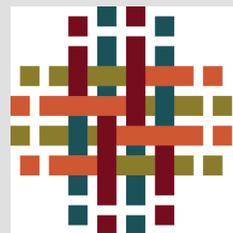


Recording Audio and keeping track of recordings

Nick Thieberger & Rachel Nordlinger
Research Unit for Indigenous Language
University of Melbourne

WANALA Conference, Kalgoorlie, June 2016



ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR
THE DYNAMICS OF LANGUAGE

What are the recordings?

Heritage records made in the past
(oral tradition, songs, ...)

- need to be
 - digitised
 - summarised or transcribed

Recordings you are making today

- need to be
 - summarised or transcribed

And recorded at the best
quality you can achieve



What can be done with media recordings?

- websites
- mobile phone apps
- dictionaries
- movies
- teaching materials
- ...

-  Dick Kalsog
1 song
-  Harris Takau
1 album, 4 songs
-  John Maklen
1 album, 3 songs
-  Kalfapun
1 album, 2 songs
-  Kalopong
1 song
-  Kaloros
1 song
-  Kalsarap Nemaf
1 album, 3 songs
-  Kalsarur
1 song
-  Kaltapau
1 song
-  Men's choir
1 album, 9 songs
-  Metu Josef
1 album, 2 songs
-  Nmak Kalmet
1 album, 2 songs
-  Petro Kalman
1 song
-  Roger Waoute
1 song
-  Rossell
1 album, 2 songs
-  Schoolkids
1 song
-  Stringband
1 album, 3 songs



Dick Kalsog ▶ 🔊 ⋮



Erakor 

Dick Kalsog-Ntan ni Erakor 24:28

- NT libraries (community stories)
- YouTube
- iTunes

- But they are not archives
- Be sure that precious records are preserved and not just put into a website or multimedia display
- Both are important (getting recordings back out to users AND archiving them)

Litrapong

Media Player



Embed code:

```
<iframe class="eopas_player" frameborder="0" data-bbox="146 414 353 434"></iframe>
```

Litrapong , 2011-01-18 00:00:00 UTC

Item ID EOPASNT5-Kalsarap-litrapog_1

Depositor Nick Thieberger

Recorded on 2011-01-18 00:00:00 UTC

Annotator -

Participant -

Participant Role speaker

Language Code eng

Country Code AU

Copyright

License CC-AU-BY-ND

Private false

Download [NT5-Kalsarap-litrapog.mp4](#)

Litrapong, a spirit of the place , 2000-03-28 00:00:00 UTC

Transcript

Creator Nick Thieberger

Language erk

Country VU

Date 2000-03-28 00:00:00 UTC

Depositor Nick Thieberger

Set Displayed Tracks

- s1 Amurin na kanrik mus ki-. Akam, teesa, teesa ni mees,
- s2 utap lek esan kin Litrapog itkos mau, me kineu alekaø ki namtak, go asil wes, apan to natkin.
- s3 Litrapog, esan kin amurin na katli nlaen mees teesa akam uto pa.
- s4 Uto pan me uta lek erfale ni Litrapog mau. Kineu alekaø ki namtak, ipi nlaen amurin kanrik mus kiø.
- s5 Naliati iskei kaipe mai to Erakor to, kin me apo pa ana kalel aas.
- s6 Go san kin apakes pa, nap?lel rutmer tfagir, tefla, akano nraf.
- s7 Apan alek aas rutu, aas p?afp?of nen kin atap lekaø tete nraf mau. Me ato Erakor pa.
- s8 Malen apan pan pan, atu sol aas pan kaimotir panpanpan inom, me ato nraf, ato nraf pa.
- s9 ilakor pi, namroan neu kipi tefla, amrokin ilakor pi Litrapog kin ipregiø nen kalel nfaen.
- s10 Malen apan panpanpan na asok, asoki erfale ne. Ale tefla, alek polisman ga kin ratu nmet.
- s11 Me Litrapog ipato ito mp?ag na, nfai faat. Alek polis kin rateflan tu.
- s12 Polis ne rusosøø ki Tap?ar go Nrotik. Malen kin apa, ana, *O me mees kaipe mai paakor esa, kafo pan le soksokir*.
- s13 Ipi nlaen apo nraf panpanpan apan pato me ato leka. Apei-, tenen apregiø, apei lot. Alot panpan na inom.
- s14 Kin me apo pa, amailum pan to m?aak lekaø, panpanpanpan inom. Aler mai na asol aas kaimai pak elau Epakor, na asaiki raru,

