

YOLŃU-MATHA VERB STEM CLASSIFICATION.

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Virtually every linguist who has worked on the classification of verbs in YolŃu-Matha dialects (particularly, but not exclusively the dhuwala and dhuwal groups) has correctly isolated verb inflections on the basis of their similarities or differences. However, the ordering^{and numbering} of such groups has differed from person to person. In most cases, the criteria employed have not been stated, although it appears that elements such as productivity or ease of control on the part of the foreign learner have been considered. [See Table on page 9.]

I would like to propose the following criteria:

- (1) Productivity and frequency of occurrence (not necessarily as in texts, but as would be found in a dictionary).
- (2) Similarity of the BASE FORM and the PAST₂ (= Quarternary). Subclassifications could then be made when either the PAST₁ (= Tertiary) or FUTURE (= Secondary) derivations differ. I suggest that such subclasses be marked with an alphabetical letter rather than a new group number. [However, note that Group 4 breaks my BASE FORM + PAST₂ similarity requirement on the basis of precedents set by other scholars, which are well-founded on the grounds of paradigmatic similarity to FUTURE and PAST₁ forms throughout Group 3.]
- (3) Similarities across the YolŃu-Matha dialect chain (GupapuyŃu-Gumatj-RitharrŃu, etc.).
- (4) Ease of identification for the native speaker (into certain overall group memberships of a few types).
- (5) Ease of learning for the non-native speaker.

→ GROUP 1: -un, -urru, -urruna, -una(ra).

This group is clearly the largest and most productive. Hundreds of verbs are inflected in a parallel fashion throughout the YolŃu-Matha chain. For this reason, it is selected as the first group. Pedagogically-speaking, it should be the most beneficial paradigm to master for the non-native speaker because of its productivity. Other researchers have put verbs that do not change into Group 1 (herein Group 5), but such verbs are a limited set and atypical of the language family as a whole.

Examples (including the *-thun, *-tjun, *-yun, *-dhun allomorphs):

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| baba'yun | baba'yurru | baba'yurruna | baba'yuna(ra) |
| badatjun | badatjurru | badatjurruna | badatjuna(ra) |
| bakthun | bakthurru | bakthurruna | bakthuna(ra) |
| rulwandhun | rulwandhurru | rulwandhurruna | rulwandhuna(ra) |

→ GROUP 2: -ma, -ŋu, -ŋala, -nha(ra).

This group is also very productive, consisting of the -marama CAUSATIVE or TRANSITIVE suffix, the -kuma FACTITIVE and the -thama PRODUCTIVE (contrast, however, Group 2d) classes, as well as a number of verbs that simply carry these endings. Several hundred verbs belong to this class throughout the language chain.

Examples:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| bakmarama | bakmaraju | bakmarajala | bakmaranha(ra) |
| lakarama | lakaraju | lakarajala | lakananha(ra) |
| ŋamathama | ŋamathaju | ŋamathajala | ŋamathanha(ra) |
| walŋakuma | walŋakaju | walŋakajala | walŋakunha(ra) |
| marrama | marraju | marrajala | marranha(ra) |
| moma | moŋu | moŋala | monha(ra) |
| nhama | nhaju | nhajala | nhanha(ra) |

→ GROUP 2a: -kama, -kuŋu, -kaŋala, -kanha(ra).

This groups consists of only a few (six) stems, but is virtually the same as Group 2, except for the assimilation of *aju to -uŋu in the FUTURE:

Complete List of GROUP 2a stems:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| bongama | bongunu | bongaŋala | bonganha(ra) |
| gungama | gungunu | gungaŋala | gunganha(ra) |
| gurrukama | gurrukunu | gurrukaŋala | gurrukanha(ra) |
| ŋurrkama | ŋurrkunu | ŋurrkaŋala | ŋurrkanha(ra) |
| yätjtjama | yätjtjunu | yätjtjaŋala | yätjtjanha(ra) |

Rith ŋulkama

- X GROUP 2b: consists of one stem that generally follows Group 2 inflection, with irregularity in PAST₁ (which is similar to that for Group 4 below):

| | | | |
|------|------|--------|-------|
| buma | buŋu | bumara | bunha |
|------|------|--------|-------|

- X GROUP 2c: also consists of one stem that generally follows Group 2 inflection, with irregularity in the FUTURE (k instead of *ŋ) and in the PAST₁ (ku instead of *ŋa):

| | | | |
|------|------|--------|-------|
| ŋäma | ŋäku | ŋäkula | ŋänha |
|------|------|--------|-------|

each with a hypothetical *-thama.

