ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Course title: History of Australian Languages II: The Pama-Nyungan language family
Course dates: Sat 5 & Mon 7 December, 2015 (mornings)
Contact hours: 6 hours
Instructor: Dr Harold Koch, Australian National University

About this course

Pama-Nyungan is one of the major language families of the world—consisting of some 200 languages spread over the greater part of the Australian mainland. The coherence of the family, widely assumed since the 1960s, has been controversial, but is now generally accepted. This module will present the main evidence.

Syllabus

Introduction
- brief history of ideas on Pama-Nyungan (PN)

Pama-Nyungan phonology
- synchronic typology
- diachronic within selected subgroups
- phonological correspondences and the establishing the phonology of Proto-PN

Pama-Nyungan morphology (each involving synchronic typology, recurrent changes, cognate material, proto-PN reconstruction)
- case suffixes
- personal pronouns
- interrogatives
- verb inflection

Etymology
- appropriate methods
- comparative vocabulary of selected domains, e.g. kinship

Subgrouping
methodology
- evidence for particular subgroups
- recent proposals
- open questions

General issues
- questions of time, place, expansion method of PN and relation to nPN languages.

Assumed knowledge

Some familiarity with Australian languages and/or historical linguistics would be helpful, but is not necessary. Relevant concepts and methods will be introduced along with the data being discussed.

Learning outcomes
- Understanding the main evidence supporting the status of the Pama-Nyungan language family, reconstruction of the features of its proto language, and the subgrouping of languages within the family
- Understanding the key methods for establishing language families, reconstructing proto-features, and determining subgroups

Recommended readings


Technology requirements: what you need to bring

None
ASSESSMENT TASKS

General Points

If you are taking a course for credit you are required to attend the face-to-face component at CoEDL Summer School and sign the attendance roll at each session.

You will submit your assessment task to the course convenor at your home university. Your home university will be responsible for marking your assignments.

Please note that the marking rubric below is a guide which the course convenor at each university is free to adapt if they wish (to meet word count requirements, for example), but they will need to advise you of any changes before Summer School starts.

Your performance in the 'shell course' in which you are enrolled at your home institution will reflect the marking system and grades applied in your home university.

If you wish to dispute your mark, you need to take this up with your home university's course convenor. CoEDL Summer School does not take responsibility for the outcome of university assessment.

History of Australian Languages II

(i) Assessment Tasks

To fulfil your home institution assessment requirements for this course, you are required to complete the task(s) listed below, plus any other assessment tasks as directed by your course convenor at your home institution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1: Classification of a Pama-Nyungan subgroup: literature survey</td>
<td>500-1000 words</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Contact your course convenor at your home university.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 2: Classification of a Pama-Nyungan subgroup: analysis of inherited and innovating features</td>
<td>1000-1500 words</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Contact your course convenor at your home university.</td>
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(ii) Assessment Criteria and Marking Rubric

Task: Classification of a Pama-Nyungan subgroup
The task requires you to demonstrate an understanding of key facts and issues in Pama-Nyungan historical-comparative linguistics and an ability to apply this understanding to making a tentative additional contribution to our knowledge of the historical situation. Part 1 requires you to select a proposed subgroup of Pama-Nyungan languages, learn how the languages have been classified, and discuss the strength of the case. Part 2 has you identify features of these languages—both features inherited from Proto-Pama-Nyungan as currently reconstructed, and features that represent innovations—and evaluate the strength of your new evidence.

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<tr>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
<th>HD</th>
<th>DN</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>PS</th>
<th>Fail</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>Demonstrated understanding of the issues (Parts 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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<td>Clear description of previous classifications (Part 1)</td>
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<td>Ability to identify inherited features (Part 2)</td>
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<td>Ability to identify innovated shared features (Part 2)</td>
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<td>well reasoned discussion of the strength of the evidence (Parts 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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General feedback: