

# A WORDLIST FOR USE IN BORNEO

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The writer has long felt the need of a standardised word-list for use in eliciting linguistic information in Borneo. The list submitted here was compiled during two periods of fieldwork (totalling eighteen months) in Sabah, Malaysia, and has been designed to be applicable to Borneo as a whole. It contains 250 items, including some 50 cultural items of relevance to the area. It is intended to serve merely as a guide to relationships between languages of the region, and not as a basis for strict lexicostatistical analyses of those languages.

## 2. LANGUAGE OF INTERROGATION

As informants with an adequate knowledge of English are still to be found only in the few centres of population, the 250 items are accompanied by their glosses in Colloquial Malay, whose structure and phonology differ significantly both from Riau-Johor Malay, the basis for the standard dialect in Malaysia, and from Bahasa Indonesia. The variety of Malay used here is that spoken in Sabah, and although minor differences of vocabulary will be encountered in different areas, it is universally understood.

One of the outstanding features of Colloquial Malay is that the array of verbal affixes, well-known to students of Standard Malay and Bahasa Indonesia, is almost totally absent, its place being taken by a series of function words (such as *kasi* and *kana*, indicating causative and passive forms respectively). This often causes difficulties in the elicitation of verbal forms, particularly in the northern half of Borneo, where most languages exhibit the extensive affix-systems characteristic of Philippine-type languages. In practice, it has been found that an attempt to elicit

verbal forms by means of isolated stems will produce, if not a puzzled silence, a variety of forms confusing to the investigator. It is suggested that the most efficient means of eliminating the confusion is to place the variables (i.e. the verb-stems) within a constant frame (i.e. a sentence pattern), which will produce verb-forms of the same construction.

+S +r<yang> +t<mau> +V ±0

The frame is to be read as consisting of a subject, a relator (i.e. *yang*), a tense marker (i.e. *mau*, indicating futurity), a verb-stem and an optional object (with transitive verbs). This pattern will produce forms in the active (subject) focus, future tense, which is the most convenient form for purposes of citation. Examples are:

1. *saya yang mau pukul anjing itu* "It is I who will hit the dog"
2. *si salim yang mau tidur* "It is Salim who is going to sleep"
3. *anjing yang mau churi daging* "The dog will steal meat"

### 3. WORDLIST

The English words are set out on the left, their Malay equivalents on the right. An asterisk (\*) before a word indicates that a note on that word is to be found in the next section.

1. body	<i>badan</i>	12. mouth	<i>mulut</i>
2. head	<i>kapala</i>	13. lips	<i>bibi(ng)</i>
3. brain	<i>utak</i>	14. tongue	<i>lida</i>
4. hair (head-)	<i>rambut</i>	15. teeth	<i>gigi</i>
5. hair (body-)	<i>bulu</i>	16. beard	<i>janggut</i>
6. face	<i>muka</i>	17. chin, jaw	<i>dagu</i>
7. cheek	<i>pipi(ng)</i>	18. neck	<i>liir</i>
8. ear	<i>talinga</i>	19. shoulder	<i>bau</i>
9. eye	<i>mata</i>	* 20. arm	<i>langan</i>
10. forehead	<i>dai</i>	21. elbow	<i>siku</i>
11. nose	<i>idung</i>	22. palm	<i>tapak</i>