- X GROUP 2d: has been found with only two stems to date, ¹ The forms differ from Group 2 inflection in the FUTURE (which is akin to that for Group 5):

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| ganarrthama | ganarrthulu | ganarrthaŋala | ganarrthanha(ra) |
| ŋayathama | ŋayathulu | ŋayathaŋala | ŋayathanha(ra) |

- GROUP 3 is the productive REFLEXIVE/RECIPROCAL class of verbs, which is quite large in overall membership:

| | | | |
|--------|--------|-------|------------|
| -mirri | -mirri | -mina | -minya(ra) |
|--------|--------|-------|------------|

→ GROUP 3a: * -irri, * ^{*rri > ∅} -i, * † na, * † nya(ra).

This group generally consists of INCHOATIVE ('becoming') stems (including the allomorphs *-thirri, *-yirri, *-tjirri, *-dhirri) and some other stems. So far some 40 members have been isolated, of which the following serve as examples:

| | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | barrarirri | barrari | barrarina | barrarina(ra) |
| | bäy ^h thirri | bäy ^h thi | bäy ^h thina | bäy ^h thina(ra) |
| | burakirri | buraki | burakina | burakina(ra) |
| | djäl ^h thirri | djäl ^h thi | djäl ^h thina | djäl ^h thina(ra) |
| | gilitjirri | gilitji | gilitjina | gilitjina(ra) |
| | rakuny ^h dhirri | rakuny ^h dhi | rakuny ^h dina | rakuny ^h dina(ra) |
| | ronjiyirri | ronjiyi | ronjiyina | ronjiyina(ra) |
| | wanaŋirri | wanaŋi | wanaŋina | wanaŋina(ra) |
| | wandirri | wandi | wandina | wandina(ra) |
| | wothirri | wothi | wothina | wothina(ra) |
| | yätjtjirri | yätjtji | yätjtjina | yätjtjina(ra) |
| Gum | guyaŋirri | guyaŋi | guyaŋina | guyaŋina(ra) |
| Rith | midikirri | | | |
| | mirithirri | mirithi | mirithina | mirithina |

The only difference between Group 3a and Group 3 is the absence of *rri in the FUTURE form.

→ GROUP 3b: * -i, * -i, * † na, * † nya(ra).

This is a small group of verbs; only seven have been isolated thus far. The stems end in -i and do not change in the FUTURE, while -na is added for PAST₁, and -nya for PAST₂:

Complete list of Group 3b stems:

| | | | | |
|------|----------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| | bäni | bäni | bänina | bäninya |
| | galkirri | galkirri | galkirrina | galkirrina |
| | gärri | gärri | gärrina | gärrinya |
| | marrtji | marrtji | marrtjina | marrtjinya |
| | ŋäthi | ŋäthi | ŋäthina | ŋäthinya |
| Rith | gukarri | 'to go hunting' | | |
| Rith | wäni | 'to go' | | |

→ GROUP 4: *-a, ^{*a>} *-i, *+na, *+nha.

This group consists of 16 forms isolated thus far. Traditionally, authors have associated or treated this group near Group 3b, on the basis of the similarity of the FUTURE and PAST₁ endings. Despite my criteria of similarity of BASE and PAST₂, I follow this precedent, since the PAST₂ ending (-nha) can be seen to be similar to the -nya ending (as in Groups 3, 3a, 3b) if one accounts for assimilation of *-nha to *-nya after /i/ (which is present in either the stems or suffixes of those earlier groups).

Complete list of Group 4 stems:

| | | | | |
|------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | buna | buni | bunana | bunanha |
| | dharra | dharra | dharrana | dharranha |
| | dhunarra | dhunarri | dhunarrana | dhunarranha |
| | ga | gi | gana | ganha |
| | gora | gori | gorana | goranha |
| | guyana | guyani | guyana | guyanha |
| | <u>l</u> uka | <u>l</u> uki | <u>l</u> ukana | <u>l</u> ukanha |
| | nhara | nhari | nharana | nharanha |
| | nhina | nhini | nhinana | nhinanha |
| | walma | walmi | walmana | walmanha |
| | wana | wani | wana | wanha |
| | gorra | gorri | gorrana | gorranha |
| Gum | yukurra | yukurri | yukurrana | yukurranha |
| | buthuwa | buthuwi | buthuwana | buthuwanha |
| | mulka | mulki | mulkana | mulkanha |
| Rith | guyupa | 'to die' | | |

→ GROUP 5: *-an, *-ulu, *-ara, *-ana.

This group varies in its regularity from dialect to dialect, so that it has more members in GupapuyŃu than it does in Gumatj or RitharrŃu.

Complete list of Group 5 stems:

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Gup | bathan | bathulu | bathara | bathana |
| | bokman | bokmulu | bokmara | bokmana |
| | dharan̄an | dharan̄ulu | dharan̄ara | dharan̄ana |
| | dharrpan | dharrpulu | dharrpara | dharrpana |
| | <u>dil</u> than | | | |
| | ga <u>day</u> man | | | |
| | garrthan | | | |
| | gothan | | | |
| | gurrpan | | | |
| Gup | gurrunhan | | | |
| | gurrupan | | | |
| | guwatjman | | | |
| Gup | <u>li</u> than | | | |
| | <u>li</u> yaman | | | |
| | manapan | | | |
| | mirritjan | | | |
| Gum | miyaman | | | |
| | nhanapan | | | |
| | nherran | | | |
| Gum | nherran̄ | | | |
| | nhirrpan | | | |
| | nhukan | | | |
| Gum | nhukan̄ | | | |
| | nhuman | | | |
| | Ńamin | | | |
| Gup | Ńilitjan | | | |
| | Ńoman | | | |
| Gup | Ńupan | | | |
| Gup | Ńuthan | | | |
| | yirrpan | | | |
| Gum | galkan̄ | | | |

→ GROUP 5a: -an/-an̩, -urru, -ara, -ana

This is a relatively small group consisting of exceptions from dialect to dialect in the FUTURE form, where -urru appears (instead of *ulu), otherwise the inflection is like Group 5.

Complete list of Group 5a stems:

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Gum | bathan | bathurru | bathara | bathana |
| Rith | gathan̩ | | | |
| Rith | garrpin̩ | | | |
| Rith | gothan | | | |
| Gum | gurrunhan | | | |
| Gum | lithan̩ | | | |
| Gum | ŋilitjan | | | |
| Gum Rith | ŋupan | | | |
| Gum | ŋuthan | | | |
| Gup | galkan | | | |

Further research may show wider diversity amongst the various dialects, in terms of acceptable -urru versus -ulu endings. Some Gumatj speakers have accepted a Gum bathulu (instead of expected bathurru) which would show a fluctuation between Group 5 and 5a. It is interesting that Gupapuyŋu thus far has only one stem (galkan) which appears to be "irregular", but may rather be under influence from a different dialect, or may have changed due to analogy with the FUTURE form of Group 1. The role of analogy in producing "irregular" forms needs to be considered in much greater detail.

→ GROUP 5b: *-tjan, *-yaku, *-tjarra, *-tjana.

Only three stems have been found of this type. Note that the FUTURE appears to have the same ending as in isolate Group 2c (-ku instead of *ŋu) and that the PAST₁ has trilled rather than retroflex r:

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | dhuwalatjan | dhuwalayaku | dhuwalatjarra | dhuwalatjana |
| Gup | nhaltjan | nhalayaku | nhaltjarra | nhaltjana |
| Gum | bitjan | biyaku | bitjarra | bitjana |
| | wanhawitjan | | | |

→ GROUP 5c: *-tjan, *-tjurru, *-tjarra, *-tjana.

The Gumatj form for 'do what?' is the only stem noted with this set of endings, which differs in only one regard from Group 5a; the PAST₁ ending has trilled rr (instead of retroflex r):

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Gum | nhaltjan | nhaltjurru | nhaltjarra | nhaltjana |
|-----|----------|------------|------------|-----------|

→ GROUP 6: NO CHANGE IN THE VERB FORM.

Members of this group are usually Makassan or English loans that have not picked up the inflection of another verb class by analogy or any other means.

Complete list of Group 5 stems:

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| bäyim | bäyim | bäyim | bäyim |
| bäyarra' | bäyarra' | bäyarra' | bäyarra' |
| bothurru | | | |
| dharray | | | |
| dhumbilaŋ | | | |
| dhumbulaŋ | | | |
| djambi | | | |
| djäga | | | |
| djäka | | | |
| djäma | | | |
| gärrri | | | |
| ganan | | | |
| wukirri' | | | |

some: djenarra' (but some dialects, djenarra'yirri - Group 3a)

However, note that foreign loans can be brought into the inflectional system of YolŃu-Matha, such as warkthun (Group 1) from English 'work'.