South Efate

[Lexicon](#) [English - South Efate](#) [Categories](#)

a e f g i k l m n o p r s t u w

This dictionary is a work in progress. This edition can be cited as: Nicholas Thieberger (2007-01-16) Dictionary of South Efate (<http://paradisec.org.au/SELexicon/index-english/main.htm>). This work is the result of a collaborative project between speakers of South Efate, mainly in Erakor village, Efate, Vanuatu, and [Nicholas Thieberger](#) who has written a grammar of the language. It was produced using [Shoebox](#) and [LexiquePro](#).

English - South Efate
[a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#) [m](#) [n](#) [o](#) [p](#) [q](#) [r](#) [s](#) [t](#) [u](#) [v](#) [w](#) [y](#)

A - a

abalone	kaiaraskei
abort	kispun
above	elag
absent	lalu
.	puel
accompany	ptaan
.	plak
act	gien
active	polkikir
adam's apple	npatnkafik
add	skar
admire	lewi
adopt	ṗas
adult	ṗafṗof
adze	limur
.	kram ṗel
aeroplane	man ni
after	nmalfa
.	me
afterbirth?	ntakun
afternoon	nal ni teesa
again	kotfan
against	mer
.	ktekit
age-mate	putkau
agree	tak
aim, point with finger	trok
	tum

nakpep *prep.* ahead, forward, front. *Kalik nakpep seman kana paneg namun.* You look ahead when you want to do something.

nakpes *n.* tree sp., young leaves eaten together with **ntali** fruit. Also use the wood to make fish traps by planting sticks vertically in the water to create a fence.

nakrik *n.* Fig tree. *Ficus virgata*.

nakrok *n.* vine sp. Strong vine.



nakser *n.* wild kava, creeping thick vine, leaf eaten, but not the root. Its leaves can stop a devil that is following you.



nakte *pron ?.* mine (1st person singular possessive).



nakur *n.* Indian Mulberry, not used as a dye today, but it was used as a yellow dye for mats and hair. Lavard (1915) says it was used for sickness, and that it was mixed with lime to make a red paint. Also

But!

- In order to make media files work in these applications, the media needs to be:
 - of good enough quality
 - described so you know what is on it
 - transcribed with time codes

Machinery

- Recorders (audio, photographic or video)
- Ensure settings are correct
 - date, time, location
- Monitor audio recordings through headphones

File naming

- Recorders assign their own filename
 - this will not be unique (STE-100, STE-102)
- Take note of that name
 - For instance: STE-100.wav has Aunty Mabel telling the story of the emu in the sky, 23/5/15, Fitzroy
- Change it when copying to your computer and keep a correspondence list of names and what is on them (metadata)
- New filename is 20150515Mabel.wav

- Audio recording
 - Machinery
 - Formats
 - Practicalities

Recorders

- New ones all the time
- Know how to select the most useful ones
 - read reviews
 - specifications
 - can they allow external mikes? With XLR input?
 - RNLD list for advice (<http://rnld.org>)
 - Why not use a phone for recording?



Know your equipment

- ... BEFORE you need to use it!
- How to change batteries!
- How to set input volume
- How to copy files

- Read the manual
- Make test recordings

Backup!

