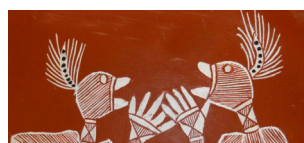
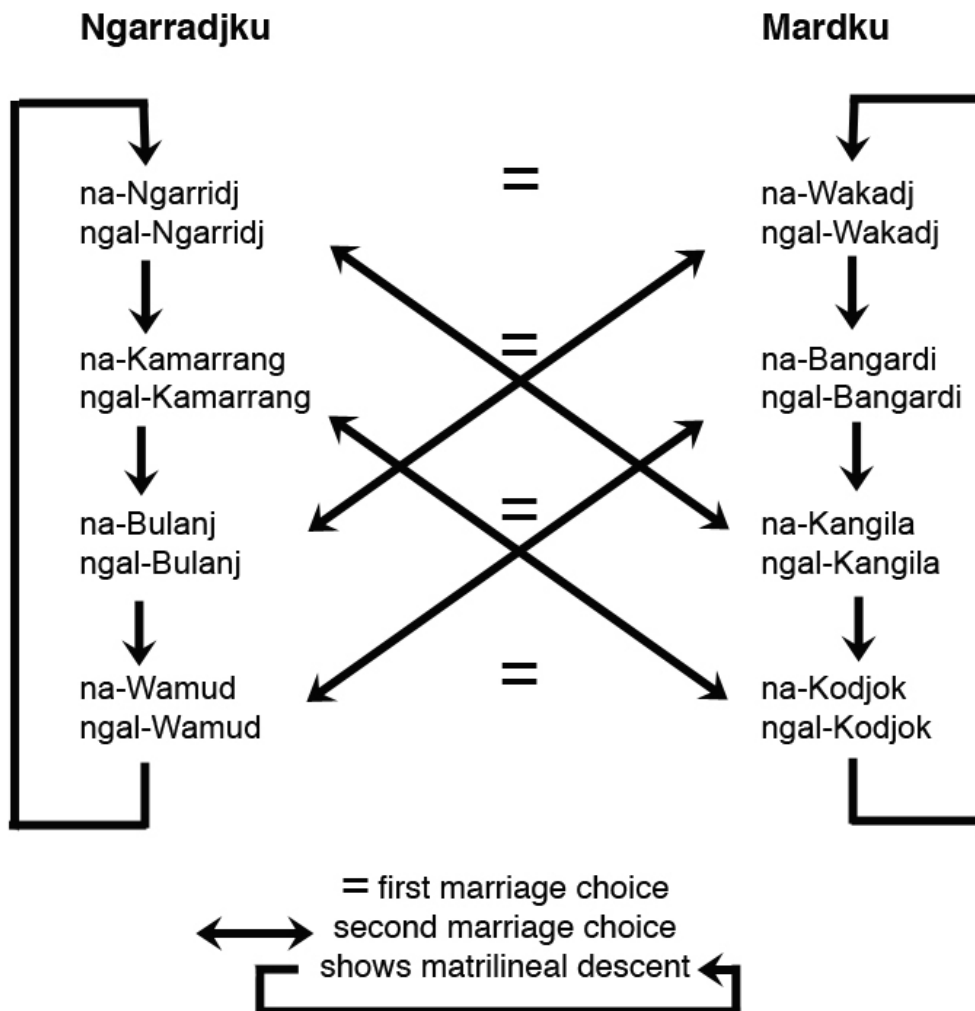


Subsections in Western Arnhem Land (also called skin names)

Kunwinjku

Throughout a number of different parts of Aboriginal Australia kinship systems employ subsection or 'skin name' systems as part of social organisation. Effectively these categories are marriage classes but they are also very important as ways of referring to people. Do you work with Aboriginal people in Western Arnhem Land? Do you know that it would be more appropriate for you in many situations to address people by their skin name rather than their given name? Teachers, you can use subsection names to address and refer to your students. Here's a diagram that explains the system in Western Arnhem Land. This diagram represents the system for Bininj Gunwok (Kunwinjku, Gundjeihmi and some other related language groups). The pairs of names are those of a brother and sister. Ask an Aboriginal colleague to help explain the diagram for you.



Bininj Gunwok Language Project



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