

Mirima Linguistic Forum

Thursday, 14th April 2016

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg) would like to announce its 13th Linguistic Forum to take place on Thursday, 14th April, starting at 2pm. The forum will be held at Mirima Language Centre, Kununurra.

We are very pleased to announce the following presentation:

Coverbs as versatile predicates: the case of Jaminjung in cross-linguistic perspective

by Prof. Eva Schultze-Berndt,
University of Manchester (UK)

Bio:

Eva Schultze-Berndt completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Cologne and her PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics and the University of Nijmegen. She is now Professor of Linguistics at the University of Manchester. She has been conducting fieldwork in the Victoria River District in northern Australia since 1993, resulting in publications on aspects of Jaminjung grammar such as spatial expressions, complex predicates, overt verb classification, and discontinuous noun phrases, as well as on language contact phenomena. Her typological research interests include secondary predication, complex predication, parts of speech and information structure.

The Mirima Linguistic Forum is an initiative by MDWg to bring together people with an academic interest in Indigenous studies. While our focus is on language and culture, ideally with a reference to local Indigenous matters, we welcome contributions on related topics. Presentations occur in an informal and relaxed atmosphere and we leave plenty of time for discussion and exchange. The forum is open to all; if you happen to be in the Kununurra area and would like to present on a topic of interest - please let us know: info@mirima.org.au.

ABSTRACT:

Coverbs as versatile predicates: the case of Jaminjung in cross-linguistic perspective

Jaminjung - like many other languages in a Northern Australian area, including Miriwoong - has two classes of predicates, inflecting verbs and uninflecting coverbs. The most prominent use of coverbs is in the formation of complex predicates together with an inflecting verb, but coverbs are also used outside the verbal complex in syntactically and pragmatically dependent clauses. They can also be used with special “performative” prosody in mimetic representations of events. In this presentation, I will illustrate the various syntactic and discourse functions of coverbs against the background of other languages which employ different lexical categories or grammatical constructions, such as predicative nominals, ideophones, preverbs, or converbs, in similar functions.