This group is here treated last (rather than first, as in several authors) because it belies the YM verbal system. While it may be easiest for non-speakers to master, it is atypical in every other regard.

TABLE. CONCORDANCE OF YOLŃU-MATHA VERB GROUPS BY VARIOUS AUTHORS

| TYPE | Zorc | Low- Christie | Schebeck NEA | Dhanu | Heath | Ross | Morphy | Wood |
|-------------------------|----------|------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|----------------|--|------|
| -un | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4 / 4 | -DHu + N ₂ | 1 |
| -ma -marama -kuma | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 4 | 6A SEP | 5 / 6 | N ₂ CAUS ₃ -mara TRVSR -ku | 3 |
| -kama | 2a | 8 | 7 | | 6B | 6 | N ₁ | |
| BUMA | 2b | IR | (IR) | 3d-1 | c6B →PAST | 7 / IR | BUMA | |
| ŃĀMA | 2c | IR | (IR) | 3d-4 | c6A →FUT | 7 / IR | ŃĀMA | IR |
| -thama | 2d | IR | (IR) | | c6B FACTITIVE | / IR | TRVSR -DHu | |
| -mirri | 3 | SEP | SEP | | SEP | REFL/ RECIP | REFL/ RECIP \emptyset_4 | 4 |
| -irri | 3a | 4 | 3 | 5 | SEP | 6 / 5 | \emptyset_3 / -DHi | |
| -i | 3b | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 3 / 2 | \emptyset_2 | |
| -a | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2b | 2 | 2 / 3 | \emptyset_1 | 2 |
| -an/-an [FUT: T] | 5 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 / 7 | L ₁ /L ₂ -n/-ñ | 5 |
| -an/-an [FUT: rr] | 5a | IR | | | 3 | 9 / 7 | N ₁ /N ₂ -n/ga1kun | |
| -tjan | 5b 5c | IR | (IR) | | | IR / IR | D/I | |
| NO CHANGE | 6 | 1 | SEP | 6 | | 1 / 1 | PREDICATE NOMINAL | 6 |

SUMMARY CHART OF VERB GROUPS

| GROUP | BASE FORM | FUTURE | PAST ₁ | PAST ₂ | SPECIAL FUNCTION |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | -un | -urru | -urruna | -una(ra) | |
| 2 | -ma -marama -kuma -thama | -ŋu -maranju -kunu -thanju | -ŋala -maranala -kuna -thana | -nha(ra) -maranha(ra) -kunya(ra) -thanha(ra) | CAUSATIVE FACTITIVE PRODUCTIVE |
| 2a | -kama | -kunu | -kana | -kanha(ra) | [6 forms] |
| 2b | buma | bunu | bumara | bunha(ra) | 'hit' |
| 2c | ŋama | ŋaku | ŋakula | ŋanha(ra) | 'hear' |
| 2d | -thama | -thulu | -thana | -thanha(ra) | [2 forms] |
| 3 | -mirri | -mirri | -mina | -minya | REFLEXIVE RECIPROCAL |
| 3a | *-irri *thirri | [*rri > ∅ to form new stem ending in -i] -∅ *thi | -na *thina | -nya(ra) *thinya | INCHOATIVE |
| 3b | -i | +∅ | +na | +nya(ra) | [7 forms] |
| 4 | -a | *a > -i | +na | +nha(ra) | HISTORICAL OLD STEMS |
| 5 | -an -an | -ulu | -ara | -ana | |
| 5a | -an -an | -urru | -ara | -ana | DIALECT VARIANTS |
| 5b | -tjan | -yaku | -tjarra | -tjana | [3 forms] |
| 5c | -tjan | -tjurru | -tjarra | -tjana | [1 form] |
| 6 | -∅ | -∅ | -∅ | -∅ | LOANWORDS |

