

	1.	2.	3.
Head	Mukarta	kuli	kuli
Two heads	Mukartilla	kuleg	kuleg
Heads	Mukartanna	kular	kular
One	Kunna	yammuli	yammalaitye
Two	Purlaitye	neigeg	neigegi
Three	Mankutye	maalda	maalda.
Four	{ Purlaitye-pur- laitye }	kukar-kukar	{ kiggaruḡ or kukar-kar }

## (C.)

[ABSTRACT.]

## GRAMMAR

OF THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY

## THE ABORIGINES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

[This short sketch of the Grammar of the language of Western Australia is the only one that I can find anywhere. It is in "The Western Australian Almanac for 1842," and is printed there as an appendix, 'compiled by Chas. Symmons, Protector of the Aborigines, from material furnished by Mr. Francis F. Armstrong, the native interpreter.' Some portions of it are taken 'from the preface to Captain (Sir George) Grey's vocabulary.' I have abridged the material of the Grammar, and adapted it to present uses.—ED.]

## I. NOUNS.

The cases are indicated by inflections, thus :—

*The Genitive* takes the suffix -ak, which means 'of' or 'belonging to'; some districts say -āḡ instead of -ak. *Examples* :—Kalla, 'fire,' kalla-r-āk, 'hot'; miki, 'moon,' mik-āḡ, 'moonlight'; dta, 'mouth,' dta-lāḡ, 'tongue'; gabbi, 'water,' gabbi-lāḡ, 'belonging to water'; budjor, 'ground,' budjor-lāḡ, 'belonging to the ground'; mammarāpak gidji, 'a man's spear'; yagoāk boka, 'a woman's cloak.'

*The Dative*; its sign is -ā l, sometimes -ak; as, ḡadjo allija ḡulaḡ-āl yoḡaga, 'I gave it to the child'; Perth-āk bardin, 'going to Perth.'

*The Accusative* ends in -in; as, ḡadjo yan-gorin ḡan-gau bru, 'I do not see the kangaroo.'

*The Ablative* affixes -āl to the nominative case; as, ḡadjo boat-āl Perth-āk bardāga, 'I went in a boat to Perth'; ḡalata kai-bra-āl watto bardāga, 'we went away in a ship'; balgun-āl bumaga, 'she was killed by a gun'; durda cart-āl bar-duk bardāga, 'the dog went away with the cart.'

*The Plural* number is indicated by adding the numerals, but all beyond three are bula, 'much,' 'many.' The words for human beings add -mān, or -arra, or -ḡarra to form the plural; mān is an abbreviated form of mān-da, 'altogether,' 'collectively.' Words ending with a vowel take -mān; those ending with a consonant take -ḡarra; as, kardo, 'a husband or wife,' plu., kardo-mān; yago, 'a woman,' plu., yago-mān; djuko, 'sister,' plu., djuko-mān; mammul, 'son,' plu., mammul-ḡarra; gulag, 'a child,' plu., gulag-ḡarra.

## DECLENSION OF A NOUN.

Yago, 'a woman.'

	<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>
<i>Nom.</i>	Yago	Yago-mān
<i>Gen.</i>	Yago-ak	Yago-mān-ak
<i>Dat.</i>	Yag-ol or Yago-āl	Yago-mān-āl
<i>Acc.</i>	Yago-in	Yago-mān-in
<i>Abl.</i>	Yago-āl	Yago-mān-āl

The Ablative means 'with,' 'by means of.'

*Examples* :—Yago maiak-āl yugau bardāga, 'a woman came to the house'; n'yagga yago-ak wanna, 'that is a woman's staff'; ḡadjo marain yago-āl yoḡaga, 'I gave flour to a woman'; ḡadjo yago-in djinnāḡ-ga, 'I saw a woman'; budjor yago-āl bianāga, 'the ground was dug by a woman.'