- Digital data is very fragile
- Make copies
- Take a few SD cards in case you need to record lots on one trip



Analog to digital

- Sound is analog
- Conversion to digital involves sampling

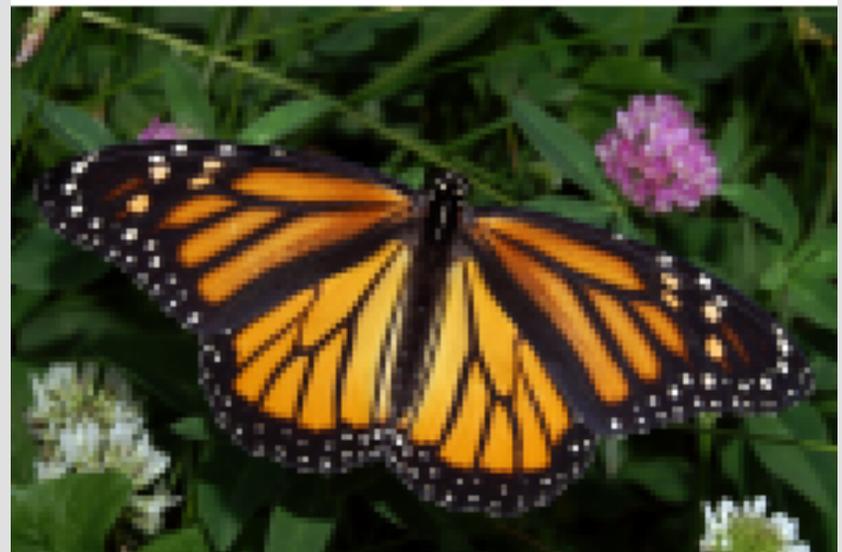
Compression

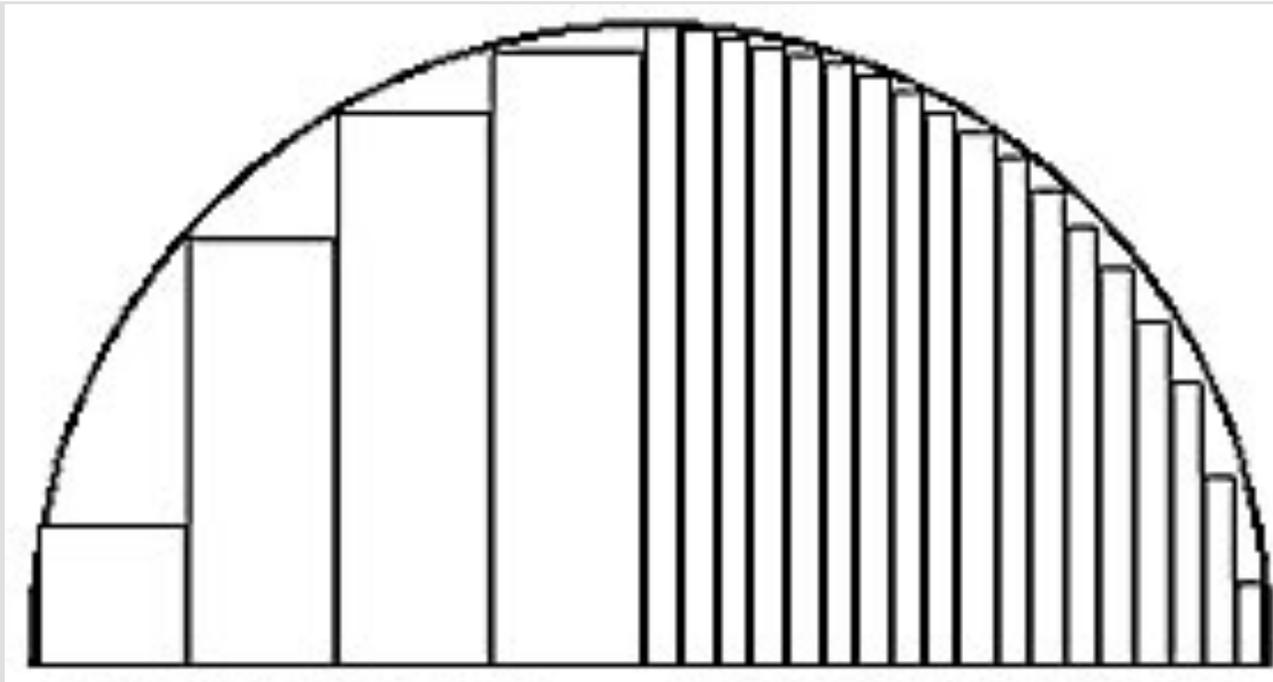


Easier to see than it is to hear

Record with NO compression

- If you have a choice:
 - Do NOT record in mp3 format!
 - Regardless of how good mp3 *sounds*, the issue is what the format of the file is and how easily it can be read and reused in future.





