



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 5326

Fieldnotes of Tasaku Tsunoda

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MS 5326: Fieldnotes of Tasaku Tsunoda

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Collection Summary

Creator:	Tsunoda, Tasaku
Title:	Fieldnotes of Tasaku Tsunoda
Collection no:	MS 5326
Reference code:	R01826
Date range:	1975 – 1979
Extent:	0.36 linear metres (2 archival boxes)
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Cultural Sensitivity Statement

Use of the material

When using this finding aid, and the collection described within it, clients are encouraged to be mindful and sensitive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; particularly with regard to the use of this material. This includes:

Language

This finding aid and collection may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally inappropriate and insensitive. The language used in this collection may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Clients may encounter terms and descriptions, which reflect the author's attitude or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, that may be considered inappropriate today.

Deceased persons

Clients using this finding aid should be aware that in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress; and in some cases offend strongly held cultural beliefs.

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Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Open access reading. Open copying for private study, closed quotation.

Access and use conditions - further information

Clients are advised that the collection materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to particular access and use conditions required by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Materials are provided for private study and use, in accordance with the [Copyright Act 1968, Section 51](#) if they have been digitised.

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Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as: Title or description of manuscript item, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS Number, Series Number, Subseries Number, Item or Folder Number.

For example:

75/1, Fieldnotes of Tasaku Tsunoda, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5326, Series 1, Item 1.

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Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

The collection is comprised of fieldnotes, which include the linguistic material primarily on Djaru [Jaru] (K12) language and languages in surrounding areas such as Wanyjirra (K21), Malngin (K30), Ngardi (A121), Mudburra (C25), Gidja [Gija / Kija] (K20), Walmajarri (A66), Yulparija (A67), Kukatja (A68), Wangkajunga (A87), and Gooniyandi (K6). A comparative wordlist of Malngin, Wanyjirra and Ngardi is also included. It was created by Tasaku Tsunoda from 1975 to 1979 during his linguistic fieldwork at Halls Creek and its adjacent areas, East Kimberley, WA, supported by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIAS) research grant.

Provenance

Tasaku Tsunoda donated the material to AIATSIS in February 2016.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

MS 1381, which was deposited in 1982, comprises photocopies of the field notebooks in this collection (MS 5326).

MS 1133 (The Djaru language of Kimberley, Western Australia) is Tasaku Tsunoda's PhD thesis. This collection (MS 5326) contains the fieldnotes created as part of his PhD research at Halls Creek and surrounding area, Western Australia, from 1975 until the 1990s.

MS 5021 includes materials related to Tsunoda's research in Western Australia and transcriptions of the field tapes.

TSUNODA_T01 includes the audio tapes recorded on the same field trips. They are deposited when Tsunoda finished the field trips in 1978 and 1979.

For a complete list of works by Tasaku Tsunoda held by the Library, and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to Audio / Visual material please go to the 'Contact us' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au or phone (02) 6246 1111

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our sensitivity message found on the 'Search the Collection' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au

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Biographical history note

Tasaku Tsunoda is a Japanese linguist, born in Japan in 1946. He was awarded the following degrees:

- (i) BA, Linguistics, The University of Tokyo, 1970,
- (ii) MA, Linguistics, Monash University, 1974, and
- (iii) PhD, Linguistics, Monash University, 1979.

Tsunoda taught and/or worked at Griffith University, The University of Nagoya, The University of Tsukuba, The University of Tokyo, and The National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (“NINJAL”). He retired in 2012 and is the first Professor Emeritus of NINJAL.

Tsunoda’s research interests include Australian Aboriginal linguistics, language endangerment and language revitalization (cf. Tsunoda (2005)), and language typology.