VERB STEM CLASSIFICATION ACROSS THE YOLŪU FAMILY

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| GROUP 1 | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŪU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | <u>lupthun</u> | <u>lupthun</u> | <u>lupun</u> | <u>lupthun</u> |
| FUTURE | <u>lupthurru</u> | <u>lupthurr</u> | <u>lupurru</u> | <u>lupthu</u> |
| IMPER. | <u>lupthurra</u> | * | <u>lupurra</u> | <u>lupthuwa</u> |
| PAST ₁ | <u>lupthurruna</u> | <u>lupthunan</u> | * | <u>lupthuwan</u> |
| PAST ₂ /n. | <u>lupthuna</u> | <u>lupthuna</u> | <u>lupuna</u> | <u>lupthunda</u> |
| INFINITIVE | <u>lupthunarawu</u> | <u>lupthunaraw</u> | <u>lupunrawu</u> | |
| HABITUAL | * | | * | <u>lupthuwarra</u> |
| MUTUAL | | | <u>lupunmirri</u> | |
| CAUSATIVE | | | <u>lup(un)marama</u> | |
| {CAUSATIVE} | <u>GUMATJ</u> | | <u>RITHARRŪU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | <u>LIKE</u> | | <u>-man / -marama</u> | <u>LIKE</u> |
| FUTURE | GROUP | | <u>-marawu</u> | GROUP |
| IMPER. | 2 | | <u>-marawa</u> | 5 (a) |
| PAST ₁ | | | <u>-mara(wa)la</u> | |
| PAST ₂ / n. / (INFINITIVE) | | | <u>-maranha(rawu)</u> | |
| GROUP 2 | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŪU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | <u>lakarama</u> | <u>lakaram</u> | <u>lakarama</u> | <u>rakaram</u> |
| FUTURE | <u>lakaŋu</u> | <u>lakaraŋ(u)</u> | <u>lakarawu</u> | <u>rakaŋ</u> |
| IMPER. | <u>lakaŋa</u> | * | <u>lakaŋawa</u> | <u>rakaŋ</u> |
| PAST ₁ | <u>lakaŋala</u> | <u>lakaŋal</u> | <u>lakaŋawala</u> | <u>rakan</u> |
| PAST ₂ /n/INF | <u>lakanha(ra-)</u> | <u>lakanha(ra-)</u> | <u>lakanha(ra-)</u> | |
| rakanha(ra-) | | | | |
| HABITUAL | * | * | * | <u>rakararra</u> |
| MUTUAL | <u>lakanhamirri</u> | <u>lakanhamirr</u> | <u>lakanhamirri</u> | |
| GROUP 2a | <u>GUPAPUYŪU</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŪU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | <u>gungama</u> | <u>wekam(a)</u> | <u>gungama</u> | <u>nhama</u> |
| FUTURE | <u>gunguŋu</u> | <u>wekuŋ(u)</u> | <u>gunguŋu</u> | <u>nhuŋu</u> |
| IMPER. | * | * | <u>gungawa</u> | <u>nhuŋa</u> |
| PAST ₁ | <u>gungaŋala</u> | <u>wekaŋal</u> | <u>gungawala</u> | <u>nhuŋal</u> |
| PAST ₂ /n. | <u>gunganha(ra-)</u> | <u>wekanha</u> | <u>gunganha(ra-)</u> | <u>nhuŋha(ra-)</u> |
| HABITUAL | * | * | * | <u>nhuŋarra</u> |
| GROUP 2b | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŪU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | <u>buma</u> | <u>buma</u> | <u>buma</u> | * |
| FUTURE | <u>buŋu</u> | <u>buŋu</u> | <u>buŋu</u> | * |
| IMPER. | <u>buŋa</u> | * | <u>buwa</u> | * |
| PAST ₁ | <u>bumara</u> | <u>bumar</u> | <u>bumara</u> | * |
| PAST ₂ /n/INF | <u>bunha(ra-)</u> | <u>bunha(ra-)</u> | <u>bunha(ra-)</u> | * |
| MUTUAL | <u>bunhamirri</u> | <u>bunhamirr</u> | <u>bunhamirri</u> | * |
| GROUP 2c | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŪU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | <u>ŋama</u> | <u>ŋama</u> | <u>ŋama</u> | <u>ŋama</u> |
| FUTURE | <u>ŋaku</u> | <u>ŋaku</u> | <u>ŋaku</u> | <u>ŋaku</u> |
| IMPER. | <u>ŋaka</u> | * | <u>ŋawa</u> | <u>ŋaka</u> |
| PAST ₁ | <u>ŋakula</u> | <u>ŋakul</u> | <u>ŋawala</u> | <u>ŋakul</u> |
| PAST ₂ /n/INF | <u>ŋanha(ra-)</u> | <u>ŋanha(ra-)</u> | <u>ŋanha(ra-)</u> | <u>ŋanha(ra-)</u> |
| HABITUAL | * | * | * | <u>ŋakarra</u> |
| MUTUAL | <u>ŋanhamirri</u> | <u>ŋanhamirr</u> | <u>ŋanhamirri</u> | |
| GROUP 2d | <u>GUPAPUYŪU</u> | | <u>RITHARRŪU</u> | |
| BASE | <u>ŋayathama</u> | | <u>gunydja'thamaŋ</u> | |
| FUTURE | <u>ŋayathulu</u> | | <u>gunydja'thaŋu</u> | |
| IMPER. | * | | <u>gunydja'thawa</u> | |
| PAST ₁ | <u>ŋayathanala</u> | | <u>gunydja'thawala</u> | |
| PAST ₂ /n/INF | <u>ŋayathanha(ra-)</u> | | <u>gunydja'thanha(ra-)</u> | |

