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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
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AIATSIS MS 2189, box 2.31 Linguistic Survey of North Queensland,
pages 6676-6723¶
(Typed by Gavan Breen, November 2000. Interpolations by GB in curly
brackets.}¶
{Laves special symbols keyboarded as follows (where # refers to the
symbol list at
http://www.anu.edu.au/linguistics/nash/aust/laves/symbols/index.html):¶
script · r→
                     r r¶
underlined-d→
                     dh¶
underlined-n→
                     n¶
# 1→
                     #1 [amended 12 Dec 200, DGN]
# 7→
                     Φ
#10+
                     P
#11→
                     f¶
#13+
                     PП
#14→
                     PЩ
#19+
                     Pο
#21+
                     cpt{?}¶
other symbols
                     ...Я
P {
Billy (native name limera) Skewthorpe, Cloncurry
[my hearing impaired by band playing] I
mambilə+
                     hand¶
balgal→
                     arm¶
m i<u>n</u>min→
                     shoulder ..... {sthg like a c under second n}¶
gurnge'n→
                     elbow¶
diene→
                     foot¶
muguinj→
                     I · leg¶
'darrərə→
                     u. legn
າu·ndə→
                     buttocks¶
kandharra+
                     head¶
djamalə+
                     hair¶
yugu→
                     еуе¶
n j iŋgar rə→
                     nose¶
binarra+
                     ear [cf. binal{?}erinju Karadjeri]
nalindi→
                     ching
yardjainj→
                     mouth¶
yardinde→
                     teeth¶
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ŋalgardi→

tongue¶

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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
manguri→
                    fr. neck¶
dhambalga+
                    b. neck¶
waarre+
                    chest¶
dhambu→
                    fem. breast¶
ŋabara→
                    belly¶
yuŋgu→
                    navel
wirrga
                            {?}→ ŋadjir
hither
                    you(
                          → come me-to¶
                    gulg wabaiyi.¶
nalir
                    up he-go¶
                    durrainj→
    lindu→
                                 yabundjal //¶
                    bath ▶ water¶
Œ you & me go bogie alor
                          a water hole n
PП
        nowa→ du r
ηaiyu→
\rightarrow
                bathe #1→ just now¶
        one→
ηaiyu durrgaiyi ···· wabiηu{?}¶
I .....go¶
yaŋu barli <—— cf númbu¶
fire · build¶
yundu··= · thou¶
ngan = obj{?} I \P
// ngana minbanu yanu barlildji //¶
            → ··· fire¶
Œ he told me to build the fire
nuwa ····· ηaiu yaŋu barlinu¶
just now I ... fire build 1
guruini ······--1 ¶
gurrudhu ····-2 ¶
bulagarra ···-3 ¶
naminj ..... 4 <---... ¶
gurbaiyi .....5 ¶
bangu big mob 
numinj gul bangu¶
...4¶
Œ an uncountably big mob¶
magiə ·····→camp¶
ηaia wandalηu biringirr¶
```

I go tomorrow morning ¶

where?

wandurru→ →

2¶

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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
                                                        3¶
magia bill gurrayin
camp ..... go home ¶
gali yundu gurra¶
... yes you go home!
yundu dunarra wabainj
you .... behind ... come a
Œ will you come up behind I
dangal→ → yundu waba¶
first, before, ahead you gou
dunarra yundu wabainj
behind you come ¶
you come behind n
gada .... gu'bura¶
children little¶
gulagula ···· slowly¶
______P
nadhia badirre ..... gulagula n
wife .... fetch along slowly n
ŋandjibara yundu dalal magia ηa
when when arrive camp
                              ₹1·...{?}¶
bandjil = middle-aged m
bulbul · · = old man¶
dannagirr .... b.f.¶
wuburindji ....young m
yabirri ···· pre-initiate bo
nadia ···· wife ¶
gulagama .... married woman
guldjirra ···· single ·
Billie Skewthaw at General Hospital, Medaguri language
(directions given to hospital) I
70{?} just sitting quiet¶
Fort Constantine where I born on Cloncurry River. Giving the b.f. all the
cattle they wanted. Bora, teaching just like school.
