toolbox and Lexique Pro to generate both printable and web accessible versions

Social lives and real world politics

- Both projects demonstrate importance of making sense of and coming to grips with “social life” of legacy materials: “they are the products of past human meaning-making activity, they are invested with the goals, knowledge, points of view, and circumstances of those who were involved in their creation” (Dobrin & Schwartz 2022, see also Austin 2013 on “meta-documentation”).
- Archival materials also have a contemporary social life embedded within the socio-politics of heritage communities and modern stake-holders – for Indigenous Australia labelled “Data sovereignty”, includes control of access and use of archival data, including publication (Woods 2006, 2023; Bell 2010)

Social lives and real world politics

- Complex political negotiations needed – in Diyari case my 50 year relationship and 12 years of revitalisation work with community have assisted
- For Guwamu, discussions are ongoing. Issues:
  - ‘insider’ versus ‘outsider’ and debate about their roles and relative positions
  - Internal community disagreements – FB group posts
  - research in 2020 by late Jeanie Bell, Jagera and Dulingbara Indigenous linguist employed by Kooma community
  - Potential interest by Kooma students in creating dictionaries and grammars – in collaboration?
  - Wider political discourse (“Blak Sovereignty”)

Conclusions

- Using relational or markup data models we can add significant value to legacy materials, but must meta-document what is added to the “original” by whom
- Two case studies present possibilities for lexical, semantic, ethnographic, grammatical research
- Need to understand complex social lives of materials, both at time of creation and contemporary
- Cannot exclude political and social (and ethical) dimensions in DiLegMa (dealing with legacy materials)

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