**TELC meetings 2005-2009**

*Paul Black, 2014; last adjusted 2 Nov.*

*During these years here is generally good information available for most meetings, although often it was prepared before the meeting, so any changes may or may not be noted. We would appreciate any further information anyone may be able to provide on the meetings during this period or on any associated publications, which we have tried to note as far as possible.*

**2005** **July 14 meeting**

2:00-5:00 pm hosted by the Learning Research Group of Charles Darwin University in Building 23 room 23.51 on the Casuarina Campus

2:00 Michael Christie (CDU)  
Fuzzy text searching for a Yolngu database

2:30 Claire Bowern (Rice University)  
Yolngu and Pama-Nyungan

3:00 *Break for refreshments*

3:30 Helen Harper (CDU) & Ailsa Purdon (BIITE)  
Text types, Secret English and the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework

4:00 Kevin Ford  
Two short papers: 1. International English. 2. Language awareness.

4:40 *TELC business meeting*

**2006 August 18 meeting**

2:00-5:30 p.m. hosted by AuSIL (the former SIL Darwin) at its new location in Palmerston (30 Georgina Crescent, Yarrawonga)

2:00 Chuck Grimes  
Looking toward the future: Unicode fonts for Aboriginal languages [abstract below]

3:00 Wang Li  
Han Yu characters in change

3:30 *Break*

4:00 Carmel O’Shannessy  
Children's acquisition of Warlpiri and Light Warlpiri (a new mixed language) in Lajamanu [cf. O’Shannessy 2006]

4:30 Peter Carroll  
Language at the cultural interface: Reflections on 40 years in the Territory

5:00 Jo Caffery  
Training, societal and governance factors that affect language work by Indigenous language researchers [cf. Caffery 2008]

**Abstract**

Charles Grimes, Ph.D.

Looking toward the future: Unicode fonts for Aboriginal languages

Ever opened a file that looks like this?

🞎🞎🞎🞎🞎🞎🞎🞎🞎 0870 162 4900 🞎🞎🞎🞎 (London)

or an email that looks like this?

**??????, ???? ???? ??????**

Fonts and special character keying sequences often create unexpected problems for computer users, particularly when historical encodings have lacked the special characters used in languages such as Yolŋu and Pitjantjatjara. This presentation explains why the standardized encodings of Unicode can solve this problem, and discusses the benefits of using Unicode fonts and keyboard utilities. To help overcome the ***‘digital divide’***between speakers of majority and minority languages, simple-to-use Yolŋu and Pitjantjatjara IME keyboards for Unicode fonts have recently been developed by AuSIL for use by local communities, schools, educators, linguists and others. These keyboard utilities will be demonstrated and made available (for free) to those who can make use of them.

**2007 September 20 meeting**

2:30-5:00 pm hosted by the School of Education of Charles Darwin University in Building 24 room 24.12 on the Casuarina Campus

2:30 Brian Devlin (CDU)  
Language teaching policy and Indigenous Catholic community schools in the NT

3:00 Louise Baird  
Causation in Klon

3:30 *Break for refreshments*

4:00 Salome Harris (Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation)  
Clues in the text: A Yan-nhangu narrative

4:30 Patrick McConvell (AIATSIS) and Paul Trilsbeek (Max Planck Institute)  
Indigenous language documentation and on-line community access: DoBeS regional archives and the OLCAP project

5:00 ~~Peter Carroll  
Changing oral tradition: Some Kunwinjku examples~~ [cancelled due to ill health: Peter Carroll had suffered a stroke about two weeks before the meeting]

**2007 November 2 meeting**

2:00-5:00 pm hosted by the School of Education of Charles Darwin University in Building 23 room 23.51 on the Casuarina Campus

2:00 Mikiko Kawano (CDU)  
English learning experiences and its influence on teaching grammar

2:30 Yoko Yonezawa (ANU)  
Roles of first and second person pronouns in Japanese [cf. Lee & Yonezawa 2008]

3:30 Claire Bowern (Rice University)  
Computational modelling in Australian historical linguistics [cf. Bowern & Atkinson 2012]

3:00 *Break for refreshments*

4:00 Neil Chadwick  
Marketing linguistics

4:30 Paul Black (CDU)  
Renewing linguistics: Observations on construction grammar

**2008 August 15 meeting**

3:00-5:00 p.m. in Blue 5.1.51 on the Casuarina Campus of CDU

3:00 *Refreshments*

3:30 Dany Adone (University of Cologne)  
Is there convergence in bilingual grammars? [abstract below]

4:15 Thersia Tamelan (SIL)  
An overview of Dela-Oenale verb morphology: A language spoken in western Rote [abstract below]

4:45 *TELC business meeting*

**Abstracts**

Dany Adone

Is there Convergence in Bilingual Grammars?

Recent studies on bilingual language acquisition have shown that there is cross-linguistic influence in bilingual child language acquisition, with discussion focusing on the content of functional categories (Müller 1998, Sanchez 2003).

Sanchez (2003) argues that grammatical properties involved in functional categories can be transferred from one language to the other. She proposes the Functional Convergence Hypothesis (FHC) stating that convergence occurs when functional categories in two languages contain similar features and these might not be activated in one language but are frequently activated in the other language. Convergence, thus, is the result of fusion of features associated with a functional category in one language with other features of the other language, leading to the emergence of a new functional category.

This study is based on the spontaneous speech recordings of Kriol-speaking children (age 4-5) in Ngukurr community. While Kriol is the dominant language English functions as the second language. Although children have regular access to English through schooling, they are dominant in Kriol. The data shows that these children have more subject and object drops in English as compared to monolinguals. Double object constructions were also more frequent than the ditransitive prepositional constructions (Rena give Justine book). Mismatches in gender specifications were also observed as well as the masculine pronoun ‘he’ was used quite often. This seems to confirm the view that there is an emerging new pronoun form in a bilingual grammar as an unmarked form (cf. Liceras 2008 and previous work, Adone 2006). These results will be compared to those obtained on Kreol/French bilinguals (Adone 2006).

Thersia Tamelan

An Overview of Dela-Oenale Verb Morphology

This paper describes verb morphology in Dela-Oenale (D-O), a language spoken in western Rote Island. D-O has both free and bound verb roots which can occur with combinations of subject prefixes, other verbal prefixes and suffixes. The subject prefixes are used to indicate person and number. They are also used with combinations of other verbal prefixes to indicate process, state, causative and progressive meaning. These verbal prefixes copy the vowel of the subject prefixes. There are also other verbal prefixes which occur without subject proclitics. These verbal prefixes occur with suffixes such as -t, -', and –s to indicate the resulting state of the action of the verb root or to derive nouns. The suffix –k is only found in initial-syllable reduplication indicating durative aspect.

D-O has productive reduplication. It has reduplication of root or stem (full reduplication), reduplication of first vowel and reduplication of first consonant and vowel. These types of reduplication indicate progressive, repetitive, causative meaning or indicate the instrument used to perform the action. The analysis of D-O verb morphology shows that D-O works quite differently from Indonesian and raises issues about differences among Rote speech varieties.

**2009 May 29 meeting**

1:30-3:00 p.m. hosted by the School of Education of Charles Darwin University in room Red 6.1.14 on the Casuarina campus

1:30 Michael Christie (CDU)  
Teaching from country

2:00 Jason Lee (AIATSIS)  
The Online Community Access program [abstract below]

*Light refreshments [were] served after the meeting*

**Abstract**

Online Language Community Access Program (OLCAP)

Abstract of a talk by Jason Lee

Audiovisual archives in Australia and around the world include significant recordings of Australian indigenous languages. Newer documentation programs are digital and some have high standards of metadata and annotation. Two challenges that audiovisual archives face are documentation and repatriation.

Older analogue recordings are being digitised. However, not many have content metadata or annotation such as transcriptions and translations added. Indigenous languages are nearly all highly endangered and inadequately documented. As time passes, the ease with which detailed documentation can be carried out is lessened. The number of native speakers and researchers who understand these languages may decrease. Many recordings are in danger of becoming less meaningful to future generations. In Australia many Indigenous people are assisting to document recordings through their own bodies like Regional Indigenous Language Centres. They are using them to create educational materials which will help keep their heritage alive.

In some cases, materials from repositories are simply returned to communities. In the absence of proper local archiving and documentation, this can be ineffective. In other cases, local archives are set up in communities. However, the infrastructure and expertise needed to maintain such operations is sometimes beyond local capacities. An alternative is to build an online central repository which can provide materials to local and regional centres as needed.

OLCAP is a pilot to trial, from AIATSIS (the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies), the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics' online system of storing digital recordings, adding annotation such as transcriptions and translations, adding metadata, and, the online delivery of such recordings to communities. That is, MPI Nijmegen's Language Archiving Tools (the software tools that support the DoBeS Documentation of Endangered Languages archive) are being used. Centres in Katherine serving the Victoria River District, Northern Territory; the Iwaidja community on Croker Island, Northern Territory; and, at Lockhart River in Cape York Peninsula, Queensland are linked in and Indigenous users are trialling the system.

This paper describes OLCAP and evaluates some of the issues (such as rights management and user experiences) and the direction it is heading.

**2009 June 30 visit**

10:00-11:00 a.m. informal meeting in Yellow 1.1.38 on the Casuarina campus of Charles Darwin University

A chance to meet the visiting linguist Steven Bird (U Melbourne) and hear about his recent work on "basic oral language documentation" (BOLD) and about his new book on natural language processing. He was also speaking at a conference being held by AuSIL.