// bambarə{?} yidjirran ŋadjindu ŋaniundu minbaldji¶
message leave me-for what for talk
···· words¶
OE What for you been send word for me? //¶
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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
                                                     4 ៕
// bambarə minbaldji ŋaina{?} ŋanindu¶
··· words ··· talk ··· what for //¶
yundu nundi mati umilə → → p6683¶
you .... Œ spoil yourself¶
nambi yundu matiumila n
don't¶
Œ you be careful do{?} nothing wrong
yundu djindjal ...ina{raised y?}¶
you straight ¶
mambilə makal durdugu¶
hand good to me, hither
nambi wulu waki wamilan
don't · · · · sleep¶
Œ don't you go here and there 
nambi yugu durrga [don't walk about with eyes shut]
don't CE eyes shut ¶
yadhu yirrabinu mala mathi¶
father ...21... ... Œ don't know anything
                                         p.66849
Œ your father never do{?} that and I want you to do same.
(1) cf. Karadjeri yagala = leave¶
ŋalindu ···· djunul yinayi¶
we-cpt{?} here sit¶
(2) marrge wulumba .....yundu ŋaigu
····· Œ move sidle, shift over you riveror sit want
Œ move over, you're sitting too cla
nurlu, kabudha = hat¶
···· yagiη·(1)····· yina¶
Œ still, quiet sit¶
ŋambi wulumbal ····.. ¶
move over, sidle [re. girl]
Œ don't you say nothing - re ¶
mirraga ŋambi guliŋu¶
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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
                                                       5¶
mother don't like, in that manner
Œ your mother not that way
ηambi bunarumba ηadiandjal¶
don't ··· "tempt" ····· wife-to¶
..... [... potential¶
Œ you got "cousin" ¶
yibula ..... kinara nambi durrnunumba n
us two fellow play .... don't "love her up" ¶
[... 22]¶
Œ you can play with them but don't put your arm round him \( \)
ŋambi wagi ∏.¶
Œ might "finger" him¶
···· wagimiriba¶
→ → ····· beckon¶
mambi laŋga wagi ∏¶
VAR. mambilamagal
fingers - ...{agt?}¶
vibilara ..... badji gu'limba¶
→ → → · · that¶
you two fellows "must do that way"
ηaia bualηu ηaiina¶
I···· will hit ·· ... I will ¶
Œ If I hear you I'll give you hiding I
Ф
namirn waba yarra
mo.bro. go vou¶
Œ you go with your uncle¶
Ф
nambi wandalbunu nambi gudjulu ...{?}¶
don't leave don't ... "altogether" q
yina namirn nundjal
sit .... mo.bro. -with a
Œ when you go with uncle [mo.bro.] don't you leave him I
gudjulu ····· yina···· yarra(l)¶
all-together sit, stay youn
Œ stop with uncle¶
yunga{or u?} wabi namirn dunarra wurrbaini¶
"... when" go mo.bro. after, behind follow
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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
                                                       6¶
Œ when uncle go away follow him---
                                           p.66889
gungirrgi warlimirri bagurrnundja I 🖪
sugarbag climb ..... tree¶
yunga yalbirribu yarragadha I
····· chop ···· pick up¶
Œ when he climb up the tree sugarbag, tree fall down honey you pick up a
P
mo.bro. say: ¶
nanban nalindu gurrinunu yurrbinu naigu ya'bundu. T
 sis.son 121 back home thirsty In
 manguri gagarragu gungirri¶
 · dry ····· in throat ··· sugarbag¶
 → "dry cough" ¶
 Œ throat getting dry go down get drink of water $\Pi$
 {gungirri was glossed as throat, then this crossed out and sugarbag}¶
gurrinu yabubil manguru gagarrabunu gungirringi 🖪
home water-to dry thirsty n
Œ my throat getting too dry for water¶
gawa ... gulgu galginu mirra mirra ndjal
"Œ come over here" •Œ go down, back Œ down the steep bank → p.6690¶
mangalabil (final rr changed to I) wulmanu mirramirramandu
down to the sand ..... from there down the bank \( \pi \)
mangalabil ..... dalayi¶
down to sand
gulgundu gigawarra wurraldji 🛚
Œ come down here "soak", well dig I
Œ scratch sand to make water come
nanban yabu gunugil gali badhila yurrbinu yundun
sis. son wil... here ... now ... drink ... Œ dry .... you¶
Œ boy instead of calling me nephew call "boy", you dry
yurrbinu yundu badhilə gunu naigu yabu wurranu yirrandu 🛚
dry, thirsty ..... drink here I water dig, scratch for youn
Œ I been dig hole for you and now you drink I
ŋanban kandhun kunu dhuŋarra milki milki barliŋu¶
sis.son fa.sis where behind close coming along
Œ keep on coming closer¶
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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
                                                       7 ៕
PП
fa.sis. = mo.bro.wife of an = but an identical, 3 lines
fa.sis.da }¶
····· } marriageable¶
mo.bro.da}¶
not marry fa.bro.
