MS 269

Donald Laycock,
Dictionary of Lamalamic Languages

1964

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Donald Clarence Laycock
Title: Donald Laycock, Dictionary of Lamalamic Languages
Collection no: MS 269
Date range: 1964
Extent: 0.2 shelf meters (1 index card box)
Repository: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

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Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as [Collection title], Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS [insert number], Series [insert number], Subseries [insert number], Item or Folder [insert number].

For example:

Donald Laycock, Dictionary of Lamalamic Languages, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 269, Series 1, MS 269/1/1 Bundle 1.
COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note
Manuscript dictionary of Lamalamic languages, approximately 2,000 5” x 3” slips of paper in seven bundles. Most of the Lama Lama language text is in phonetic script. Coastal Lamalama, Inland Lamalama and Tableland Lamalama are spoken around the Normanby River, Coen, Port Stewart on the eastern Cape York Peninsula (AIATSIS code: Y136). The language slips inform Don Laycock’s article, ‘Three Lamalamic languages of North Queensland’, Papers in Australian linguistics, no.4, (1969).

Provenance
The collection was deposited in the AIATSIS Collection by D. Laycock on 17 October 1975.

Material separated from the collection
No material has been separated.

Related material
PMS 985, Donald C Laycock, Field notes in Ganganda (Lamalama), 1963
LAYCOCK_D01, Donald C Laycock, Ganganda and Wagaman language elicitation [audio recordings], 1964
LAYCOCK_D02, Donald C Laycock, Nyawaygi, Ngadjon and Wagaman language elicitation [audio recordings], 1964
LAYCOCK_T001, Donald C Laycock, [Palm Island], [Moving image, 8mm film], 1964
RS 40/5 SERIES C [110], Bruce B Rigsby, The language of the Princess Charlotte Bay region, 1992

For a complete list of works by Don Laycock, held in the Collection and for other related material consult Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to Audiovisual material contact Collections.

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our sensitivity message.

Archivist’s note
The seven bundles of language slips have been retained in the order in which they were received and the original order of the slips in the bundles has also been retained. Some of the language slips appear to be out of order and the bundles are not necessarily sequential. Initials in capitals on the slips identify the informant for each entry.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Donald C Laycock (1936-1988) was educated in Newcastle and graduated from Newcastle University in 1958 with honours in English and German. In his first job, as a research assistant in Australian Linguistics for TGH Strehlow at the University of Adelaide, Laycock worked on the Aranda language. He was the first PhD student in Linguistics under Stephen Wurm in the Research School of Pacific Studies at the Australian National University where he gained his PhD in 1962 for his study of languages of the Sepik district of Papua New Guinea.

Laycock joined the Department of Linguistics in the Research School in 1964 and stayed there for the remainder of his career. Although his research focus was on Melanesian languages, Laycock maintained an interest in Aboriginal languages. He was a foundation member of the AIAS in 1961 and later served on its linguistics committee. He edited the linguistics papers from the 3rd AIAS General Meeting in 1968.

"In 1964 he did six weeks of fieldwork on Aboriginal languages in the Cape York Peninsula, visiting Palm Island, Lockhardt River and Coen and collecting data on six languages. This research led to the publication of a descriptive and comparative study of three poorly described and seldom spoken languages of the Charlotte Bay area (Lamalama, Umbuykamu and Parimankutanma). These languages like Aranda, are quite aberrant phonetically from the normal Australian pattern. Don, who was interested in all kinds of word play and puzzles, called attention to the apparent phonetic ‘reversals’ between I and U’ (the word for ‘man’ is *abma* in one language and *mba* in the other) and speculated on

the possibility that some of the sound-changes observed in Lamalamic languages stem from deliberate human alteration of the language, in the manner of ‘pig-latin’ and similar forms of so-called ‘linguistic play’.”

ISSN: 0729-4352. [cited 29 Jun 17].

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1  Language slips

Seven bundles of language cards in the order in which they were received, as follows.

MS 269/1/1 Bundle 1:
Medicinal use of plants; placenames; people; language names; phrases and sentences; nominal class prefixes; sentences illustrating ergative; locations; reduplication; sentences illustrating see and sit; possessive pronouns; pronouns; adjectives; nouns; verbs; interrogatives; notes of Tommy Coburn (?), Albert Kennedy, George Kelly, Frank Laura, Larry Stewart, Jimmay Kale Charlie Autram (?), and others

MS 269/1/2 Bundle 2:
Star – Whale, with some slips out of alpha order (includes words beginning with other letters out of this sequence). nominals, verbs, demonstratives, numbers; some with illustrative phrases and sentences

MS 269/1/3 Bundle 3:
White – Wife interrogatives, nominals Black - Come nominals, verbs Salt – Sugar, including Sister and variations, some slips out of alphabetical order nominal, verbs

MS 269/1/4 Bundle 4:
Come – Frog, and some slips out of alphabetical order nominals, verbs

MS 269/1/5 Bundle 5:
Frog – House Nominals, verbs, illustrative phrases See – Sleep verbs (+?) with illustrative sentences

MS 269/1/6 Bundle 6:
various nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, mixed order, some alphabetic

MS 269/1/7 Bundle 7:
Milk – Week nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, mixed order, some alphabetic
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Finding aid compiled by Amanda Lissarrague, Rhonda Smith and Ewan Maidment, June 2017

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