



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

EVANS_N02

**Sound recordings collected by
Nicholas Evans, 2001**

Prepared July 2016 by TQ
Last updated 26 July, 2016

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 on the AIATSIS premises.

Restrictions on use

This collection is open for copying for private research. Permission must be obtained from Nicholas Evans and the relevant Indigenous individual, family or community for quotation or publication.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 2001

Extent: 5 audiocassettes (approximately 72 minutes each [6 hrs. total]) analogue, mono.

Production history

The following collection was recorded at Bulman, NT in 2001 by Nicholas Evans. The recording contains a check of words contained within the draft Dalabon dictionary; listing words ranging from the letters M to Y. Speakers include Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan), Nicholas Evans and George (surname unknown).

Professor Nicholas Evans is a scholar who has forged a career out of the study of human languages and has spent time doing fieldwork on multiple languages from Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. The Dalabon language is an extremely endangered Indigenous language group with speakers ranging from as low as three to a few dozen people in the entire world. Recently, the Dalabon language has attracted research attention due to the significance of it being part of Indigenous cultural heritage and there have been efforts –such as the work of Nicholas Evans- to study this language more fully.

RELATED MATERIAL

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

A related document entitled [A first dictionary of Dalabon \(Ngalkbon\) compiled by Nicholas Evans, Francesca Merlan and Maggie Tukumba](#), which this collection contributed towards, exists at the

National Library of Australia; please note AIATSIS does not currently hold a copy of this dictionary.

AIATSIS holds the book *Dalabon Verb Constructions* by Nicholas Evans and Francesca Merlan. An article entitled '[Who said polysynthetic languages avoid subordination? Multiple subordination strategies in Dalabon](#)' published in the *Australian Journal of Linguistics* Vol. 26, no. 1 (April 2006), p. [31]-58 is also held by AIATSIS.

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

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Nicholas Evans and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

Timing points may be slightly out depending on the technologies and procedures in place at the time the recordings were auditioned.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
030531	<u>Field Tape 1, Side A</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check of the letter M.
030532	<u>Field Tape 1, Side B</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check of the letter M.
030533	<u>Field Tape 2, Side A</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check from the letter M to the beginning of letter N.
030534	<u>Field Tape 2, Side B</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check from the beginning and past the mid-point of the letter N.
030535	<u>Field Tape 3, Side A</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check from the syllables NG.
030536	<u>Field Tape 3, Side B</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check of the letter W.
030537	<u>Field Tape 4, Side B</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check of the letter W to the syllables WU.
030538	<u>Field Tape 5, Side A</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check of the letter Y and the syllables YA.
030539	<u>Field Tape 5, Side B</u>	Recording of the Dalabon dictionary draft check of the letter Y.

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

030531/Field Tape 1, Side A

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:11	Nicholas Evans states that he and Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) are checking through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter M.
00:26	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) begins checking through the draft Dalabon dictionary beginning at <i>mandjarnghno</i> . Maggie Tukumba and Nicholas Evans examine the Dalabon word for stone at this timing point.
07:03	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon dictionary. Maggie and Nicholas converse about the Dalabon phrase for “cheeky one” at this timing point.
13:05	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon dictionary. Maggie explains how to say “I’ve worked at a lot of meetings” in Dalabon language at this timing point. [Tape then cuts out].
19:34	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon dictionary. Maggie explains the Dalabon word for “necklace” at this timing point.
34:05	Nicholas Evans remarks that this recording picks up on Saturday morning and that he and Maggie Tukumba are continuing their dictionary draft checking from the letter M. Maggie explains the Dalabon language word for “cousin” in the recording. [Tape cuts out].
42:32	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon dictionary, finishing at the word <i>marrkanj</i> . Maggie explains the words for “better get warm” in Dalabon language.
46:27	Silence
46:47	End of Field Tape 1, Side A and end of 030531