ηamirna → = breast¶
ηamirn ···→ = mo.bro.¶
mirraga ···→ = mo.¶
murna····→ = sis.¶
ηabun····→ = bro. eldest¶
yabuinj ··→ = second brother¶
ηadhia····→ = { wife¶
····· { wife's brother¶
bulun ····→ = fa.fa.¶
gamin ···· = fa.fa.sis.¶
naigu wandalbu nina naigu gudnu barrigu milgi barrinu.¶
····· f barliηu¶
I ...... leave ...... coming close I
Œ I going to leave youn
Œ your father's sister coming close now. Well I leave you before she
come too close [potential mother-in-law] ¶
gali yundu dana lwaba{?} gandun min {or one word gandunnin?}
you...
            ahead, first "auntie" (fa.sis.) ¶
Œ you gotta go first, auntie heren
[µ boy goes ahead so that he doesn't see his fa.sis or potential mother
in law] ¶
warinu } = "cousin" fa.mo. or fa.mo.bro.¶
<u>=</u> babin }¶
djalinj = mo. bro. son¶
····· (wife's bro.)¶
[good friend, never "row"]
PП
namirn gurana¶
"uncle promised" - i.e. ηadhia¶
djalinj never talks to ego's mother, i.e. djalinj's mo-in-law¶
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Laves' Mayi-That rti (Medaguri, Clonc
                                                       ₽8
banbari ····· {mase
wungu ·····
gurrgila mo. bro. son 9
murna sister
B gurrgila¶
ego, bro, sis, fa.fa
                             wife, bro-in-law, fa.mo.
C wungu D banbari
··· mo., mo.sis ····· fa.¶
Ф
guburu ego ¶
emu = ego "my story"
carpet snake = bulun, fa.fa.¶
dingo = ego's fa. ¶
emu is mother [djungubarri]
       [bigain] = "religion", i.e. tabu] \( \pi \)
fa.sis is pelican
garrgainj ··· red sparrowhawk ··· sis.husb.¶
{then follows a couple of pages of family trees with skins and totems.
p.6699¶
                     land dingo
                     water dingo→ → f pelican¶
                     land eaglehawk→ → →
                                                ego's fa-...¶
                     sparrowhawk¶
                \rightarrow
Two different lots - sparrowhawk and emu is ego's and djalinj lot
          ego's lot and uncles lot |→ fa lot¶
          sparrowhawk and emu --- eaglehawk
                                ··|→ carpet snake¶
          red spa→
                                .. →
                                      Popnib
                                     red (camf · ??¶
                                · · | →
Text N.Q.4++
                           Billy Skewthorpe, Cloncurry
Moon one time he been b{lack}f{ellow} and emu and porcupine. That
porcupine big fighter nobody can knock him over. This emu had a nice
looking wife. Porcupine he good-looking but single man and emu too
frightened to stop porcupine's humbugging with Emu's wife. Moon had a
wife, good looking. On account of being fighting man porcupine had both
moon's and emu's wives. They couldn't go near porcupine. This fellow
emu say what we do - we can't fight him - that man too powerful. You
know what we do - we get "soldier" vandial - big mob b{lack}f{ellow}...
No good unless we gotta yandjal: Well that all right.
yaba°irri nalindirr yandjalmanadalbunu¶
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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
                                                       9¶
PП
djurrnu = moon¶
djungubarri = emu¶
kalgabunu ·· or · kuηgunbunu ·· · = porcupine¶
nagirrgunu milgirra
... man pugnacious q
Œ look at that man ¶
nalindu ·····nambi dawulumba¶
we-cpt{?} not ····· OE give cheek; growl¶
ηumbi → dawundarri¶
or nambi ... Œ disturb, give cheek¶
ba(i)nja ····· na l inindabinu yidjirri ···· djulungu¶
wife [woman] 121 ... OE "light hair" that one
kali ...... yandjal magaldji ......nalindu¶
[cf 12 Karad. kala] soldier... gather together 121 cpt{?}
wulubalka ..... bualdji mirlabirrimbay ¶
"do him in for good" kill, take his life hole ... put in a
                    \rightarrow
                                      dig-hole-to-put-in¶
kungungu nagirr 'bangu'dalai ..... djulgundu nagirrdjunu rudjunu¶
spear ...... man "get mob onto him" for that one man that powerful
                                \rightarrow
                                     \rightarrow
                                           → ···· fighter¶
gurrdunu(sic) nambi buan gudjulu maldji
two men..... not (can) kill mob, 40-50 not mob, 40-50 not mob.
