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**YARN AS A CULTURAL SCHEMA SHAPING THE ARRANGEMENT
OF MODERN AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH DISCOURSE**

The unique social and cultural development of Australia established a distinct communication culture, conceptualized by the YARN. While long acknowledged as a cultural dominant [1, p. 206-208], the precise functional and communicative role of YARN in contemporary Australian English

interaction, particularly its evolution in the 21st century, requires deeper linguistic analysis.

The cognitive and linguistic analysis focuses on the structure of the concept, synonymic correlations, lexical/syntactic collocations, and conceptual metaphors, which enable us to conclude the role of YARN in arranging modern Australian English discourse.

The verbalization of the YARN concept is studied in the online issues of «The Canberra Times» (2022–2025).

The concept YARN is structured by ‘Process’, ‘Result’, ‘Participants’, ‘Content’, ‘Place’, ‘Time’, and, most critically, ‘Communicative Purpose’. The analysis reveals significant functional shifts that underscore YARN’s expanding role.

In the contemporary Australian English worldview, the communicative purpose of YARN has evolved beyond informal chat to prioritize functions essential for social harmony and well-being. Its primary function is «to establish/maintain trust» and «to provide/receive psychological support» (e.g., in trauma recovery contexts). This highlights the therapeutic and relational arrangement of the communication act. YARN actively serves as a mechanism for reconciliation and unification, promoting understanding among diverse groups in a polyethnic society.

The ‘Participants’ component now explicitly encompasses representatives of all social strata, including First Nations Australians. This reflects YARN’s transition from a specific sociolect marker to a dominant cultural schema that represents national inclusiveness and the full recognition of Indigenous participation in public dialogue. YARN successfully covers both democratic (informal) and hierarchical (official) communication (e.g., symposia, summits), emphasizing the necessity of feedback in all forms of interaction.

The categories of ‘Place’ and ‘Time’ have expanded. The environment now includes virtual/online spaces, alongside traditional settings (*pub*, *campfire*, *home*). Crucially, the category emphasizes the imperative of a safe environment for communication (e.g., ‘a safe outdoor space’).

YARN accommodates a wide spectrum of information, from personal experience and mental state to public debate (e.g., *truth-telling*) and even non-verifiable information (*lie*).

The keyword *yarn* shows further hyperonymic relations and a broadened synonymic field, indicating its functional versatility: YARN ↔ *story*, *lie*, *news*, *novel*, *plot*, *public debate*, *report*, *conversation*, *chat*, *gossip*, *tale*. The verb *to yarn* correlates with *to chat*, *to gossip*, and *to talk*.

The study of attributive constructions reveals a prevailing use of intensifiers with inherent expressiveness (e.g., *good*, *great*). Notably, the

keyword *yarn* is generally not the basis for attributive constructions with other expressive means. This suggests the concept carries a strong, pre-existing positive valence within the modern Australian English worldview, minimizing the need for explicit positive characterization and confirming its status as a positively evaluated, core communicative practice.

The most significant contemporary development is the active functioning of the phraseologism '*a yarning circle*', which denotes a specific, socially significant phenomenon: a space (physical or virtual) dedicated to the equal and safe exchange of opinions. The philosophy of equality and cultural preservation is the key principle of this communicative arrangement, demonstrating the vital role of YARN in structuring institutional and community dialogue ("What *the yarning circle* is all about is equality" [2]).

The analysis confirms the persistent relevance of the YARN = CONTAINER and YARN = PHYSICAL OBJECT conceptual metaphors, which utilize object and orientational codes of culture. These metaphors continue to frame YARN as something tangible that can be shared, possessed, or extracted from.

The research demonstrates that YARN is an important cultural schema in modern Australia. Its significance is further evidenced by its expanded prosocial functions (trust, support, unification), its encompassing of a multi-ethnic participant group, and its crystallization into the socially crucial 'yarning circle' phenomenon. YARN is now centrally involved in arranging communication aimed at solving pressing societal problems and fostering unity in Australia.

References

1. Wierzbicka A. Understanding Cultures through Their Key Words. Oxford, 1997. 317 p.
2. Close-Brown E. Yarning Circles Bring Culture and Equality to Classroom. *The Canberra Times*. 01.06.2023. URL : <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8219004/yarning-circles-bring-culture-and-equality-to-classroom/>