The commonest and most useful nouns are :—

<i>Time, Weather, &amp;c.</i>	<i>Elements.</i>
Cloud—mar-gabbi.	Air (wind)—mar.
Comet (meteor)—binnar.	Earth—budjor.
Darkness—maiart.	Fire—kalla.
Dawn—waulu.	Water—gabbi.
Daylight—birait.	
Lightning—bābbāḡ-win.	<i>Seasons.</i>
Mid-day—malyārak.	Spring—jilba.
Moon—miki.	Summer—birok.
Moonlight—mikāḡ.	Autumn—burnuro.
Rain—gabbi; moko.	Winter—māḡ-goro.
Sky—gudjait.	
Stars—ḡan-gar.	<i>Individuals.</i>
Sun—ḡan-ga.	A man—mammarāp.
Sunshine—monak.	An old man—windo.
Thunder—mālgar.	A young man—gulambiddi.
To-day—aiyi.	A woman—yago.
To-morrow—morogoto; bināḡ.	An old woman—windo.
Yesterday—mairh-ruk.	A young woman—māndiggāra.

A child—gulaḡ.  
An infant—gudja.

*Relations.*

Ancestors—n'yettin-gal.  
Aunt—mān-gat.  
Brother—ḡundu.  
    " (eldest)—ḡuban; boran.  
    " (middle)—kardijit.  
    " (youngest)—ḡuloain.  
    " -in-law—deni.  
Daughter—ḡwoairat.  
Father—mammān.  
    " -in-law—kan-gun.  
Husband, wife—kardo.  
Mother—ḡan-gan.  
    " -in-law—mān-gat.  
Nephew—maieur.  
Niece—ḡāmbart.  
Sister—djuko.  
    " (eldest)—jindam.  
    " (middle)—kauat.  
    " (youngest)—ḡuloain.  
    " (married)—mairāk.  
    " -in-law—deni.  
Son—mammāl.  
Uncle—kan-gun.

*Parts of the body.*

Arm (upper)—wan-go.  
    " (lower)—marga.  
    " (right)—ḡunmān.  
    " (left)—d'yu-ro.  
Back—bogal.  
Beard—ḡan-ga.  
Blood—ḡubo.  
Bone—kotye.  
Bowels—konāḡ.  
Breast (male)—mingo.  
    " (female)—bibī.  
Chin—ḡan-ga.  
Countenance—dtamel; minait.  
Ear—ton-ka.  
Elbow—nogait.  
Excrement—konāḡ.  
Eye—mel.  
    " -brow—mimbat.

Eye-lash—mel-kambar.  
    " -lids—mel-nalyak.  
Flesh—ilain.  
Foot—jina.  
Forehead—bigaić.  
Hair of head—kattamāngarra.  
Hand—marhra.  
Head—katta.  
Heel—ḡardo.  
Knee—bonnit.  
Leg—matta.  
Liver—maierri.  
Mouth—dta.  
Neck—wardo.  
Nose—mulya.  
Side—ḡarril.  
Stomach—kobbālo.  
Tear—mingalya.  
Teeth—nalgo.  
    " (upper)—ḡardāk-yugauin.  
    " (lower)—ira-yugauin.  
Temples—yaba.  
Thumb—marhra-ḡan-gan.  
Tongue—dtalaḡ.

*Animals, Birds, &c.*

Bat—bambi.  
Bird (a)—jida.  
Crow—wardaḡ.  
Dog—durda.  
Flea, louse—kolo.  
Fly—nurdo.  
Lizard—jina-āra.  
Pig—māggoroḡ.  
Snake—wan-gal.

*Miscellaneous.*

Bark (of tree)—mabo.  
Egg—nurdo.  
Food (of all sorts)—dadja.  
Grass—bobo.  
Grave (a)—bogol.  
Hill (a)—katta.  
House (a)—maia.  
Lake (large)—mulur.  
    " (small)—ḡu-ra.  
River—bilo.

Rock, stone—buyi.  
Sand—goyarra.  
Sea—odern.  
Stick (wood)—garba.  
    " (fire)—kalla-matta.  
Tree—burnu.  
Water—gabbi.  
Water (fresh)—gabbi dji-kap.  
    " (stream)—gabbi gurjait.  
Young (animal)—noba.