"we'll mob him"
madhi ····· gil{djunu crossed out} → ····· buru|dhadhawaldji¶
"no good" + + + + backbone | let's break¶
                     {line between u and d may indicate word break}
nia gulinubarrigu(n) magia madhi u malnu¶
inton?¶
yes "yes, we do it that way" camp or earth bad ...... make n
.....[you make camp no good]
manguri ..... nandaldji ŋaladjunu ..... gungun-bunu.¶
throttle, br.{?} neck seize ...... Œ let's leave{?} him spear ... in him, ->
                                              → ····· inside¶
• Œ strangle¶
walabaldji
Œ let him walk about ¶
OE leave him, he'll have a spear in him b & b I
widhundu balbadhilayi¶
ants ····· eat¶
Œ we'll let him walk about eating ants I
bilnjundu burrbu d{h}ilayi njingarr¶
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Laves' Mayi-Thakuri (weaagur Cloncurry)+
                                                       10<sub>¶</sub>
                    ·····nose¶
Œ let him drive nos into ground
ŋambi 'dagukurral — ulubalga, → → ···· yinayi¶ not ···· short-f be ome never, all during his life sit¶
                    OE he'll ever sit down
Œ no matter how much he digamins nose will never get shorter
djunu. narla m rrbi
he b & b crawling sneak along
he will go along dragging on his belly I
ηabaraindjal. ·walabayi ···· djunu.¶
belly-along walk about hen
madhigil kadhirrbuna.
bad- grass-full of, or with, in him [cf. gungunbunu above]
njingarra nambi gundjal. ¶
nose ..... not ..... break¶
mambilə ····· gurbayəbuna. bangu∏ walabayi ··· {or eyi}¶
... hands & fingers three-with ..... four .... walk about a
nenila = you look!
ηaiju<u>nu</u>wa naŋamen .....{something like 4} #1 see¶
ηalindu naŋi lə 121 look ...!**
                                            p 6717¶
PП
...: moon talking to emu¶
moon say: nabun gali gudjulumba
brother [cf. Karad. kala] CE{?} you get ready
yundu yinagunul nai yandjalga¶
you···· stay → I··· soldiers-for¶
wabi ηunuwa magilai gunu...an {one illeg. letter} gunu...an
CE I'm going now going together this one, that fellow T
'naηa'ηila ·<sup>(1)</sup>······baŋgal ···ŋugundu·→ ····<u>rabu</u>···∏¶
"keep your eyes about" you run f ... gungundu silent, secretly \P
for that one ¶
yundu yina. malmaya yundu gunul¶
you stay talk you here, this place
Œ ... moon tells emu to stay with porcupine and to wait quietly until
moon brings the "soldiers"
ηaigu wandjildji 112¶
yundu wandjilbununuwa .... ¶
                nuwa ηai wandjinu magarn {?} gabidjindjal¶
Œ I been sleep straight thru night¶
... "you talk to him and don't let him think of nothing"
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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
                                                         119
binarr madhiuma
ear ···· "bad" ¶
[make him ear no good"] ¶
naiala ····∏·?¶
"he might go round about"
vinevi. .... vinevi¶
sit ····· sit¶
ŋalindu → wandjildjiŋana .... ¶
121-cpt{?} ···let's all go to sleep now¶
emu: nia ··· yugugurrinu ····· wamiland wamilambinu¶
'yes' I getting dozy, sleepy sound asle b "can't wake him"
["porcupine is sound asleep"] ¶
ηί a ηaia gagambiηu
ves ·· I ····· tired ¶
[moon says, "gamin", he's sleepy] \( \Pi \)
widerri mundu valmilan. ··· {note
Œ from a long way
                    travelling
djana rangin→
                      mambinu¶
feet ·· sinews · of · anles · anogether · sore ¶
                      gura {rr orig written as r}¶
yanubari→ →
ALT yanubarlin
     fire-build ......
                    little bit large
yanubari djulgundu
····· him for ¶
ŋurraŋura yib la
Pow two ... you two ¶
Œ you two fellow sleep there; moon talking to wife n
djunulwandji banja bulba narla naiyi yandjal
there-at sleep woman two b&b I ..... "soldier" mob I
magalnu djulgundu. yanu djunu durrnundu lamba n
gather ... him-for ....fire ...there ashes ..... cover up a bit ...
