



# LING2213

## Australia's Indigenous Languages

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

*Department of Linguistics*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor, lecturer, tutor

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Undergraduate program director

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit aims to give students knowledge of the structure and use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages within contemporary settings, as well as prior to European colonization. Students will study several specific Aboriginal languages in depth, as well as gaining a general knowledge of the linguistic prehistory of Australia, kinship and social organisation, language and the land, multilingualism, language maintenance, language contact. Other topics to be covered include Aboriginal sign languages, Aboriginal song, Aboriginal conversation and narrative, language and the law, Aboriginal languages in Education and first language acquisition. Important ethical practices for conducting research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities will be a key focus throughout the unit.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** Demonstrate a knowledge of phonological and grammatical structures of one or two indigenous languages.

**ULO2:** Analyse, evaluate and discuss the semantics of Australian Aboriginal kinship and social organisation.

**ULO3:** Articulate their understanding of the context of language contact in Australia especially with respect to multilingualism, pidgins, creoles, mixed languages and varieties of Aboriginal English.

**ULO4:** Describe and apply ethical considerations regarding working with Aboriginal people when conducting research into their language and cultural practices.

**ULO5:** Effectively communicate to a range of audiences relevant topics such as language documentation and revitalisation, and linguistic diversity in indigenous Australia.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#"><u>Gija Lexicon and Grammar Analysis</u></a>	40%	No	Part A (Lexicon) in 21 Mar; Part B (Grammar) 18 Apr
<a href="#"><u>Group Presentation</u></a>	15%	No	Week 8
<a href="#"><u>Group Evaluation of Language Resource</u></a>	45%	No	Week 13

### Gija Lexicon and Grammar Analysis

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 18 hours

Due: **Part A (Lexicon) in 21 Mar; Part B (Grammar) 18 Apr**

Weighting: **40%**

Students will analyse lexical and grammatical problems relating to the Gija language, using the Gija Dictionary as a resource.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of phonological and grammatical structures of one or two indigenous languages.
- Analyse, evaluate and discuss the semantics of Australian Aboriginal kinship and social

organisation.

- Describe and apply ethical considerations regarding working with Aboriginal people when conducting research into their language and cultural practices.
- Effectively communicate to a range of audiences relevant topics such as language documentation and revitalisation, and linguistic diversity in indigenous Australia.

## Group Presentation

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 10 hours

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **15%**

Group presentation on chosen/allocated language, drawing on an allocated reference (e.g., reference grammar or dictionary).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of phonological and grammatical structures of one or two indigenous languages.
- Articulate their understanding of the context of language contact in Australia especially with respect to multilingualism, pidgins, creoles, mixed languages and varieties of Aboriginal English.
- Describe and apply ethical considerations regarding working with Aboriginal people when conducting research into their language and cultural practices.
- Effectively communicate to a range of audiences relevant topics such as language documentation and revitalisation, and linguistic diversity in indigenous Australia.

## Group Evaluation of Language Resource

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Report

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 38 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **45%**

Group Evaluation of the chosen/allocated reference (e.g., grammar or dictionary), where each student is responsible for evaluating particular aspects of the reference (e.g particular chapters).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of phonological and grammatical structures of one or two indigenous languages.
- Articulate their understanding of the context of language contact in Australia especially with respect to multilingualism, pidgins, creoles, mixed languages and varieties of Aboriginal English.
- Describe and apply ethical considerations regarding working with Aboriginal people when conducting research into their language and cultural practices.
- Effectively communicate to a range of audiences relevant topics such as language documentation and revitalisation, and linguistic diversity in indigenous Australia.

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<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

## Delivery and Resources

There are three contact hours for this unit each week: two lectures and a tutorial. The Monday (12:00-1:00pm) lecture is in 01CC 101 and the Wednesday (2:00-3:00pm) lecture is in 04WR room 220. Please self-subscribe into one of the two tutorial groups via e-student. There are three tutorial groups: Monday 1:00-2:00pm in 01CC 101, Monday 2:00pm-3:00pm in 25WW A208 and Wednesday 1:00-2:00pm in 14SCO 200. Lectures will be recorded but tutorials will NOT be recorded.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)

- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)

- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

## Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
19/02/2025	One of the listed seminar rooms has now changed. This has been updated.

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Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)