**2009 July 29 talk**

12:00-1:00 p.m. in room Blue 5.1.51 on the Casuarina campus of Charles Darwin University

12:00 Margaret Sharpe (UNE) presenting a Powerpoint presentation by Sara Booth, Tim Denham & Mark Donohue (Koori Heritage Centre & Monash University)  
Re-assessing the long-term history of plant use in northern Australia: Hypotheses for the future [abstract below]

**Abstract**

Margaret Sharpe (UNE) presenting a Powerpoint presentation by Sara Booth, Tim Denham & Mark Donohue (Koori Heritage Centre & Monash University)

Re-assessing the long-term history of plant use in northern Australia: Hypotheses for the future

The presentation investigates the claim that Australia was a ‘hunter-gatherer continent’:

— examines the distribution of three groups of food plants that were first cultivated and domesticated in Sahul,

— discusses claims about the social landscape of ethnographic Australia, and

— shows that cultural traits correlate closely to plant distributions.

The banana, yam and taro have been growing in parts of Australia for some time. The PowerPoint presentation takes a hypothesis, first proposed by Jones and Meehan in 1989, that there were early horticultural experiments in Australia 10,000 up to 10,000 years BP when Australia was still joined to New Guinea.

There are also interesting correlations between the areas where these plants occur and some phonological features of the languages of these areas, and between the presence of stitched canoes, and some other artefacts, and the absence of some cultural practices.

**2009 September 4 meeting**

2:00 to 5:00 p.m. hosted by the School of Education of Charles Darwin University in Blue 5.1.51 on the Casuarina campus

2:00 Dany Adone (U Cologne)  
Substrate vs. universals: Reference-tracking in Ngukurr Kriol

2:30 Julie Lindenlaub-Kabisch (U Leipzig)  
Revitalizing language and cultural knowledge by re-activating texts

3:00 Neil Chadwick (BIITE)  
The Mirndi hypothesis and its potential ramifications [This is also listed for the 31 September TELC meeting, so it was either rescheduled or repeated]

3:30 *Break for refreshments*

4:00 Luningning Alior (U Mindanao and CDU)  
Reading comprehension enhancement program: An evaluation of outcomes

4:30 Mikiko Kawano (CDU)  
What I want to know about English for Academic Purposes

*Note: At this or some other TELC meeting at CDU between 2008 and 2013 Paul Black presented a paper on ‘An alphabet for Chinese characters’, possibly to replace a paper that was cancelled prior to the meeting. Oddly he has been unable to find any listing of this paper for any of the meetings.*

**2009 September 21 meeting**

2:00 to 4:30 p.m. hosted by the Centre for Australian Languages & Linguistics, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in block C Lecture Room 9 on the Western campus of Batchelor Institute (former SAL buildings)

2:00 Lys Ford (BIITE)  
Report: Educational impact of Aboriginal English on ACT preschoolers

[This replaced the following talk, cancelled due to illness:]  
[Dany Adone and Anastasia Bauer (University of Cologne)]  
[What home signers tell us about language]

2:30 Chuck Grimes (ANU & AuSIL)  
Indigenous languages in education: What the research actually shows [published as Grimes 2009]

3:00 *TELC business; refreshments*

3.30 Neil Chadwick (BIITE)  
The Mirndi hypothesis and its potential ramifications [also in the above 4 September program]

4.00 Greg Dickson (BIITE)  
Delivering Indigenous language literacy training in the Katherine region

**2009 October 27 joint forum**

Next Steps in Advocating for Indigenous Languages in Education

3:30-5:00 sponsored jointly by AuSIL, ATESOL, [FOBL?], TELC and CDU’s School of Education, in the Education lecture theatre (Blue 5.1.01) on the Casuarina campus of Charles Darwin University.

Kimmo Kosonen (SIL International)  
First language-based education for non-dominant language speakers: Issues and challenges

Charles Grimes (AuSIL)  
Indigenous languages in education in the NT: The Chief Minister's ‘house of cards’

**References**

Bowern, Claire & Quentin Atkinson 2012, ‘Computational phylogenetics and the internal structure of Pama-Nyungan’, *Language* 88:817-845.

Caffery, Josephine 2008, Linguistics training in indigenous adult education and its effects on endangered languages, PhD thesis, Charles Darwin Unversity.

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Lee, D. Y. & Y. Yonezawa 2008, ‘The role of the overt expression of first and second person subject in Japanese’, *Journal of Pragmatics* 40: 733-767.

O’Shannessy, Carmel 2006, Language contact and children’s bilingual acquisition: learning a mixed language and Warlpiri in northern Australia, PhD thesis, University of Sydney.