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030532/Field Tape 1, Side B

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan), Nicholas Evans and an unidentified Indigenous man [George?]
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06) / Mobarn (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:15	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter M. See EVANS_N02 030531. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the Dalabon phrase for “own country.”
06:04	Nicholas Evans enquires about the phrase “what’s your skin” to which Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) responds in Dalabon (N60) language. Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary.
19:01	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) interrupts the interview to speak to [her] children.
19:10	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary; still working from the end of the letter M to the start of the letter N.
20:29	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) interrupts the interview to discipline [her] children [tape cuts out].
20:51	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary; continuing their work at the letter M.
33:04	Nicholas Evans mentions the following is a recording taken on Sunday 15 July [2001] Bluewater outstation (Mobarn). Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan), Nicholas Evans and an unidentified Indigenous man continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, continuing from the letter M. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the two different Dalabon (N60) words for nest depending on how they’re made. Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter M.
46:28	Silence
46:44	End of Field Tape 1, Side B and end of 030532

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030533/Field Tape 2, Side A

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan), Nicholas Evans and an unidentified man [George?]
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:10	Nicholas Evans announces that the following is a recording of Maggie Tukumba working through the Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter M at an unidentified station on the 15 July 2001.
00:32	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter M. Maggie describes the Dalabon (N60) words for different sorts of paperbarks. She discusses in Dalabon (N60) language four different plants that create different coloured dyes for artefacts.
05:40	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter M. Nicholas explains that Maggie was discussing how they dug away an obstruction on the steep road coming out from the crossing so they could get up.
13:08	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter M.
20:26	Nicholas Evans mentions the following is a continuation of the checking of the Dalabon (N60) dictionary on Tuesday 16 July 2001.
20:46	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, beginning at the letter N. Nicholas, Maggie and an unidentified man discuss the Dalabon (N60) words for the phrase “what’s your skin?” within this timing point. Maggie and Nicholas describe the Dalabon (N60) words for “slowly and slow one” within this timing point too.
26:45	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, still from the beginning of the letter N. Maggie explains the Dalabon (N60) words for “little short-necked turtle.”
27:31	Silence
27:40	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, continuing from the beginning of the letter N. Maggie explains the Dalabon (N60) words relating to “brother and son” within this timing point. She also explains how to say in Dalabon (N60) language “I’m going to come back at 12 o’clock” within this timing point too.
42:21	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjjan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, still continuing their check from the beginning of the letter N. Maggie explains in Dalabon (N60) that you’ve got to sleep to protect yourself from the three spirits. An unidentified man starts a conversation about old people sitting

	down in the bush before the tape cuts out.
46:28	Silence
46:41	End of Field Tape 2, Side A and end of 030533

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030534/Field Tape 2, Side B

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan), Nicholas Evans and an unidentified man [George?]
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:12	An unidentified man continues his story relating to old people sitting down in the bush and the three spirits. See EVANS_N02 030533 42:21
01:21	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, continuing their check from the letter N.
02:27	Nicholas Evans states that the following is a recording on the morning of Wednesday 18 July 2001 and that the dictionary check is halfway through the letter N.
02:50	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, from halfway through the letter N.
05:52	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) interrupts the recording to discipline [her] children.
06:24	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, approximately halfway through the letter N. Maggie and Nicholas discuss particular Dalabon (N60) phrases that relate to “tough meat,” “honey,” and “liquorice” within this timing point. Maggie and Nicholas explain the phrase for “that woman’s husband hit him in the left eye,” within this timing point too.
08:29	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, approximately halfway through the letter N. Maggie and Nicholas discuss Dalabon (N60) words for wind amongst this timing point.
19:19	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, still approximately halfway through the letter N. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the Dalabon (N60) phrase for “don’t you give him cheek,” within this timing point.
28:18	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, still approximately halfway through the letter N. Nicholas and Maggie converse about the Dalabon (N60) language phrase for “woman’s looking for her boyfriend,” within this timing point. Nicholas and Maggie discourse about the Dalabon (N60) word for “grinding,” “scrubbing,” and “washing clothes,” within this timing point.
40:58	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary, continuing beyond halfway past the letter N.
46:29	Silence
46:51	End of Field Tape 2, Side B and end of 030534