In 1971, he started fieldwork on Palm Island and in the adjacent area in north Queensland. His main focus was on Warrongo [Warungu] (Y133)(cf. Tsunoda 2011). In addition, he collected a small amount of information on languages such as Biri (E56), Gabilgaba [Nhawalgaba] (Y180), Bologoyban [Buluguyban] (Y153), Gojal [Gujal], and Warrgamay (Y134). (See Tsunoda (1996))

In 1975, Tsunoda started fieldwork in Halls Creek, Kimberley and its adjacent areas in Western Australia and Northern Territory. His main focus was on Djaru [Jaru] (K12) (cf. Tsunoda 1981) and also Wanyjirra (K21). In addition, he collected some information on languages such as Malngin (K30), Mudburra (C25), Ngardi (A121), Gugadja [Kukatja](A68) and Wangkajunga (A87). This collection (MS 5326) was collected and created during his three field trips in Halls Creek in 1975, 1976 and 1978. The research project was granted by AIAS, entitled ‘The Djaru language of Kimberley, WA’.

Tsunoda’s work has generated returns for the communities with whom he conducted his research. He has been assisting the Kimberley Language Resource Centre since its inception in the mid-1980s. Their activities have included publications in the Djaru [Jaru] language.

In 2000, he started participating in the revitalization of Warrongo [Warungu], which had become extinct when the late Mr Alf Palmer died in 1981. Mr Palmer was Tsunoda’s main consultant in his work on Warrongo [Warungu]. In 2002, Tasaku Tsunoda began conducting Warrongo [Warungu] language lessons for Warrongo [Warungu] people. In

2011, with Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation, he started preparing Warrongo [Warungu] language materials for children. His participation in Warrongo [Warungu] revitalization activities has been widely reported by the media, both in Australia and Japan: (i) Australia: ABC radio and newspapers such as The Australian and Townsville Bulletin and (ii) Japan: NHK Radio International and newspapers such as The Japan Times.

In 2003, Tasaku Tsunoda presented an invited plenary paper at the 17th International Congress of Linguists, held in Prague. The paper describes Warrongo revitalization activities. It was published as Tsunoda (2004).

References cited

Tsunoda, Tasaku. 1981. The Djaru language of Kimberley, Western Australia. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.

Tsunoda, Tasaku. 1996. Notes on the languages and people of Palm and Magnetic Islands and Townsville, Queensland, Australia. Gengogakurin, 75–92. Tokyo: Sanseido.

Tsunoda, Tasaku. 2004. Attempt at the revival of Warrungu (Australia): its cultural and scientific significance. In Piet van Sterkenburg (ed.), *Linguistics today – Facing a greater challenge*, 267–303. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Tsunoda, Tasaku. 2005. *Language endangerment and language revitalization*. Berlin and New York: Mouton de Gruyter. (Hard cover) (Paperback edition published in 2006)

Tsunoda, Tasaku. 2011. *A grammar of Warrongo*. Berlin and New York: De Gruyter Mouton.

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Controlled Access Headings

Northern Territory - Central NT
East Kimberley area (North NT SD52-15)
East Kimberley area (WA SD52, SE52)
West Kimberley area (WA SD51, SD52, SE51)
Halls Creek (WA East Kimberley SE52-10)
Jaru language K12
Jaru people K12
Gooniyandi language K6
Gooniyandi people K6

Gija / Kija language K20
Gija / Kija people K20
Kukatja language A68
Kukatja people A68
Malngin language K30
Malngin people K30
Mudburra language C25
Mudburra people C25
Ngardi language A121
Wangkajunga language A87
Wangkajunga people A87
Walmajarri language A66
Walmajarri people A66
Wanyjirra language K21
Wanyjirra people K21
Yulparija language A67
Yulparija people A67
Language - Linguistics - Grammar and syntax
Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Narratives
Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Sentences
Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Translated
Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar - Nouns and ergatives
Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar - Pronouns
Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar - Verbs
Language - Vocabulary - Word lists
History - Genealogy and family history

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Archivists note

The title and description of the items are transcribed from the information on the material and the arrangement follows the numbering provided by Tasaku Tsunoda. The collection is divided into two series: (1) field notebooks and (2) wordlist.

