

# Yanyuwa

**Yanyuwa** is spoken by approximately 150 speakers in the Northern Territories of Australia. It is a good example of one of many Australian languages that make heavy use of articulations in the dental, alveolar and retroflex regions.

For example, it shows the typical pattern that when a language has both dental and alveolar articulations, the dental tends to be laminal, and the alveolar tends to be apical (see **Temne** for an exception to this).

In addition it has apical postalveolar (retroflex) and laminal postalveolar (palatoalveolar) articulations.

As a further quite unusual addition it has two places of articulation in the velar region which might be referred to as “front velar” and “back velar”. As pointed out by L&M, the front velar articulation is certainly not as far forward as the palatal articulation in **Hungarian**, nor is the back velar articulation as far back as the uvular articulation found various languages (e.g **Quechua**).

The next pages are taken directly from the original SoWL Demo

# Yanyuwa

## Oral stops

<b>Bilabial</b>	wubuwingu	'for a small female one'
<b>Laminal dental</b>	wuḍurumaya	'laugh!'
<b>Apical alveolar</b>	wuduru	'full of food'
<b>Apical retroflex</b>	wuḍuɭa	'in the stomach'
<b>Palatoalveolar</b>	wuḍuɭa	'into the grass'
<b>Front velar</b>	gug <u>u</u> ɭu	'sacred'
<b>Back velar</b>	wu <u>g</u> u <u>g</u> u	'grandparent'

Yanyuwa is an Australian language spoken by approximately 150 people in Borroloola, Northern Territory and Doomadgee, Queensland.

Yanyuwa exhibits seven places of articulation, including a contrast between front velar stops and both palatoalveolar (laminal postalveolar) and back velar stops. We illustrate here the contrasting oral and nasal stops in intervocalic position.

These recordings are from our own fieldwork in conjunction with Jean Kirton. The terms used here differ somewhat from those used by Kirton and Charlie (1978).

Most notable is our use of “laminal dental” in place of their “apical dental”. While “apical dental” suggests contact between the tip of the tongue and the upper front teeth, we would also note the contact between the blade of the tongue and the front part of the alveolar ridge.

We have also used the term “front velar” in place of their term “palato-velar”.

In addition, the velar stops appear to us to be made slightly further back than those in other languages although they are in no way equivalent to uvulars.

#### Reference

Kirton, J. & B. Charlie. 1979. Seven articulatory positions in Yanyuwa consonant. *Papers in Australian linguistics* 5. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.

## Nasals

<b>Bilabial</b>	umu(w)ad̪ala	'in the canoe'
<b>Laminal dental</b>	wuṇuṇu	'cooked'
<b>Apical alveolar</b>	wunala	'kangaroo'
<b>Apical retroflex</b>	wan̪ura	'white egret'
<b>Palatoalveolar</b>	ṇaṇalu	'tea'
<b>Front velar</b>	luwaṅu	'strip of turtle fat'
<b>Back velar</b>	waṅulu	'adolescent boy'

