Text 3: Pumping water for a thirsty bull
Mervin Street, 1982.

This is story, designated a humorous story by the narrator (see McGregor forthcoming-g), is about pumping water for a thirsty bull in the early days. The narrator is perhaps the youngest fluent speaker of the language. (This text is discussed at length in McGregor forthcoming-g; see also Allan forthcoming for an alternative analysis.)

1 / niyi -nhingi ngirndaji thangarndi / joolang jijag -ji /
   that ABL this word [name] say (3sg)N+I
ngaddagi -nhingi /
my ABL
'Now that Frank has told his story, it's my turn.'

2 babiddi ngirnda birnboorni -ya / baajathngarna /
below this [name] LOC [name]
woombadda / warang -biddi / bambim -bidda gamba /
[name] sit (3pl)N+I pump (3pl)N+A water
booloomarni -yoo /
cattle DAT
'Below here at Birnboorni, Baajathngarna and Woombadda were living, pumping water for cattle.'

3 niyi -nhingi / yoowarni nyiddaji ward -ji gamba -yoo /
that ABL one bull go (3sg)N+I water DAT
'Then one bull came up for water.'

4 yoowarni -ngga / gamba bambim -gila -nga /
one ERG water pump FACT (3sg)N+A
'One of them was pumping water.'

5 bambim -nga: niyaji / nyiddaji wara -yi /
pump (3sg)N+A this bull stand (3sg)N+I
'He pumped, while the bull stood there.'
well .. ngirndaji -ngga / bambim -gila -nga gamba / 
this ERG pump FACT (3sg)N+A water
'This one was really pumping water.'

wara -mi wara -mi wara -mi - niyaji
stand (3sg)N+MI stand (3sg)N+MI stand (3sg)N+MI this
nyiddaji / 
bull
'It stood and stood and stood, the bull.'

(This is the only instance in the entire corpus of the verbal lexeme wara- 'stand' collocating with a classifier other than +I.)

ngirndaji / ngoonyoo -nhingi nyiddaji ngirndaji / 
this where ABL bull this
joowoorloo nyamani / ward -ji / 
stomach big go (3sg)N+I
"Where did this bull come from, the one with the big stomach?"

and this get:stiff PROG (3sg)N+I now (he:left:off??)
bambim -nhingi gamba / 
pump ABL water
'He was getting stiff, and left off (??) from pumping water.'

(The meaning of the term wayaddmi is uncertain. On playing back the tape recording of this story, I was informed by the narrator that it meant 'arm'. It is not, however, among the terms I have elicited for 'arm'. The most likely possibility — both semantically and formally — seems to me to be that it is a careful, or dialectal variant of the verb wadd- 'leave off, forget'.)

baa -mi -nhi / yaanya -yoo / nginyji -ga now / 
call (3sg)N+MI (3sg)O other DAT you ERG
bambim -ja -wa ngirndaji -yoo / nyiddaji -yoo / 
pump SUBJ FUT+(2sg)N+A this DAT bull DAT
'He called out to the other one, "You now, you can pump water for this bull."'

well niyi -ngga / miga -mi -nhi / nginyji -ga / 
he ERG tell (3sg)N+MI (3sg)O you ERG
nyiddaji / thangarndi gard -boowoo / joowoorloo nyamani
bull mouth hit (2sg)N+BINI stomach big
niyaji nyiddaji /
this bull
'Well, he said, "You should punch the bull in the mouth; it's got too big a stomach."

12 gad -bi -ya -wani / yaabja -yoo /
leave IT SUBJ (3sg)N+BINI some DAT
boorloomani -yoo /
cattle DAT
"Let it leave some water for the other cattle."

13 well niyi -nhingi wila / ngirndaji thangarndi
that ABL finish this word
ngaddagi -nhingi /
my ABL
'Well, that's all my story.'