



## **Grammatical Notes**

### **For the Teaching of the D'harawal Language**

#### **1. Sentence Structure**

The normal structure of a sentence is Object + Verb and tense + Subject

**e.g., Gavin goes home = Home goes Gavin**

#### **2. Suffices which indicate tense.**

These suffices immediately follow the verb and indicate tense.

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - <b>Dya = past tense</b>  | <b>e.g., Kamawi'dya = came</b>     |
| - <b>Ba = future tense</b> | <b>e.g., Kamawi'ba = will come</b> |
| - <b>O = present tense</b> | <b>e.g., kamawi'o = come</b>       |

### 3. Suffices which indicate person

These suffices which indicate person immediately follow the verbs+tense

- **Wa = I or me**                      e.g., Kamawi'o'wa = I come  
   Kamawi'ba'wa = I will come  
   Kamawi'dya'wa = I came
- **Ngun = we or us (two)**      e.g., Kamawi'o'ngun = We come
  - Kamawi'ba'ngun = we will come
  - Kamawi-dya-ngun = we came
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- **Nya = we or us (3+)**          e.g., Kamawi'o'nya = We all come
  - Kamawi'ba'nya = We all will come
  - Kamawi'dya'nya = We all came
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- **Mi = you (singular)**          e.g., Kamawi'o'mi = you come
  - Kamawi'ba'mi = You will come
  - Kamawi'dya'mi – you came
- **Miya = you (plural)**          e.g., Kamawi'o'miya = You all come
  - Kamawi'ba'miya = You all will come
  - Kamawi'dya'miya = You all came
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- **Nga = He, she, it**              e.g., Kamawi'o'nga = (He, she, it) comes  
   Kamawi'ba'nga = (he, she, it) will come  
   Kamawi'dya'nga = (he she, it) came
- **Wi = They**                      e.g., Kamawi'o'wi = They come  
   Kamawi'ba'wi – They will come  
   Kamawi'dya'wi – They came



#### 4. Suffices which indicate prepositions

The suffices which indicate prepositions occur after the objective noun

e.g., at the home = Galumban'wawa

in the home = Galumban'nula

near the home = Galumban'winima

to the home = Galumban'dali

from the home = Galumban'birong

outside the home = Galumban'wyana

behind the home = Galumban'karbo

on the home = Galumban'boorowa

under the home – Galumban'gadi

#### 5. Transitive verbs

The use of transitive verbs in a sentence is simple. The subject is attached as a suffix to the verb+tense

e.g., Dracula snores = Guruda'o'Dracula



## 6. Questioning

Normally a question is asked by using a questioning tone of voice.

**Minyin** is added to the question when an answer is demanded.

## 7. Replying to a Question

Nodding or shaking the head is an acceptable reply to a direct question, unless the question is followed by the command "**Minyin**". However, nodding the head means "no" and shaking the head from side to side means "yes".

This can be very hard to do at times, therefore, "**illa**" is "no", except when you are answering a question from someone who is of knowledgeholder status, the word "**bellambi**" is then used. "**Nay**" is the normal "yes", and "**Nayay**" is the respectful "yes".