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| GROUP 3 | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŃU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | -mirri | -mirr | -mirri | -mi |
| FUTURE | -mirri | -mirr | -mirri | -mi |
| IMPER. | -mirriya | * | -mirriya | -miya |
| PAST ₁ | -mina | -min(a) | -mina | -min |
| PAST ₂ /INF | -minya(ra-) | -minya | -minya(ra-) | -minya |
| GROUP 3a | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŃU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | marrgithirri | galkirr | galkirri | marrggiyi |
| FUTURE | marrgithi | galkirr | galkirri | marrggiyi |
| IMPER. | marrgithiya | * | galkirriya | marrggiya |
| PAST ₁ | marrgithina | galkin(a) | galkina | marrggiyin |
| PAST ₂ /n/INF | marrgithinya(ra) | galkinya | galkirrinya(ra-) | marrggiya(ra) |
| GROUP 3b | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŃU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | ŋãthi | marrtji | ŋãthi | ŋãtji |
| FUTURE | ŋãthi | marrtji | ŋãthi | ŋãtji |
| IMPER. | ŋãthiya | * | ŋãthiya | ŋãtjiya |
| PAST ₁ | ŋãthina | marrtjin(a) | ŋãthina | ŋãtjin |
| PAST ₂ /INF | ŋãthinya(ra-) | marrtjinya(ra-) | ŋãthinya(ra-) | ŋãtjinya |
| HABITUAL | * | * | * | ŋãtjiyarra |
| GROUP 4 | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŃU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | Luka | Luka | Luka | noka |
| FUTURE | Luki | Luki | Luki | nukay |
| IMPER. | Lukiya | * | Lukiya | nukiya |
| PAST ₁ | Lukana | Lukan(a) | * | nukan |
| PAST ₂ /INF | Lukanha(ra-) | Lukanha(ra-) | Lukanha(ra-) | nukanha(ra-) |
| HABITUAL | * | * | * | nukarra |
| {PROGRESSIVE} | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAMBARRPUYŃU</u> | <u>GUPAPUYŃU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | yukurra | ga | ga | yaka |
| FUTURE | yukurri | gi | gi | yaki |
| IMPER. | yukurriya | * | * | yaki |
| PAST ₁ | yukurrana | gan(a) | gana | yakan |
| PAST ₂ | yukurranha | ganha | ganha | yakanha |
| HABITUAL | * | * | * | yakarra |
| GROUP 5 | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŃU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> |
| BASE | nherran | gathan | gathan | biyarrthan |
| FUTURE | nherrulu | gathul | gathulu | biyarrthu |
| IMPER. | nherrala | * | gathala | biyarrtha |
| PAST ₁ | nherrara | gathar | gatha(la)ra | biyarrthan |
| PAST ₂ /INF | nherrana(ra-) | gathana(ra-) | gathanara- | biyarrthanda |
| HABITUAL | * | * | * | biyarrtharra |
| GROUP 5a | <u>GUMATJ</u> | <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>RITHARRŃU</u> | <u>GĀLPU</u> {CAUS} |
| BASE | ŋupan | bathan | ŋupan | ditjuman |
| FUTURE | ŋupurru | bathurr | ŋupurru | ditjumu |
| IMPER. | ŋuparra | * | ŋuparra | ditjuma |
| PAST ₁ | ŋupara | bathar | * | ditjuman |
| PAST ₂ /INF | ŋupana(ra-) | bathana(ra-) | ŋupana(ra-) | ditjumanda |
| HABITUAL | * | * | * | ditjumarra |
| GROUP 5b | <u>GUMATJ</u> / <u>DJAPU</u> | <u>GUPAPUYŃU</u> | | GROUP 5c |
| BASE | bitjan / bitjan | nhaltjan | | BASE |
| FUTURE | biyaku / biyak(u) | nhalayaku | | FUTURE |
| IMPER. | biyaki / * | * | | |
| PAST ₁ | bitjarra / bitjarr | nhaltjarra | | PAST ₁ |
| PAST ₂ /INF | bitjana(ra-) | nhaltjana(ra-) | | PAST ₂ |
| GROUP 6 remains unchanged in all tenses | | | | MOST DIALECTS |
| BASE, FUTURE, IMPER., PAST ₁ , PAST ₂ | | | | djãma |