2. ADJECTIVES.

The adjectives most commonly in use are:—

Alive—won-gin, dordāk	Hot—kallaḡ.
Angry—ḡarraḡ	Like (similar)—mogin.
Arm (left)—n'yarlo.	Little—n'yu-map.
" (right)—ḡun-man.	Long, length—walaiadi.
Bad—djul.	Low—ḡar-dāk.
Big—ḡomon.	Narrow—nulu.
Bitter—djallām.	Near—barduk.
Black—moān.	Old—windo.
Clear (as water)—karrail.	Red—wilḡilāḡ.
Cold—nagga.	Short—ḡorad (-da).
Dead—wonnaga.	Sick—mendaik.
Dry (not wet)—ilar.	Slow—dābbāk.
Far away—urar.	Soft—ḡunyak.
Fat—boain-gadāk.	Sweet—mulyit.
Fresh—milgar.	Tall—urri.
Good—ḡwabba.	Thin—kotyelarra.
Green—gerip-gerip.	True—bundo.
Hard—murdoen.	Wet—balyan.
Health (in)—barra-barra.	White—wilban.
High—iragān.	Wild—wai-wai.

A substantive acquires an adjective meaning by taking such suffixes as -gadāk, 'having, possessing,' -bru, 'without,' which corresponds to the English suffix 'less'; as, jigala-gadāk, 'having horns,' 'a cow'; kardo-gadāk, 'having a husband or wife,' 'married'; boka-bru, 'cloak-less'; gabbi-bru, 'without water.'

*Comparison of Adjectives.*

Some adjectives add jin for the comparative; as, from dābbāk, 'slow,' dābbāk-jin, 'slower'; gwidjir, 'sharp,' gwidjir-jin 'sharper'; yerrāk, 'high,' yerrāk-jin, 'higher.' But usually a reduplication makes the comparative, and -jil is added to the base for the superlative; as, ḡwabba, 'good,' ḡwabba-ḡwabba, 'better'; ḡwabba-jil, 'best.' This intensive particle -jil, equivalent to 'verily,' may be added to other parts of speech; as, kardo-jil, 'one who is in the direct line for marrying with another'; dadja-jil, 'it is certainly meat'; kannah-jil, 'is it indeed so?' The English 'very' is rendered by a reduplication; as, mulyit-mulyit, 'very sweet.'

*Numerals.*

'One,' gain; 'two,' gudjal; 'three,' warh-rag; 'four,' gudjal-gudjal; 'five' is marh-jin бага, 'half the hands'; 'ten' is belli-belli-marhjin бага, 'the hand on either side.'

In reckoning time the natives say 'sleeps' for days, and 'summers and winters' for years. There is no *Article*.

## 3. PRONOUNS.

The pronouns must be carefully used, for a very slight change in the termination of any one of them will alter altogether the force and meaning of a sentence.

The *personal pronouns* are :—

<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>
Gadjo or ganya, 'I.'	Gala-ta, 'we.'
N'yundo or ginni, 'thou.'	N'yurag, 'ye.'
Bal, 'he, she, it.'	Balgun, 'they.'

They are thus declined :—

	<i>Singular.</i>		
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
<i>Nom.</i>	{ Gadjo Ganya }	{ N'yundo Ginni }	{ Bal }
<i>Gen.</i>	Gannaläk	Nyunnoläk	Baläk
<i>Dat.</i>	Ganna	N'yunno	Baliäk
<i>Accu.</i>	Ganyain	Ginnin	Balin
<i>Abl.</i>			Baläl

*Plural.*

<i>Nom.</i>	Galata	N'yurag	Balgun
<i>Gen.</i>	Ganniläk	N'yuragäk	Balgunäk
<i>Dat.</i>	Ganniläk	N'yuragal	Balgunäk
<i>Acc.</i>	Gannil (-in)	N'yuragin	Balgunin
<i>Abl.</i>	Ganniläl	N'yuragal	Balgunäl

