



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

DIXON_R06

**Sound recordings collected by
R. M. W. Dixon, 1967**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact [AIATSIS](#) to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

Restrictions on listening

This collection is open for listening.

Restrictions on use

Copies of this collection may be made for private research. Permission must be sought from R. M. W. Dixon and the relevant Indigenous individual, family or community for any publication or quotation of this material. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1967

Extent: 13 sound tape reels (11 hrs.) : analogue, 3 3/4 ips, mono.

Production history

These recordings were collected by linguist R. M. W. Dixon in March and April 1967 in north-east Queensland, Australia. Dixon—then based at University College, London—had returned to Australia for a short visit to check and extend data from previous AIAS-funded fieldwork undertaken in 1963 and 1964. The recordings document various Queensland rainforest languages including Dyirbal, Mamu, Girramay, Mbabaram, Nyawaygi, Olgol, and the Dyirbal avoidance language Dyalnguy. Speakers include Jimmie Murray, Jim Gunnawarra, Nellie Ketchup, Willie Seaton, Long Heron, Chloe Grant, George Watson, Jinny Watson and Albert Bennett.

RELATED MATERIAL

Important: before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#).

A report on this field trip is held in the AIATSIS Library, see [PMS 454](#). Earlier recordings by R. M. W. Dixon, which this collection builds upon, are held in the AIATSIS Audiovisual Archive, see [DIXON R01](#) and [DIXON R04](#). Transcriptions of texts from field recordings Y95 and Y97 are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [MS 811](#). For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult the Institute's Mura® online catalogue at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>.

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

The recordings in this collection have been arranged according to the original field tape numbers used by R. M. W. Dixon. They are not in chronological order.

This finding aid was compiled from information contained in documentation provided by R. M. W.

Dixon and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

| Archive number | Field recording number | Description |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| 002681A | Y71 | Girramay songs performed by Jimmie Murray at Murray Upper |
| 002681B | Y72 | Olgol elicitation with Jim Gunnawarra and Nellie Ketchup at Palm Island |
| 002682A | Y73 | Nyawaygi sentence elicitation with Willie Seaton and Long Heron at Ingham |
| 002682B | Y91 | Elicitation of Dyalnguy with Chloe Grant at Tully; elicitation of Mamu, Dyirbal and Dyalnguy with George Watson and Jinny Watson at East Palmerston |
| 002683A | Y92 | Elicitation of Dyalnguy and Dyirbal with Chloe Grant at Tully |
| 002683B | Y93 | Mamu, Dyirbal and Dyalnguy elicitation with George Watson, Jinny Watson and Chloe Grant and East Palmerston; Dyirbal elicitation with Chloe Grant at Tully |
| 002684A | Y94 | Elicitation of Mamu with George Watson at East Palmerston |
| 002684B | Y95 | Mamu elicitation with George Watson and conversation with Jimmie Murray and George Watson in Mamu and Girramay at Murray Upper; Mamu and Dyirbal elicitation with George Watson and Chloe Grant at Tully |
| 002685A | Y96 | Dyirbal elicitation with Chloe Grant at Tully |
| 002685B | Y97 | Texts in Girramay and Dyirbal by Chloe Grant at Tully |
| 002686A | Y98 | Mamu elicitation with George Watson at East Palmerston |
| 002686B | Y152 | Mbabaram elicitation with Albert Bennett at Petford |
| 002687A | “Songs” | Mamu and Girramay songs performed by George Watson at Palm Island |

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

002681A/Field recording Y71

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Jimmie Murray |
| Subject keywords: | Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male |
| Language/people: | Girramay |
| Places: | Murray Upper (NE Qld SE55-10) |
| Recording quality: | Fair – good (some print-through on original tapes) |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|---------------------|--------------|---|------------------|-------------------|
| DIXON_R06-002681A | 00:00:00 | Gama and Gugulu style songs performed by Jimmie Murray with boomerang clapstick accompaniment. Songs include 'Thunder', 'Storm bird', 'Poisoning fish', 'Growling dog', 'Savage dog', 'Snake flying', 'Little birds crying', 'Strange-smelling place', 'Frightened sweetheart', 'Song to help ill person sing', 'Carrying wife across river', 'Butterfly', 'Hitting bird', 'Sugar bag', 'Bean tree', 'Red dress', 'Woman combs hair', 'Groper fish', 'Kangaroo', 'Kangaroo droppings', 'Horsefly in swamp' and 'Night fishing'. | 22-28 March 1967 | Murray Upper, Qld |
| | 00:54:38 | End of field recording Y71 and end of DIXON_R06-002681A. | | |