DHANU'MI VERB STEM CLASSIFICATION (Gälpu) - Ray Wood

| A TYPE | C FUTURE | B PAST ₁ | F PAST ₂ | D IMPERATIVE | E HABITUAL | Zorc GROUP | Wood GROUP |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| -un | →u | -uwan | -unda | -uwa | -uwarra | 1 | 1 |
| -m | -ŋ | -(a)n | -nha(ra) | -ŋ | -(a)rra | 2 | 3 |
| -i | -∅ | -n | -nya(ra) | -ya | -yarra | 3 | 4 |
| -a | +y | +n | +nha(ra) | →iya | +rra | 4 | 2 |
| -an | →u | -∅ | +da | →a | →arra | 5 | 5 |
| -∅ | -∅ | -∅ | -∅ | -∅ | -∅ | 6 | 6 |

Most verbs have 7 different basic suffixes they can take. Using the verb *narruŋa* 'to go'....:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| A <i>narruŋa</i> | present and indefinite future; present habitative |
| B <i>narruŋan</i> | indefinite past |
| C <i>narruŋay</i> | negative present; definite future |
| D <i>narriya</i> | imperative, i.e., an order; prohibitive |
| E <i>narruŋarra</i> | past habitative, past negative, and sometimes present habitative |
| F <i>narruŋunha(ra)</i> | completive; or makes a noun out of a verb |
| G <i>narruŋany</i> | far distant, perhaps even legendary, past |

Examples:

naya narru narruŋa 'I will go.'
naya bayiŋ narruŋa 'I habitually go.'
nhän lĩngu narruŋanhara 'He has gone.'
nhän yaka narruŋa 'He is going.'
ŋayam narru barkthu narruŋay 'I will go tomorrow.'
ŋalinyum narru Christmasthu narruŋay. 'We-2 will go at Xmas.'
e-e-e, Saturdayyu narruŋay ŋali. 'Mmm, you and I will go on Saturday.'
nhä, nhunu narruŋa(n)? 'Well, are you going?' [(n) = SEQ or temporal marker]
yakan ŋayam dhanu narruŋay, mäluŋ' narru narruŋa. 'Not me, father's going.'

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| Other suffixes: | -m(a) | OPPosition, FOCus |
| | -n | SEQuence, IMMediate, TEMPoral |
| | -ya | EMPHAsis |
| | -mu | RAPPORt ("of course", "didn't you know") |

Some irregular verbs [Wood's Group 7]

yaka (4b), *yaki* (C,D), *yakan* (B), *yakanhara* (F), *yakarra* (E)
nhäma (2a), *nhäŋa* (D), *nhäŋal* (B), *nhänhara* (F), *nhäŋarra* (E), *nhäŋu* (C)
ŋäma (2b), *ŋäka* (D), *ŋäku* (B), *ŋänhara* (F), *ŋäkarra* (E), *ŋäku* (C)

Some transformations

*di*tjun (1) → *di*tjuman (5) "come back, return" → "give/send back"
*yap*thun (1) → *yap*thuman (5) "get off, jump down" → "take off/down, get (x) down"
*ŋal*thun (1) → *ŋal*thuman (5) "climb up" → "put/hang up"
*ma*lŋ'thun (1) → *ma*lŋ'thuman (5) "appear" → "find"
*mar*ŋgi (6) → *mar*ŋgikum (2) "know" → "teach" [Also: *mar*ŋgiyi "learn"]
*bo*yan (5) → *bo*yanmi (3) "hit" → "hit one another; fight"
*wä*ŋa (4) → *wä*ŋanharami (3) "speak" → "converse"