There are thus two forms for the *Sing. Nom.* of the first and second pronouns; gadjo and n'yundo seem to be used with an active sense of the verb, but ganya and ginni with a passive sense; for there is no passive *form* of the verb, and there is no verb 'to be'; ganya and ginni are always used with a participle or an adjective; gadjo and n'yundo are never so used. *Examples of their use*:—Gadjo djinnag, 'I see,' but ganya bardin, 'I am going'; gadjo dtan, 'I pierce,' but ganya gan-nauin, 'I am eating'; gadjo burno denda-gaga, 'I climbed a tree,' but ganya waugäläl bukkana-ga, 'I was bitten by a snake'; ganya windo, 'I am old'; ganya garrag, 'I am angry.' Similarly for the second pronouns; as, n'yundo kattidj, 'do you understand?' but yan ginni wangauin, 'what are

you talking about?' n'yundo naitjak gabbi ganna gagau-bru, 'why do you not fetch me water?' but ginni naitjak balin bumawin, 'why are you beating me?'; ginni djul, 'you are wicked'; ginni goradda, 'you are short.'

	<i>Dual</i>		
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
<i>Nom.</i>	1. Galli	Nubal	Bula
	2. Galla	Nubal	Bulala
	3. Gannik	Nubin	Bulen.

Another form of gannik is gannana.

The forms marked *nom.* 1 are used by brothers and sisters or two friends closely related; *nom.* 2., by parent and child or by nephew and uncle; *nom.* 3., by husband and wife or by two persons of different sexes affectionately attached, or (gannana) by two brothers-in-law.

The *Possessive Pronouns* are :—

Ganna, 'my,' gannaläk, 'mine'; n'yunna, 'thy,' n'yunnaläk, n'yunnalag, 'thine'; baläk, balaläk, 'his, her, its,' ganniläk, 'our or ours'; n'yuragäk, 'your or yours'; balgunäk, 'their or theirs.' The *Demonstrative Pronouns* are :—N'yagga, 'that,' 'those'; nidja, 'this,' 'these.' The *Interrogative Pronouns* are :—Ganni, 'who?' *i.e.*, 'who are you?' gando, 'who?' *i.e.*, 'who did that?' gannog, 'whose?'

## 4. VERBS.

The verbs in most common use are :—

Arise—irabin	Fight—bakadju
Beat—buma	Fly—bardag
Become—abbin	Go—bardo; watto
Bite—bäkkan	Go away—kolbardo
Break—takkan	Hear—kattidj
Bring; carry off; take away—barrag	Pain—bäkkan
Marry—kardo barrag	Pierce—dtan
Burn (fire)—burrarap	See—djinnag; gan-gau
Bury—bianan	Sit—ginnau
Carry—gagau	Speak—wan-gau
Cook—dukun	Spear—gidjil
Cry—mirag	Stand—yugau
Cry out—mirau	Take—gagau
Dig—bian	Tear—jeran
Eat, drink—ganno; nalgo.	Throw—gwardo
Fear—waien	Tie—yutarn
	Understand—kattidj
	Walk—gannau.

Imperatives are:—

Come here—kowa-kowa, yual	Leave it alone—bal or wanja
Go on—gatti	Listen—nah-nah
Get up—irap	Take care—garrodjin
Go away—watto	Stay, remain—nannap

*Tenses.*

1. *Indic. present.*—For this, use either the infinitive or the form of the present participle; as, gadjo djinnag, 'I see'; but ganya bumawin, 'I am beating.'
2. *Indic. preterite.*—Use the past participle, or add -ga to the infinitive; the relative distance of the past periods of time is indicated by prefixing to the tense the words gori, 'just now,' karamb, 'a short time since,' gorah, 'a long time ago.'
3. *Indic. future.*—Here the first and second personal pronouns singular become gadjul and n'yundul, 'I will,' 'you will.' The distance of the future time is indicated by placing before the verb the adverbs burda, 'presently,' and mila for any more remote time.
4. *Imperative mood.*—Lay emphasis on the last vowel of the present indicative.
5. *Participle present.*—Add -in or -win to the infinitive.  
" *past.*—Add -ga to the infinitive.
6. *Passive voice.*—Here the form of the sentence is elliptical; therefore ganya, ginni are used with the past participle and the ablative of the instrument or cause.