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002681B/Field recording Y72

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Jim Gunnawarra, Nellie Ketchup |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Vocabulary - Word lists, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Sentences |
| Language/people: | Olgol / Olgol |
| Places: | Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10) |
| Recording quality: | Good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|---------------------|--------------|--|--------------|------------------|
| DIXON_R06-002681B | 00:00:00 | Jim Gunnawarra and Nellie Ketchup are introduced and give their European and Olgol names. They pronounce the language name <i>Olgolo</i> . Vocabulary elicitation follows, including words for people, kinship, the environment, animals, body parts, material culture and food. | 8 April 1967 | Palm Island, Qld |
| | 00:15:50 | Grammatical elicitation of Olgol with Jim Gunnawarra and Nellie Ketchup. | | |
| | 01:04:11 | End of field recording Y72 and end of DIXON_R06-002681B. | | |

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002682A/Field recording Y73

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Willie Seaton, Long Heron |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Sentences |
| Language/people: | Nyawaygi |
| Places: | Ingham (NE Qld SE55-10) |
| Recording quality: | Good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| DIXON_R06-002682A | 00:00:00 | Nyawaygi sentence elicitation with Willie Seaton and Long Heron (Willie Seaton is the main speaker). | 10 April 1967 | Ingham, Qld |
| | 00:43:05 | End of field recording Y73 and end of DIXON_R06-002682A. | | |

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002682B/Field recording Y91

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Chloe Grant, George Watson, Jinny Watson |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Sociolinguistics - Avoidance language, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences |
| Language/people: | Dyalnguy (mother-in-law style), Dyirbal / Djirbal / Jirrabul, Mamu |
| Places: | Tully (NE Qld SE55-06), Palmerston (NE Qld SE55-06) |
| Recording quality: | Good, however there is an increase in speed between 00:05:30 and 00:08:08 and sound is muffled occasionally between 00:36:39 and 00:38:35. |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|---------------------|--------------|---|---------------|----------------------|
| DIXON_R06-002682B | 00:00:00 | Dyalnguy sentence elicitation with Chloe Grant. Dixon says the sentences in Dyirbal and Grant repeats them in Dyalnguy. | 21 March 1967 | Tully, Qld |
| | 00:31:32 | Dyalnguy, Mamu and Dyirbal sentence elicitation with George Watson (Mamu) and Jinny Watson (Dyirbal). Sentences are given in English and then repeated in Dyalnguy or Guwal (everyday language). The main speaker is George Watson. | 29 March 1967 | East Palmerston, Qld |
| | 01:04:20 | End of field recording Y91 and end of DIXON_R06-002682B. | | |

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002683A/Field recording Y92

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Chloe Grant |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Sociolinguistics - Avoidance language, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation |
| Language/people: | Dyalnguy, Dyirbal / Djirbal / Jirrabul |
| Places: | Tully (NE Qld SE55-06) |
| Recording quality: | Good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|---------------------|--------------|--|---------------|------------|
| DIXON_R06-002683A | 00:00:00 | Dyalnguy sentence and vocabulary elicitation. Most of the sentences are given in Dyirbal by Dixon and repeated in Dyalnguy by Grant. English is only used occasionally. Checking of Dyirbal forms follows. | 22 March 1967 | Tully, Qld |
| | 00:58:11 | End of field recording Y92 and end of DIXON_R06-002683. | | |

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002683B/Field recording Y93

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | George Watson, Jinny Watson, Chloe Grant |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Sociolinguistics - Avoidance language, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation |
| Language/people: | Dyalnguy, Mamu, Dyirbal / Djirbal / Jirrabul |
| Places: | Tully (NE Qld SE55-06), Palmerston (NE Qld SE55-06) |
| Recording quality: | Fair – good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|---------------------|--------------|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| DIXON_R06-002683B | 00:00:00 | Dyalnguy language elicitation with George Watson (Mamu), Jinny Watson (Dyirbal) and Chloe Grant (Dyirbal). The main speaker is George Watson. Includes a couple of short texts devised by George Watson to illustrate the use of certain words (also translated into English). | 23 March 1967 | East Palmerston, Qld |
| | 00:11:33 | Dyalnguy language elicitation with Chloe Grant. Most of the sentences are repeated in English. | 1 April 1967 | 1 April 1967 Tully, Qld |
| | 01:06:22 | End of field recording Y93 and end of DIXON_R06-002683B. | | |

