AN ELEMENTARY
WAMBAYA DICTIONARY
(With English-Wambaya Finder List)

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Preface

This dictionary was compiled by Rachel Nordlinger (University of Melbourne) based on work with a number of Wambaya and Gudanji speakers. I would particular like to thank the following people for all of their work and patience, which made the development of this dictionary possible: Molly Grueman, Minnie Nimara, Mavis Hogan, Judy Holt, Powder O'Keefe, Topsy Green and Harry Lanson. I would also like to thank Papulu Aparr-kari Language Centre in Tennant Creek, Rebecca Green, Robert Hoogenraad and Nick Thieberger for help with various parts of this project, and AIATSIS for generously funding it.

This edition of the dictionary is aimed specifically at younger Wambaya people who are interested in learning some more of their language. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the Learner's Guide to Basic Wambaya (also compiled by Rachel Nordlinger), assuming only the basic grammatical terminology that is explained in the Learner's Guide. Those who are interested in more detailed grammatical information than is contained here are referred to *A Grammar of Wambaya, Northern Territory (Australia)* by Rachel Nordlinger (1998), published by Pacific Linguistics, Canberra.

The gradual improvement of this dictionary is a long-term project, and thus corrections and/or suggestions are encouraged. These should be sent to Rachel Nordlinger racheln@unimelb.edu.au.

The alphabetical order in this dictionary follows the Wambaya spelling system, thus:

A, B, D, G, I, J, L, M, N, NG, NY, R, U, W, Y

Gudanji words

Wambaya and Gudanji are very close and are often mixed together. Some old people say that they have always been that way, and that we should not even try to split them apart. For this reason, I have also included Gudanji words in this dictionary. These are marked with (G) where possible, however, it is often difficult for speakers to identify a particular word as either Wambaya or Gudanji and so there may be other Gudanji words that are not marked as such.

Cross-References

1. Where an entry is an alternative spelling, it will refer you to 'see' the preferred spelling. 'Also' is used in the main entry to mark alternative spellings. Where there is some question as to what spelling is correct, the main entry is followed by an alternative spelling marked with a question mark.

2. The basic entry that derived forms are related to is marked with from, and synonyms (sometimes only near-synonyms) are marked with syn.

Sources

This dictionary includes words that have been collected by Rachel Nordlinger with the help of one or more of the Wambaya and Gudanji speakers mentioned in the Preface, as well as words from word lists collected by other people. All words taken from other people's word lists have also been checked with speakers. In a few cases no-one knew the word being checked, and so these words have been marked with their source. These sources are:

JD: John Dymock's list (1985)
KH: Ken Hale's field notes (1959/60)

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used throughout the dictionary.

adj	adjective	part	particle
adv	adverb	pro	pronoun
aux	auxiliary (second word)	vd	ditransitive verb
dem	demonstrative (indicating word)	vi	intransitive verb
int	interrogative (question word)	vrefl	reflexive verb
inter	interjection (can be a sentence on its own)	vs	semi-trans. verb
n	noun	vt	transitive verb

Nominals (nouns and adjectives) are identified as belonging to one of the following four genders/noun classes (if their membership is known):

I	masculine gender
II	feminine gender
III	vegetable gender
IV	neuter gender

The following abbreviations are used to explain different kin terms (words referring to family and relations):

B	brother, brother's
D	daughter, daugher's
F	father, father's
H	husband, husband's
M	mother, mother's
S	son, son's
W	wife, wife's
Z	sister, sister's

So, for example, MM means 'mother's mother', HZ means 'husband's sister', SDH 'son's daughter's husband, etc.