

Mirima Linguistic Forum

Wednesday, 4th October 2017

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg) would like to announce its 16th Linguistic Forum to take place on Wednesday, 4th of October 2017, starting at 1:30pm. The forum will be held at Mirima Language Centre, Kununurra.

We are very pleased to announce the following presentation:

Sound Symbolism in Gooniyandi, a Language of Western Australia

by Renée Plotycia,
Heinrich-Heine Universität, Düsseldorf (Germany)

ABSTRACT:

This talk is based on William McGregor's (1996) analysis of possible sound symbolism found in the final position of Gooniyandi verbal roots.¹ Sound symbolism – sounds which carry semantic meaning – is a phenomenon found in many, if not all languages, but traditionally oral languages like Aboriginal Australian ones have more robust sound symbolic elements: They're the spice of good storytelling! There will be a general overview of Gooniyandi phonotactics without much linguistic jargon, making it accessible to participants with little or no linguistic background. Following the presentation, there will be opportunity for discussion, with particular reference to the Miriwoong language.

Bio:

Renée Plotycia is currently completing her Bachelor of Linguistics at Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany. Since August 2017, she has been an intern at MDWg to gain practical experience in language revitalisation and documentation. As part of her stay she has developed an interest in ideophones in Miriwoong.

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.

¹ McGregor, William B. (1996) Sound symbolism in Gooniyandi, a language of Western Australia. WORD 47:3, 339-364.