Mirima Linguistic Forum
Wednesday 31ˢᵗ March 2021

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg) would like to announce its 27ᵗʰ Linguistic Forum to take place on Wednesday, 31ˢᵗ of March 2021, starting at 3pm (AWST - Western Australia). The forum will be held at Mirima Language Centre, Kununurra with the possibility of joining online.
➔ To join online via Zoom, please request a link from manager@mirima.org.au.

This meeting will host the following presentation:

A semantic typology of Australian Indigenous emotion nouns
Eleanor Yacopetti (in collaboration with Maïa Ponsonnet)
University of Western Australia, Perth

Eleanor Yacopetti is a graduate of The University of Western Australia with a First Class Honours in Linguistics. Her honours thesis focused on the semantics of emotion across Australian Indigenous languages. Eleanor is currently working as an intern at Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring and will commence her PhD journey at UWA later this year, researching the grammar of spatial description in Kune (West Arnhem Land).

Maïa Ponsonnet is a linguist currently based at The University of Western Australia in Perth (PhD ANU 2014). She has extensive experience working with speakers of Indigenous languages in communities of inland Arnhem Land. Among other things, Maïa's research concerns the ways emotions are described and expressed in these languages. She is the author of a number of articles and books, in particular a 2014 monograph on the encoding of emotions in Dalabon (Gunwinyguan, NPN) and a 2019 monograph on a comparison between Dalabon and Kriol. Some of her work on emotion metaphors is also available via the website: www.EmotionLanguageAustralia.com

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: manager@mirima.org.au.

ABSTRACT

A semantic typology of Australian Indigenous emotion nouns

Eleanor Yacopetti (in collaboration with Maïa Ponsonnet)
University of Western Australia, Perth

Australian Indigenous languages tend to have few abstract nouns. The semantic domains of emotions is no exception; emotional concepts are often expressed figuratively or extensively lexicalised in other word classes, but rarely as nouns. Which emotion concepts are lexicalised as nouns? Why are some emotions nominally lexicalised and not others? Lexical semantics can help us to understand the synchronic conceptual associations behind this phenomenon (cf. Evans 1992; François 2008). In this presentation, I will present findings from my honours research: a lexical semantic analysis of 57 Australian Indigenous languages that expands on Ponsonnet's (2016) pilot survey of Australian emotion nouns. I will outline the quantitative results of surveying emotion nouns on the continent, before discussing the semantic associations of the most commonly lexicalised emotion concepts.

References

Evans, Nicholas. 1992. "Multiple Semiotic Systems, Hyperpolysemy, and the Reconstruction of Semantic Change in Australian Languages." In *Diachrony within Synchrony*, edited by Günter Kellerman and Michael D Morrissey, 475–508. Bern: Peter Lang Verlag.

François, Alexandre. 2008. "Semantic Maps and the Typology of Colexification: Intertwining Polysemous Networks across Languages." In *From Polysemy to Semantic Change*, edited by Martine Vanhove, 163–215. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Ponsonnet, Maïa. 2016. "Emotion Nouns in Australian Languages." In *Language, Land and Story in Australia*, edited by Peter K Austin, Harold Koch, and Jane H Simpson, 228–43. London: EL Publishing.