

**VOCABULARY OF THE LANGUAGE
SPOKEN BY THE ABORIGINES OF
THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN
PORTIONS OF THE SETTLED
DISTRICTS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649455461

Vocabulary of the Language Spoken by the Aborigines of the Southern and Eastern Portions of the Settled Districts of South Australia by A. E. Meyer

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

A. E. MEYER

**VOCABULARY OF THE LANGUAGE
SPOKEN BY THE ABORIGINES OF
THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN
PORTIONS OF THE SETTLED
DISTRICTS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

②

VOCABULARY

OF THE

LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY THE ABORIGINES

OF THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN PORTIONS OF
THE SETTLED DISTRICTS OF

SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

VIZ., BY THE TRIBES IN THE VICINITY OF ENCOUNTER BAY, AND (WITH SLIGHT
VARIATIONS) BY THOSE EXTENDING ALONG THE COAST TO THE
EASTWARD AROUND LAKE ALEXANDRINA AND FOR SOME
DISTANCE UP THE RIVER MURRAY :

PRECEDED BY

A GRAMMAR,

SHOWING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANGUAGE AS FAR AS AT
PRESENT KNOWN.

R. A.

BY H. A. E. MEYER,

MISSIONARY OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SOCIETY AT DRESDEN.

ADELAIDE :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES ALLEN,
KING WILLIAM STREET.

—
1843.

~~2297.15~~

2

2234.502.25

✓ Peabody Museum, Peabody

Inst.

John W. Peters, Jr.

June 19, 1927

(Deposited)

TO
HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE GREY, ESQ.,
GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

THIS SMALL CONTRIBUTION
TO A SUBJECT FOR RESEARCHES UPON WHICH HIS EXCELLENCY
IS DISTINGUISHED,

IS INSCRIBED

BY
HIS EXCELLENCY'S MOST OBEДИENT SERVANT,

H. A. C. MEYER.

Encounter Bay, January 10th, 1843.

PREFACE.

A FIRST attempt to analyse a language of which the people themselves who speak it have only a practical knowledge, and who are, consequently, incapable of answering, or even comprehending, grammatical questions, must, under any circumstances, be in many respects imperfect; more especially must it be so in the present instance, where, from the wandering habits of the people, and our want of adequate means to induce them to remain with us for any length of time, it is impossible to maintain that constant communication with them which would be requisite towards attaining a complete knowledge of the structure of their language. In addition to these considerations, the shortness of the time I have been amongst them (only two years and a few months) must necessarily be another source of imperfection.

The following sheets, therefore, do not profess to contain either a complete Vocabulary, or a perfect Grammar. I hope, at some future period (should I be spared), to be able to furnish a complete development

of the structure of this language, and a Vocabulary which shall contain all (or nearly all) the words—which probably do not amount to more than from three to four thousand.

It remains for me to state the reasons which have induced me, at the present moment, to give publicity to the following pages.

Several persons have, from time to time, expressed a wish to see something of this language, respecting which, by reason of its great difference, not only in the grammatical forms, but also in the radicals of the words, from the language spoken by the natives in the vicinity of Adelaide, the Grammar and Vocabulary published by my friends Messrs Teichelmann and Schurmann gives no information whatever. His Excellency the Governor also expressed a wish to the same effect.

I, in consequence, commenced arranging the materials I already possessed, in which work I have not such a knowledge of the English as would enable me to express myself correctly upon all occasions. I should not have been able to use the English language, had not my friend Mr Lindsay, to whom I take the opportunity of returning my thanks, most readily assisted me upon this point.

Some defects of arrangement may probably be discovered, and upon several points further information

is desirable. They, however, contain all that I at present know of the language. The Vocabulary has been carefully compiled, the whole having been twice reviewed with different natives, so that the meaning assigned to the words may be relied upon as correct.

I submit these sheets to the public with the hope that they may be found useful to such as may be desirous of forming some acquaintance with the Aboriginal Dialects, and that they will be interesting to the philosopher and philologist, as exhibiting the peculiar structure of a language spoken by a people very generally considered the lowest in the scale of civilization.