Low sample rate

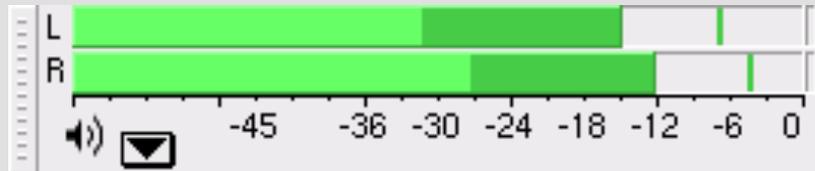
High sample rate

Bit Depth	Sample Rate	File Size for 1 minute stereo mix	File Size for 3 minute stereo mix
16	44,100	10.1 Mb	30.3 Mb
16	48,000	11.0 Mb	33 Mb
24	96,000	33.0 Mb	99 Mb
MP3 File	128 k/bit rate	0.94 Mb	2.82 Mb

Set levels

If you can control input levels

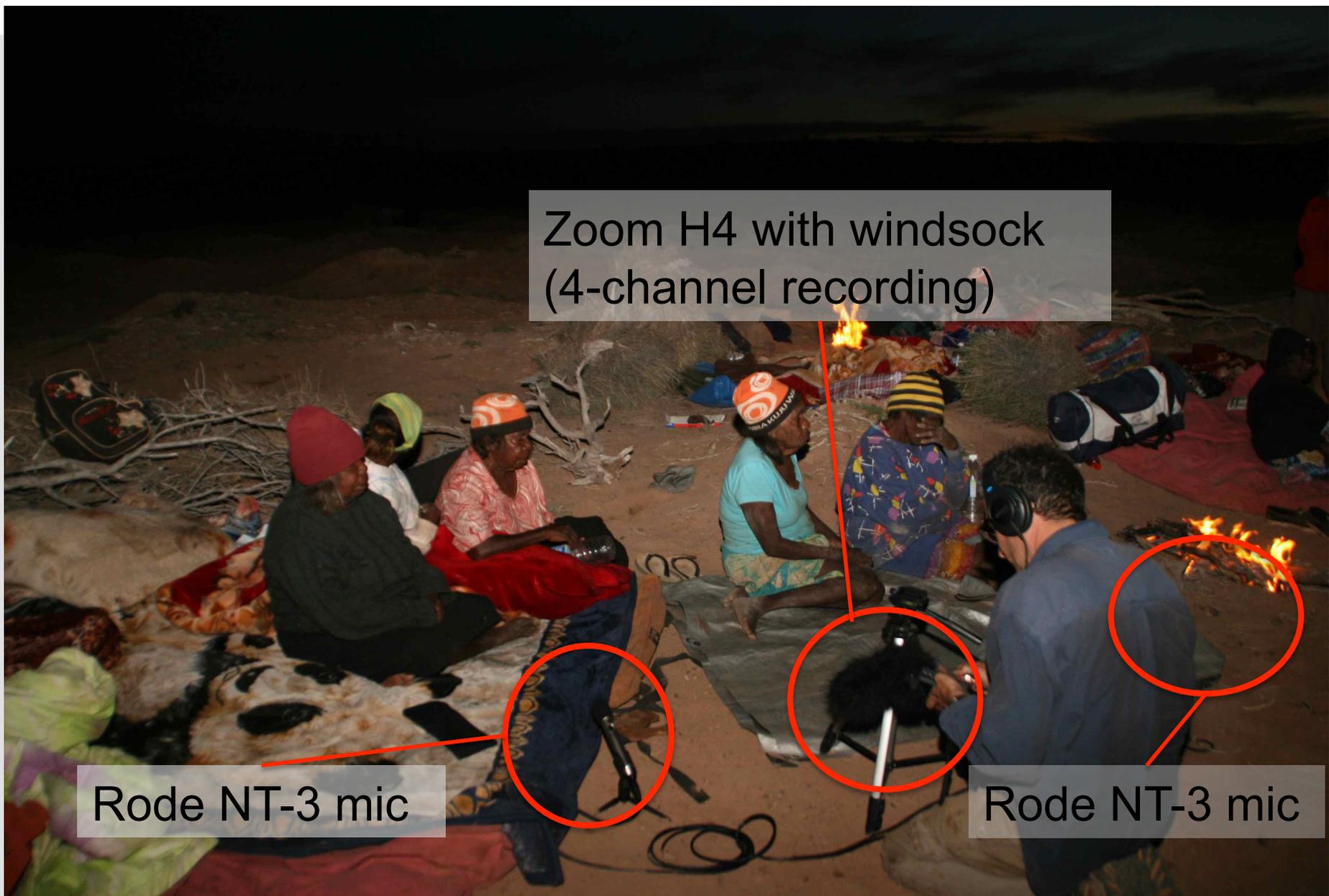
- Do not use automatic limiting
- Set recording to peak around -12



