

**Author:** Mary Laughren

**Affiliation:** University of Queensland

**Title:** Prehistoric relations between Warluwarric and Nyungic: comparing first and second person pronoun paradigms

**Abstract:**

By comparing the first and second (singular) person bound pronouns documented in Northern and Western Nyungic (O'Grady 1966) languages paradigms of nominative, accusative, dative/genitive and locative forms can be constructed as shown in Table 1 in a subgroup of Nyungic which I dub Northern Nyungic (NN). Dative and locative forms augmented by the suffix *\*-ra* can be reconstructed on the basis of cognate forms in three Nyungic subgroups<sup>1</sup>, Wati, Marrngu and Ngumpin-Yapa, which share other properties which distinguish them from the rest of NN. Compared with proposed proto Pama-Nyungan pronouns, the reconstructed first person *\*-rna* represents a clear innovation. I argue here that NN *\*-rna* derives from *\*ngarna* on the basis of the loss of the initial syllable of the ancestral form in parallel with the other bound pronoun forms, and the likelihood of being cognate with Warluwarric first singular *\*ngarna* (from earlier first plural form). A comparison of reconstructed NN, and proto-Warluwarric paradigms in Table 2, reveal cognate paradigms (except for the absence of Warluwarric cognates of the NN dative forms) including two unusual features: innovative first singular *<\*ngarna* and augmented dative/locative forms by suffix *\*-ra* (= *-rla* in Ngumpin-Yapa and Warluwarric). This paper discusses how these data might be interpreted and what light they may throw on Pama-Nyungan prehistory.

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<sup>1</sup> I broadly follow O'Grady, Voegelin & Voegelin (1966) in the identification of Nyungic (or Southern Western Group) subgroups. The Ngumpin-Yapa subgroup corresponds to OVV's Ngumbin and Ngarga subgroups (McConvell & Laughren 2004).

**Table 1.** Reconstructed Northern Nyungic first & second singular bound pronouns

	pPN	Pre-Nyungic	pNyungic	pMarrngu	pWati	pNgumpin-Yapa	pNgayarta	pKartu
<b>1SG</b>								
NOM	*ngay(u)	*ngarna	*=rna	*=rna	*=rna	*=rna	*=rna	*=rna
ACC	*nganya	*nganya	*=nya	*=nya	*=ja ~ *=nya <sup>2</sup>	*=ja	*=rni ~ *=ja	*=rni ~ *=ja
LOC	*ngaja	*ngaja	*=ja	*=ja	*=ja	*=ja	*=ja	*=ja
DAT	*ngaju	*ngaju	*=ju	*=ju	*=ju	*=ju	*=ju	*=ju
DAT-AUG	?*ngaju-ra	*ngaju-ra	*=ju-ra	*=ju-ra	*=ju-ra	*=ju-rla		
LOC-AUG	?*ngaja-ra	*ngaja-ra	*=ja-ra	*=ja-ra	*=ja-ra	*=ja-rla		
<b>2SG</b>								
NOM	*nyin	*nyin	*=n	*=n	*=n	*=n	*=n	*=n
ACC	*nyina	*nyina	*=na	*=na	*=nta	*=nta	*=nta	*=nta
LOC	*nyinta	*nyinta	*=nta	*=nta	*=nta	*=nta	*=nta	*=nta
DAT	*nyungku/ *nyingku	*nyungku/ *nyingku	*=ngku	*=ngku	*=ngku	*=ngku	*=ngku	*=ngku
DAT-AUG	?*nyungku- ra	*nyungku- ra/ *nyingku-ra	*=ngku- ra	*=ngku-ra	*=ngku- ra	*=ngku-rla		
LOC-AUG	?*nyinta-ra	*nyinta-ra	*=nta-ra	*=nta-ra	*=nta- ra	*=nta-rla		

<sup>2</sup> Only attested in Warnman, where it may be the result of borrowing from a Marrngu language.

**Table 2** Warluwarric first and second person bound pronouns<sup>3</sup>

	preNN- Warlu- warric	pNN	pWarlu- warric	Yanyula	Wakaya	Bularnu	Warluwarra	Yinjirlanji
<b>1st</b>								
<b>NOM</b>	*ngarna	*=rna	*ngarna	ngarna/ -Vrna	ngurninj/ -arn	ngarna	ngarna	ngarni
<b>ACC</b>	*nganya	*=nya	*nganha	ngarna/ -Vnha/ -Vrna-	nganh/ -anh	nganha	nganha	nganhi
<b>LOC</b>	*ngaja	*=ja						
<b>DAT</b>	*ngaju	*=ju	*ngatha	ngatha	ngetha/ -ath(a)	ngadha	ngatha	= ngatha
<b>AUG</b>	*ngaja-ra	*=ja-ra	*ngatha-rla-	ngatha- ngka	(no form)	ngadha-rla	ngatha-rla	(no form)
<b>LOC</b>								
<b>AUG</b>	?*ngaju-ra	*=ju-ra	?*ngatha- ngu	(no form)	ngathi-ng/ -athi-ng	ngadha-ngu	ngatha-ngu	ngathi-ngi
<b>DAT</b>								
<b>2nd</b>								
<b>NOM</b>	*(n)yin	*=n	*yin <sup>4</sup>	yinda/yin /-nhu	yimb/-imb	yiba	yipa	yimpi
<b>ACC</b>	*(n)yina	*=na	*yina	yinda/ -irna	yin/-in	yina	yina	yini
<b>LOC</b>	*(n)yinta	*=nta						
<b>DAT</b>	*(n)yingku	*=ngku	*yinta	yinku/ -Vnda-	yinda/ -ind(a)	yida	yinda	yinda
<b>AUG</b>	*(n)yinta- ra	*=nta- ra	*yinta-rla	yinda-a	(no form)	yida-rla	yinda-rla	(no form)
<b>LOC</b>								
<b>AUG</b>	?*(n)yingk	*=ngku	?*yinta-ngu	(no form)	yindi-ng/ -inde-ng	yida-ngu	yinda-ngu	yindi-ngi
<b>DAT</b>	u-ra	-ra						

<sup>3</sup> Yanyula data is from Kirton and Charlie (1996); data on southern Warluwarric languages is from Breen (1976a,b; 2000a-d).

<sup>4</sup> Carew (1993) reconstructs the proto-Warluwarric second singular nominative as \*yi<sup>m</sup>pa although this form is unattested in Yanyuwa. Although no nominative case reflex of \*yin is found in any of the Warluwarric languages, Yanyuwa has complex possessive forms such as yinku based on the stem \*yin.