In this finding aid, the spelling of the languages in the description are Tsunoda's original spelling. The '[' (square brackets) enclose the preferred term in the AIATSIS AUSTRALANG database. For instance, Djaru [Jarú] (K12) and Wandjira [Wanyjirra] (K21).

Some of the staples in the notebooks (such as Series 1, Item 10, 22 and 23) are not removed in order to maintain the stapled pages in their original places. However, the

archival papers are placed at the front and the back of the pages to prevent the rust from further staining.

This collection is also in digital format. To access the digital version, please contact Collections staff for further information: Email Collections staff at collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or telephone +61 2 6246 1182.

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Series Description

Series 1 Field notebooks 1975-1979

In 1975, Tsunoda started his fieldwork in Halls Creek and its adjacent areas, Kimberley, Western Australia. He went on several field trips supported by AIAS grants in 1975, 1976 and 1978. The numbering of the item indicates the year and the order of the notebooks. Most of the notebooks includes genealogical information.

The fieldnotes include the linguistic material on Djaru [Jarú] (K12), Wanyjirra (K21), Malngin (K30), Ngardi (A121), Mudburra (C25), Gidja [Gija / Kija] (K20), Walmajarri (A66), Yulparija (A67), Kukatja (A68), Wangkajunga (A87), and Gooniyandi (K6) language.

Item

- 1 75/1
7 February 1975 – 17 February 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12) and Gidja [Gija / Kija] (K20).
- 2 75/2
17 February 1975 – 28 February 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 3 75/3
28 February 1975 – 2 March 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 4 75/4
3 March 1975 – 7 March 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 5 75/5
7 March 1975 – 10 March 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 6 75/6
11 March 1975 – 14 March 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).

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- 7 75/7
16 March 1975 – 2 May 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 8 75/8
3 May 1975 – 29 June 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12), Wandjira [Wanyjirra] (K21), Malngin (K30),
Ngaridi (A121) and Gugadja [Kukatja](A68).
- 9 75/9
1 July 1975 – 12 July 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 10 75/10
13 July 1975 – 27 July 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 11 75/11
27 July 1975 – 5 August 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 12 75/12
5 August 1975 – 21 August 1975.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12) and Gidja [Gija / Kija](K20).
- 13 76/1
17 July 1976 – 13 August 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12), Malngin (K30) and Wandjira [Wanyjirra] (K21).
Cover of the notebook loosen.
- 14 76/2
13 August 1976 – 2 September 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12), Malngin (K30), Wandjira [Wanyjirra] (K21),
Mudbura [Mudburra] (C25) and Ngaridi (A121).
- 15 76/3
5 September 1976 – 30 September 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12), Malngin (K30), Wandjira [Wanyjirra] (K21) and
Ngaridi (A121).
- 16 76/4
30 September 1976 – 23 October 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12), Walmadjari [Walmajarri] (A66), Gugadja
[Kukatja](A68) Wanggadjunga [Wangkajunga] (A87) and Yulbaridja
[Yulparija] (A67).
- 17 76/5
23 October 1976 – 16 November 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12), Walmadjari [Walmajarri] (A66), Malngin (K30),
Wandjira [Wanyjirra] (K21) and Gunian [Gooniyandi] (K6).
- 18 76/6

- 16 November 1976 – 25 November 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 19 76/7
25 November 1976 – 3 December 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 20 76/8
4 December 1976 – 6 December 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 21 76/9
7 December 1976 – 15 December 1976.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).
- 22 78/1
23 November 1978 – 28 December 1978.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12), Malngin (K30) and Wandjira [Wanyjirra] (K21).
- 23 78/2
28 December 1978 – 22 January 1979.
Language: Djaru [Jarú] (K12).

Series 2 Wordlist

Item

- 1 A tentative wordlist of Malngin (K30), Wanyjirra (K21) and Ngardi (A121).

Box List

Series	Item	Box
1	1-14	1
1	15-23	2
2	1	2

Finding aid compiled by Man-Ting Hsu, March 2022.

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