

LANGUAGE REVIVAL METHODS

MAKING A TRANSLATION

There are all sorts of ways to write in Language. You can start with English or you can start from an idea or a picture without writing in English first.

Some strategies include:

- Replacing every word from an English text with a Language word
- Starting from an idea and finding the Language words you need
- Using known formulas (such as greetings) to build up conversations
- Using known grammar patterns to build up stories
- Combining any of the above strategies to get the job done!

IDEAS

When working from English there are a couple of things you can do to make the process more manageable. For one thing, it's worth looking at the English original to see if you can make it simpler. The simpler the English is, the easier it'll be to find strategies to translate into Language. Sometimes this might even involve changing some Language words into English.

Original - If there is fresh grass found near Tarn Weerreeng without a funeral having taken place, someone was killed. No one is allowed to go there. (Deen Marr – Keerray Woorroong)

Rewritten - When you see fresh grass near Tarn Weerreeng (Road of Spirits), when [there was] no funeral, you know someone was killed. No one will go near.

People like to learn things like greetings and other types of routine talk. These are also good to include in stories. In the following example, standard items of conversation are woven into a conversation. (Wiradjuri – Parkes)

Yamandhu marang?

Are you well?

Ngawa baladhu marang mudhyi.

Yes I be well friend.

Nginhugir galingabangbur marangbang?

Your children well?

Ngawa nganyguliya biyambul marang.

Yes they all well.

Deen Maar



Tarn Weerreeng peenpa keetnan meerteeyt moongay, ngakapa deen maar.

Weerreeng tharn moongay, pakarr meerreeng ba deen maar.

Kalpeerna-k-ya kalpoornity-nyoong pootoong-ee yoowoo-k moorraka-ye.

Ngoolang-! tarn weerreeng tyama-ngeen Pooyeet Pooyeet Tyeepeety-ei wampan kalpeernitj-ngat kana-nyoong ba pangoneeyt-nyoong yunyin Tarn Weerreeng nhoompi Deen Maar nhoodlampi wampan weerreeng kanoo moorna-nyoong-ee/yakeenitj-ee.

Ngaken-u-ya ngeeram teena tyama-ngeen weeyn-ye wampan kanoo.

Ngaken-u-ya teena tarn Weerreeng-i-ngooty pootoong waloong teekoornayko moorrakan maara parta-n pangyana-wan waloong moongay kalo pootoong kalpeerna wampan poorray

Translated by Vicki Couzens from Dhauwurd Wurrung and Keerray Woorroong

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Page from Nyernila - Listen continuously

By using sentence patterns you already know, you can write simple stories. In this story by Myranda Tournier, she recycles one sentence pattern in four ways: Where will I... eat/dance/brush my teeth/sleep... tonight. Then her closing sentence answers each question. (Wathaurong – Geelong)

Wiya wurr-ik morrgalyu dyeela-tyaree-ik?

Where will I play tonight?

...

Larroong yeek-a.

At my house.

LANGUAGE REVIVAL WORKSHOP

MAKING A TRANSLATION

For this workshop, choose a story that is already known in your community. Alternatively, you could use the following story fragment. This story is shared by several different language groups.

One day the crows were disporting themselves by throwing fire-sticks at each other. The sport consisted of catching the firebrands before they fell to the ground...



THE TASK

Practice re-telling the story in ways that make it simpler. Try one or more of these strategies:

- Without looking at the original written version
- As if you were telling a group of children
- In pictures or gestures

Now try rewriting the story so that there are only TWO or at most THREE elements in each sentence. For example:

1. WHO/WHAT is doing something	2. What's HAPPENING	3. WHO or WHAT else is involved or WHERE (if you need it...)
The little koala	climbed	up the tree.
Everyone	was late	to the workshop.
All the animals	laughed and laughed.	
We all	had a great time.	
The emu	fed	all its babies.

Once you can do this, it will be a lot easier to find the patterns you need to tell your story, in historical or linguistic sources.

EXAMPLE OF SIMPLIFIED GRAMMAR FOR TRANSLATION



(A) Original

One day the crows were disporting themselves by throwing fire-sticks at each other, The sport consisted of catching the firebrands before they fell to the ground...

(B) Splitting it into a small number of elements per sentence

One day the crows were playing/ by throwing fire-sticks at each other. They tried to catch the fire-sticks/ before they fell to the ground...

(C) Ready for translation

Once there were some crows. They were playing together. They were catching fire sticks. The sticks should not touch the ground...