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030535/Field Tape 3, Side A

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:13	Nicholas Evans states that the following is a continuation of the Dalabon (N60) draft dictionary check with Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) on Thursday 19 July 2001. Nicholas mentions that they are up to the Dalabon (N60) phrase for “frog croaking.”
00:40	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary; beginning with the phrase for “frog croaking” up to the syllables NG. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the Dalabon (N60) phrase for “feeling good” within this timing point.
12:23	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary; continuing with the syllables NG. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the Dalabon (N60) word for “raining” within this timing point. Maggie and Nicholas also discuss the Dalabon (N60) word for “rule” within this timing point too.
17:25	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary; continuing with the syllables NG.
26:17	Silence
26:29	End of Field Tape 3, Side A and end of 030535

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030536/Field Tape 3, Side B

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan), George, Nicholas Evans
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:14	Nicholas Evans states that the following is a continuation of the Dalabon (N60) draft language check – starting at the letter W – on the 3 September 2001.
00:47	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans start their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary at the letter W. Nicholas and Maggie remark that frogs don't lay eggs in the same way goannas do at this timing point.
05:40	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary at the letter W. Maggie and Nicholas discuss Dalabon (N60) phrases relating to teaching at this timing point. Maggie and Nicholas converse about the Dalabon (N60) phrases for the first three fingers of the hand at this timing point.
19:50	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary at the letter W. Maggie and Nicholas illustrate a particular type of pear within this recording.
30:42	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary at the letter W.
34:42	Nicholas Evans mentions that the following is a continuation of the Dalabon (N60) draft language check through the letter W on Tuesday 4 September.
35:12	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter W.
46:28	Silence
47:04	End of Field Tape 3, Side B and end of 030536

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030537/Field Tape 4, Side B

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:14	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter W.
15:15	Silence
15:25	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter W.
24:37	Nicholas mentions the following is a continuation of the Dalabon (N60) dictionary check from WU on Wednesday morning 5 September 2001. Nicholas remarks that he's also about to ask for clarification about hot strong winds.
25:15	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the syllables WU. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the Dalabon (N60) phrases for "really hot" and "really heavy smoke" within this timing point. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the Dalabon (N60) phrase for "making a noise," within this timing point. Maggie and Nicolas discuss the Dalabon phrase for "face grass" within this timing point.
35:31	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary continuing from the syllables WU.
45:14	Silence
45:32	End of Field Tape 4, Side B and end of 030537

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030538/Field Tape 5, Side A

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:13	Nicholas Evans states that the following is a continuation of the Dalabon (N60) draft language check starting at the letter Y – more specifically the syllables starting with YA – on the 3 September 2001.
00:44	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans start their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter Y and the syllables YA. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the significance of a particular song about a bird within this timing point. Nicholas explains that he and Maggie have changed location. Nicholas recounts that he and Maggie saw an African mahogany tree near her house that contained green ant nests.
11:45	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans start their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary; continuing from the letter Y and the syllables YA. Maggie explains to Nicholas the Dalabon (N60) phrase for “give it to him” within this timing point.
15:06	Silence
15:18	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans start their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary; continuing from the letter Y and the syllables YA. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the Dalabon (N60) phrase for “straight stick” within this timing point.
30:54	Silence
31:02	End of Field Tape 5, Side A and end of 030538

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030539/Field Tape 5, Side B

Performer/speaker(s):	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan), Nicholas Evans and George
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar
Language/people:	Dalabon / Dangbon language (N60) (NT SD53-02), Ngalkbun people (N76) (NT SD53-06)
Places:	Goindjimbi / Bulman (Arnhem Land NT SD53-06)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Timing point	Description
00:00	<u>AIATSIS Archive announcement</u>
00:12	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter Y. Maggie and Nicholas explain the Dalabon (N60) phrase for “all sleep together” within this timing point. Maggie and Nicholas explain the Dalabon (N60) phrase for implying “he’s not responsible” as well as the phrase for “my name is” within this timing point.
09:10	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter Y. Maggie and Nicholas discuss the Dalabon (N60) phrase for “rake up the leaves” within this timing point.
15:24	Silence
15:50	Maggie Tukumba (Ngarridjdan) and Nicholas Evans continue their check through the draft Dalabon (N60) dictionary from the letter Y.
22:41	Silence
22:56	End of Field Tape 5, Side B and end of 030539

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