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002684A/Field recording Y94

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | George Watson |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation |
| Language/people: | Mamu |
| Places: | Palmerston (NE Qld SE55-06) |
| Recording quality: | Fair |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------|----------------------|
| DIXON_R06-002684A | 00:00:00 | Grammatical elicitation of Mamu. A second unidentified speaker is present and contributes from time to time. | 29-31 March 1967 | East Palmerston, Qld |
| | 01:02:24 | End of field recording Y94 and end of DIXON_R06-002684A. | | |

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002684B/Field recording Y95

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Performer/speaker(s): | George Watson, Jimmie Murray, George Watson, Chloe Grant |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Discussion / Conversation, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation – Narratives, Language - Sociolinguistics - Avoidance language |
| Language/people: | Mamu, Girramay, Dyirbal / Djirbal / Jirrabul, Dyalnguy |
| Places: | Murray Upper (NE Qld SE55-10), Tully (NE Qld SE55-06) |
| Recording quality: | Good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|---------------------|--------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| DIXON_R06-002684B | 00:00:00 | Grammatical elicitation of Mamu with George Watson. | 31 March 1967 | Murray Upper |
| | 00:22:37 | Ad hoc conversation between Jimmie Murray (speaking Girramay) and George Watson (Mamu) followed by language elicitation. | | |
| | 00:28:27 | Ad hoc conversation between George Watson (Mamu) and Chloe Grant (Dyirbal) followed by texts and conversation in Dyalnguy. | 1 April 1967 | Tully |
| | 00:36:50 | Dyirbal grammatical elicitation with Chloe Grant (continued from Y96). | | |
| | 00:59:15 | End of field recording Y95 and end of DIXON_R06-002684B. | | |

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002685A/Field recording Y96

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Chloe Grant |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Sociolinguistics - Avoidance language |
| Language/people: | Dyirbal / Djirbal / Jirrabul, Dyalnguy |
| Places: | Tully (NE Qld SE55-06) |
| Recording quality: | Good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| DIXON_R06-002685A | 00:00:00 | Grammatical elicitation of Dyirbal with Chloe Grant. Includes some Dyalnguy too (continues on Y95). | 1 April 1967 | Tully |
| | 01:06:03 | End of field recording Y96 and end of DIXON_R06-002685A. | | |

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002685B/Field recording Y97

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Chloe Grant |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation |
| Language/people: | Dyirbal / Djirbal / Jirrabul, Girramay |
| Places: | Tully (NE Qld SE55-06) |
| Recording quality: | Good |
| Notes: | The field tape report sheet for this recording has been amended (by somebody other than the depositor) to show the language of the first text as Girramay. |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|---------------------|--------------|--|--------------|-------|
| DIXON_R06-002685B | 00:00:00 | The story of Ngagi Bulgay (Text 41, MS 811) told by Chloe Grant in Dyirbal and English. | 1 April 1967 | Tully |
| | 00:10:13 | The story of Girugar (Text 42, not transcribed) told by Chloe Grant in Dyirbal and English. The English translation is incomplete. | | |
| | 00:39:59 | End of field recording Y97 and end of DIXON_R06-002685B. | | |

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002686A/Field recording Y98

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | George Watson |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation |
| Language/people: | Mamu |
| Places: | Palmerston (NE Qld SE55-06) |
| Recording quality: | Good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|
| DIXON_R06-002686A | 00:00:00 | Grammatical elicitation of Mamu with George Watson. | 11 April 1967 | East Palmerston |
| | 00:34:41 | End of field recording Y98 and end of DIXON_R06-002686A. | | |

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002686B/Field recording Y152

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Albert Bennett |
| Subject keywords: | Language - Vocabulary - Word lists, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Sentences |
| Language/people: | Mbabaram / Bar-Barrum |
| Places: | Petford (NE Qld SE55-05) |
| Recording quality: | Good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
| DIXON_R06-002686B | 00:00:00 | Mbabaram vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Albert Bennett. | 26 March 1967 | Petford |
| | 01:04:23 | End of field recording Y152 and end of DIXON_R06-002686B. | | |

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002687A/Field recording “Songs”

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | George Watson |
| Subject keywords: | Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male |
| Language/people: | Mamu, Girramay |
| Places: | Palm Island (NE Qld SE55-10) |
| Recording quality: | Good |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| DIXON_R06-002687A | 00:00:00 | Three songs performed by George Watson: 'Crab', 'Girl and mawa' and 'Ready boat'. Each song is discussed in English. | April 1967 | Palm Island |
| | 00:06:15 | End of field recording “Songs” and end of DIXON_R06. | | |

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