Listen to samples

-  Low volume recording – mic too far from speaker, multiple speakers (Warnman, Great Sandy Desert)
-  Low volume recording – amplified in Audacity (amplifies background noise too)
-  Good quality recording (Nafsan, central Vanuatu)

- Audacity – free audio software



Zoom H4 with windsock
(4-channel recording)

Rode NT-3 mic

Rode NT-3 mic

Singing, outdoors, wind noise, fire noise (Warnman, Great Sandy Desert)



Sample single track



Sample mixed down multitrack

Basics

- Record time and date (on the recording, in your notes), who is speaking, where you are
- Minimally 44.1 kHz, 16bit WAV
- Sound check

Metadata

- Keep track of what is on the recording
 - in a notebook while you are making the recording

	Collection ID (e.g. LB8):	Item Identifier (e.g. 1995Elders)	Role: Speaker	Item Title (e.g. Introductory Materials)	Item Description (e.g. Four text stories for interviews)	Content Language (Language as spoken in file)
1						
2	JHER	001	Mona Chuguna	God's Spirit	Acts 1 and 2 with songs	Walmajarri // English
3	JHER	002	Mona Chuguna	Peter and John	Acts 3 and 4 with songs	Walmajarri
4	JHER	003	Mona Chuguna	Stephen	Acts 5 and 6 with songs	Walmajarri // English
5	JHER	004	Mona Chuguna // Peter Skipper	Saul	Acts 8 with songs	Walmajarri // English
6	JHER	005	Mona Chuguna	Peter and Cornelius	Acts 9:32 - 11:18 with songs	Walmajarri
7	JHER	006	Olive Knight // Peter Skipper	Lost Things, The Sower	Luke 15, Mark 4 with songs	Walmajarri
8	JHER	007	Mona Chuguna // Peter Skipper	The Crucifixion	Mark 14:1 - 15:47 with songs	Walmajarri // English
9	JHER	008	Tommy May // Mona Chuguna	Easter	Mark 16:1-8, John 20,21 with songs	Walmajarri // English
10	JHER	009	Rela Angie // Mona Chuguna	Jonah	Jonah with songs	Walmajarri // English
11	JHER	010	Olive Knight // Mona Chuguna	Christmas, Lazarus	Selections Matthew and Luke, John 11:1-45 with songs	Walmajarri
12	JHER	011	Tommy May	Elijah and Ahab	1Kings 17, 18 with songs	Walmajarri // English
13	JHER	012	Olive Knight	Letter to Timothy	1Timothy 1:1 - 4:5 with songs	Walmajarri // English
14	JHER	013	Rena Pindan	Abraham 1	Genesis 15 - 19 with songs	Walmajarri
15	JHER	014	Peter Skipper	Abraham 2	Genesis 20,, 21, 22, 24 with songs	Walmajarri

Hearing

- Humans can select what to hear
 - your brain can exclude some noise to focus on the target signal
- Machines don't do that

Recording

- Avoid background noise if possible
- Move away from the wind and use a windsock
- Keep the mic as close to the speaker as possible
- Use a mic stand
- Use headphones to listen to what is being captured

Doing all of this will help avoid a mess!

What did I record?

What recordings did I get from the archives?

- Who is on the recording? What are they talking about? Have I transcribed the recording? When was it recorded?



Try it yourselves

- practice with recorders