[cover up fire to produce darkness]
nagirr gunu ······nurlurr ···· milgimbinu ···· gungunbuna warrngaldji¶
men over there altogether coming up close spear-with going to spear
                                                              him¶
djunul wulubalga dalbildji djunu mirdabirr gali¶
that one-... kill ..... close ..... there grave I
·····[cf. Kumbaigari]+
                                                        p.6722¶
burrgadhalayandu¶
see if you can jump about now 
... now that you're dead see if you can jump about \( \pi \)
wirrga wabainj. milgimba .....nuwa¶
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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)
                                                     129
hither come close-encircling CE ready, already
close [moon is calling to soldiers]
gunubarri .... garribandalina. 9
there he is middle-at{?} f camp¶
          VAR garribarnbinu
nagirr wadhanu→ → nadjirri wayi→ nanarra¶
man \cdots sing out, call out mine \cdots f fetch up to us
bualdji djunu magalbunu.
kill ...... him ... Œ ... spears ready in their hands ¶
               f-2 readiness-with
warrŋgalbuŋu····· mayanu yundu¶
slinging-spear- talk .....you¶
[... (to porcupine) you been talk]
yungabundjilan
flogging¶
Œ that fellow been hitting us allatime I
PORC: nadjindu kuli yarre{a?} gudjilumban nadjindu¶
                "yes" everybody Œ "you all ge{o?}t together" me-for
gurdunu nambi - buwan [cf. Kumbu.] nana. guli - yunda waba¶
two ..... not ..... give hiding ..... 11 obj thither you .... go I
[wild emu apple & wild fruit] you eat stick when break you a
lirrma, ······ ηagirr ··· yundu namalbunu¶
take fright (if) men you see ¶
OE ... If y{?} stick breaks and you see a man etc you run 
bang ina yundu bulan ∏.¶
run ..... you quick quick¶
nambi nanamila dunarra djurrnu yundu wangarn waba yundu γ
don't look behind moon you on or{?} up in sky go you¶
djurrnu. djurrnu yundu yina wulubalga 🛚
moon sit all your life n
rudju nuyundu yina mudji yundu.¶
light rise .....sit die ....you¶
dhala yundu. ŋabara mardumba yundu¶
{dhalay undu, dhalayundu?}¶
live→ → .... belly ...big .... you¶
   ..... Œ when you rise again you full moon.
MOON say: yundu dhagunayala wulubalga wundu mirrba mirrba π
·····you·
                  short all your life you crawling
[keep crawling about] \( \pi \)
guliwalaba {or guli walaba}.¶
keep walking about n
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Laves' Mayi-Thakurti (Medaguri, Cloncurry)+
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13¶

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yugu karlanu¶
eye without ¶
[when porcupine hides he has no eyes] \( \pi \)
nani yundu nananulbunu or nanamulbunu ๆ
what you .... see ¶
gungundjununun¶
spear · · · there ¶
"that altogether spear" ¶
rudjunu yundu. ηagirr nana mabuna {raised | } ¶
"forever" you ..... man ..... see ¶
yundu ... {?} manguridurrga¶
you meck thrust n
..... Œ put head in ground ¶
Œ if you see moon you stick head into the ground I
kerremara. yundu yina wagarru nagirringi badalbunu 🖺
underneath you .... sit ... meat+
                                   ·· men-agt→ · eat¶
            \rightarrow
                       ·· i.e. food¶
yina gungunbunu guliyinayi{nu?}→ ···· rudjunu.¶
sit ... porcupine .... like that you stay forever \!
{end of story {in MT}}¶
```

Emu been tell-him. You been beat me. You can turn into emu you liveshort{?} emu{?} food in the bush. Eat emu apples. Anything you hear you take fright when you see moon no matter how far you run away. When you running fast don't look around keep going till you get tired A. R. mo: {?} porcupine, you been kill me, you & emu I send him you away & I going to put you. You go in the sky when you reach up there, don't come down when you. You die up there and come again. Every time you rise you swell up big you bulŋalamba keep swelling out. And that light for everybody [balmbal = light]. Moon been tell him porcupine - well if you going to put me there you walk about all hours of the night you look for plenty of tucker when you can't get tucker you go longa ant bed, if you can't ketch any ants pull your tongue out and you put full up in your tongue you draw it back & you porcupine all your life [rudju] you can't pull out all this spear from you. You 'guŋgunbu'nana now rigu yundu yina rigu¶

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"story" you ···· stay "story"

tatoo

marks, fate, burden "God can't shift you"

Finis N.Q.4
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