



**AIATSIS**  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

**Interim finding aid**

**TSUNODA\_T26**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Tasaku Tsunoda, 2006 and 2010**

Prepared August, 2016 by NA  
Last updated 13 January 2017

## ACCESS

### Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access Unit by completing an [online enquiry form](#) or phone (02) 6261 4212 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 with the exception of the CD recording of the Radio Japan Focus programme for which copying is not permitted. Permission must be sought from Tasaku Tsunoda and the relevant Indigenous individual, family or community for any publication or quotation of the audiocassettes. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Date:** 2006 and 2010

**Extent:** 7 audiocassettes (approximately 90 min and 60 min each): analogue, mono.  
1 CD (approximately 9 min.): digital, stereo.

### Production history

The recordings held on the audiocassettes were collected between 26 and 29 March 2006 in Townsville, Qld, by Professor Tasaku Tsunoda of the University of Tokyo. Tasaku Tsunoda was the last living speaker of the Warrungu language in the 1970s.

All content is based on what Tasaku Tsunoda has learned from Alf Palmer who at that time was the last speaker of the Warrungu language, and resided near Townsville, Qld. Tasaku Tsunoda came to Australia in 1971 to meet Alf Palmer. Tasaku Tsunoda learned 3,000 words in Warrungu language, three myths and traditional Warrungu songs in nine months' time. At the time Prof. Tsunoda was researching the Warrungu language, Alf Palmer was 91 years of age. Alf Palmer passed away in 1981.

As a response to an email which he received in 1998 from one of Alf Palmer's granddaughters Rachel Cummins asking for "ways to revive the Warrungu language with Warrungu people", Tasaku Tsunoda gave his first lesson over five weeks in 2002 to 20 people using his own teaching material which he compiled based on what he had learned from Alf Palmer.

The purpose of the audiocassette recordings was the continuation of revitalisation of Warrungu language. Speakers include Alf Palmer's children, grandchildren and other adults from the community.

The CD contains a programme by Radio Japan Focus, entitled "To revive Australian Aboriginal

languages”, about Tasaku Tsunoda’s work. It is recorded in English. The speakers are Kakuvi Tagova and Joseph Kuwini (approximate spelling).

## **RELATED MATERIAL**

**Important:** before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#). There is no a transcript or field notes. For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult our [online catalogue](#), Mura®. To conduct a search of available audio finding aids, please [click here](#).

## **ARCHIVIST'S NOTE**

The audiocassettes are arranged numerically in ascending order (1-7), also there is one CD. No recognisable anomalies. This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Tasaku Tsunoda. Detailed item descriptions, featuring timing points, are not yet available as the collection has not been auditioned by AIATSIS staff.

## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number/name	Description
N/A	TSUNODA 2006, No.1	Warungu language teaching and learning
N/A	TSUNODA 2006, No.2	Warungu language teaching and learning
N/A	TSUNODA 2006, No.3	Warungu language teaching and learning
N/A	TSUNODA 2006, No.4	Warungu language teaching and learning
N/A	TSUNODA 2006, No.5	Warungu language teaching and learning
N/A	TSUNODA 2006, No.6	Warungu language teaching and learning
N/A	TSUNODA 2006, No.7	Warungu language teaching and learning
N/A	Restroration (Restoration) of Warrongo, the extinct laanguage (language)of Aboriginal Australians	Radio Japan Focus's programme of revival of Australian Aboriginal languages. Comments from Alf Palmer's children.