

Gathering Strychnine

Speaker - Molly Mafulenggit

Recorded at Nauiyu Nambiyu in August 1988

(AIAS Reid Ngw Tape 4 Text 1 1988)

This short text has been included to demonstrate the type of dialect switching that is common in the speech of elder Ngen'giwumirri and Ngan'gikurunggurr people. Molly is of Ngan'gikurunggurr descent, but was married to a Ngen'giwumirri man for many years. At Nauiyu (Daly River Mission) Molly's typical speech contains a mixture of Ngen'giwumirri and Ngan'gikurunggurr. To demonstrate this switching I have marked those forms that are specifically flagged as being Ngen'giwumirri by italicising them. Likewise specifically Ngan'gikurunggurr forms have been underlined. I have only attempted here to mark those forms that are lexically or morphologically distinct. No attempt has been made to mark phonological (particularly stress) patterns that are unique to either dialect.

- 1 Wawulmen dede wuni Ridgedale nide ngadde wapup,
I was living with my husband over at Ridgedale's farm.
- 2 ngadde fili kak *nyine* ngadde peyik werri yerr-wasyanderri,
We used to wander around with a bag, a hessian sack
- 3 yerrweyi ngini ngadde lali, nganne gatit wakay,
for (the fruit of) Strychnine trees, we wandered around and gathered them up.
- 4 fill 'im up ngirrmegu e nguddenigi wul,
We filled them up and then came back.
- 5 nguddenigi wul dede nide wembem nide,
We came back to (Ridgedale's) camp, to the farmhouse.
- 6 miyi nyin midamuy yerrweyi ngan'gi marrgu ninggi menggeny tasat,
News (about the demand for) that Strychnine fruit had come out.
- 7 nyin kana ngerrme pul ngaddi,
In response to that news we used to wash (the fruit),
- 8 winnyerrem falmi ngerrme pul wakay,
all us women, we used to wash them.
- 9 *migarrfuru* ngunnu wuty, miyi damuy nginifiny napa,
We would throw away the skin, just (keeping) the fleshy fruit part.
- 10 fill 'im up ngirrme nyin peyik nide wakay,
We packed these into bags,
- 11 e dani tyerrbatybity,
and he sewed them up,

- 12 wawulmen ninggi Ridgedale dani tyerrbatybity wakay,
old man Ridgedale sewed them shut.
- 13 kak *nyine* yentyi *wunu* ngan Tawun e sell 'im meyi,
Then he used to take them into Darwin and sell them.
- 14 yerr nyin tyagan nawa ngini,
I wonder what that stuff was for,
- 15 ep medicine *werre* ngini ne, wakay kana,
perhaps it was something to do with medicine. OK thats it!