DECLENSION OF A TRANSITIVE VERB.

Buma, 'to beat,' 'kill,' 'blow as a flower.'

*Infinitive*—Buma. *Part. pres.*—Bumawin.  
*Part. past.*—Bumaga.

*Tense* 1. \*bumawin. *T. 2.* \*gori bumaga. *T. 3.* †burda buma.  
*T. 4.* buma.

These numbers indicate the Tenses as shown above.

\*The pronouns to be used here are:—*Sing.* ganya, ginni, bal; *Plur.* galata, n'yurag, balgun; but instead of ganya and ginni, *T. 2.* takes gadjo and nyundo; †there use the forms gadjul, n'yundul.

*Passive Voice.*—For the passive voice, use the same tense-forms as in the active voice, that is, buma for the *pres.* and the *fut.*, and bumaga for the *past*, but prefix to them the *accusative* cases of the personal pronouns; thus, ganya-in gori bumaga, 'I was

beaten lately'; *lit.*, '(some one) beat me lately.' But the ablative of the cause or instrument may also be used to form a passive voice; thus, ganya gidjial dtannaga, 'I am pierced by a spear.'

*The substantive verb.*—There does not appear to be any copula; it is certainly not used in such sentences as ganya yulap, 'I am hungry'; ginni kotyelara, 'thou art thin'; bal windo, 'he is old'; galata gwabba, 'we are good'; n'yurag djul, 'you are wicked'; balgun mindait, 'they are sick.'

5. ADVERBS.

The adverb is placed before the verb; useful adverbs are:—

After (behind)—golan-ga	Never—yuatjil
Again—garro	No—yuada
Already—gori	Not—bart; bru; yuada
Always—dowir	Now—yaii
Before (in front)—gwaicagat	Perhaps—gabbain
Close to; near—barduk	So—winnirak
Continually—kalyagal	So many—winnir
Enough—belak	That way—wunno
Formerly—karamb	Then—garro
Here—n'yal	There ( <i>prox.</i> )—yellinya
How many—nammän	" ( <i>remote</i> )—boko; bokoja
Immediately—gwaicé; ilak	Where—winji; winjal; yan
Thus—wanno-ic	Yes—qua
More—gatti-gatti	Yonder—bokoja

6. PREPOSITIONS.

These are few in number:—

After ( <i>dat.</i> )—golaç	On (upon)—gadja
Among ( <i>partitive</i> )—mānda	To—-ak or -al
" ( <i>mixed with</i> )—kardagor	With (in company with)—
By ( <i>affix</i> )—al	" gāmbārn (takes the <i>acc.</i> );
In ( <i>within</i> )—bura	" barduk (takes the <i>dat.</i> )
Of—-ak	Without—bru

In use, they are all *post-positions*, and are always placed *after* the noun or pronoun. Gadja is used of one thing lying on another, but never of anything lying on the ground.

7. INTERROGATION, AFFIRMATION, NEGATION.

A question is asked by putting kannah at the end of the sentence; as, n'yundo tonka, kannah, 'do you hear?' An answer may be given by qua, 'yes,' or by affixing -bak to the word used in reply; as, yallanait, 'what is that?' burnu-bak, 'it is a tree.' If the reply is negative, put bart or bru after verbs, and yuada after adjectives.

## 8. CONJUNCTIONS.

Gudjir, 'and'; minnig, 'if'; ka, 'or.' There is no word for 'when,' but minnig and ka are used in its stead; for instance, 'when I see you to-morrow' will be expressed by 'if I see you to-morrow'; and 'when did you come to Perth?' will be 'did you come to Perth to-day or yesterday?'

## 9. INTERJECTIONS.

Nah—ah! so! (to indicate that a person is listening to what is related), and n'yón—'alas'!

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