* 23.	hand, finger	<i>tangan, jari</i>	59.	hill	<i>bukit</i>
24.	finger nail	<i>kuku</i>	60.	forest	<i>utan</i>
25.	chest	<i>dada</i>	61.	river	<i>sungay</i>
26.	breast	<i>titi</i>	62.	tree	<i>kayu</i>
* 27.	liver	<i>ati</i>	63.	rock	<i>batu</i>
* 28.	heart (emotional)	<i>ati</i>	64.	sand	<i>pasir</i>
29.	back	<i>balakang</i>	65.	sun	<i>mata ari</i>
30.	waist	<i>pinggang</i>	66.	moon	<i>bulan</i>
31.	navel	<i>pusat</i>	* 67.	star	<i>bintang</i>
32.	stomach	<i>parut</i>	68.	day	<i>ari</i>
* 33.	penis	<i>butu</i>	69.	night	<i>malam</i>
* 34.	vagina	<i>puki</i>	70.	morning	<i>pagi</i>
35.	testi	<i>(bua)palir</i>	71.	evening	<i>patang</i>
36.	anus, rectum	<i>jubur</i>	72.	rain	<i>ujan</i>
* 37.	urine	<i>air kanching</i>	73.	lightning	<i>kilat</i>
38.	excrement	<i>tai</i>	74.	thunder	<i>guntur</i>
39.	thigh	<i>paa</i>	75.	cloud	<i>ambun</i>
* 40.	leg, foot	<i>kaki</i>	76.	man, human	<i>urang</i>
41.	knee	<i>lutut</i>	77.	man, male	<i>jantan</i>
42.	blood	<i>dara</i>	78.	woman	<i>parampuan</i>
43.	flesh	<i>isi, daging</i>	79.	old person	<i>urang tua</i>
44.	bone	<i>tulang</i>	80.	young man	<i>anak muda, bujang</i>
45.	sweat	<i>palu</i>	81.	young woman	<i>parawan, bujang</i>
46.	house	<i>ruma</i>	82.	child(boy)	<i>budak</i>
47.	wall	<i>dinding</i>	83.	child(son)	<i>anak</i>
48.	door	<i>pintu</i>	84.	mother	<i>mama</i>
49.	floor	<i>lantay</i>	85.	father	<i>bapa</i>
50.	room	<i>bilik</i>	86.	elder sibling	<i>abang, kakak</i>
51.	roof	<i>atap</i>	87.	younger sibling	<i>adik</i>
52.	hut	<i>sulap</i>	88.	grandfather	<i>ninik jantan</i>
53.	pillar	<i>tiang</i>	89.	grandmother	<i>ninik parampuan</i>
54.	hearth	<i>dapur</i>	90.	wife	<i>bini</i>
55.	earth	<i>tana</i>	91.	husband	<i>laki</i>
56.	wind	<i>angin</i>			
57.	fire	<i>api</i>			
58.	water	<i>air</i>			

92.	name	<i>nama</i>	123.	butterfly	<i>kupu-kupu</i>
93.	banana	<i>pisang</i>	* 124.	mosquito	<i>nyamuk</i>
94.	durian	<i>durian</i>	125.	scorpion	<i>kala jangking</i>
95.	maize(corn)	<i>jagung</i>	126.	spider	<i>laba-laba</i>
96.	pepper	<i>lada</i>	127.	wasp	<i>panyangat</i>
97.	rice(unhusked)	<i>padi</i>	128.	crocodile	<i>buaya</i>
98.	rice(husked)	<i>baras</i>	129.	snake	<i>ular</i>
99.	rice(cooked)	<i>nasi</i>	130.	bird	<i>burung</i>
100.	sago-palm	<i>rumbia</i>	131.	cat	<i>kuching</i>
101.	sago(raw)	<i>sagu</i>	132.	barking-deer	<i>kijang</i>
102.	sago(cooked)	<i>sagu masak</i>	133.	mousedeer	<i>palanduk</i>
103.	cassava	<i>ubi kayu</i>	134.	sambhur deer	<i>rusa, payaw</i>
104.	dibble v.	<i>manugal</i>	135.	dog	<i>anjing</i>
105.	plant v.	<i>mananam</i>	* 136.	long-tailed monkey	<i>munyit, kara</i>
106.	fell trees	<i>manabang, putung kayu basar</i>	* 137.	short-tailed monkey	<i>munyit</i>
107.	burn off	<i>bakar</i>	138.	mouse, rat	<i>tikus</i>
108.	clearing	<i>ladang, uma</i>	139.	frog	<i>katak</i>
109.	hen	<i>ayam</i>	140.	bamboo	<i>bambu</i>
110.	duck	<i>itik</i>	141.	branch	<i>daan</i>
111.	buffalo	<i>karabaw</i>	142.	coconut	<i>kalapa, piasaw</i>
112.	pig(domes- ticated)	<i>babi(piara)</i>	143.	flower	<i>bunga</i>
113.	pig(wild)	<i>babi utan</i>	* 144.	root	<i>akar</i>
114.	egg	<i>talur</i>	145.	rotan	<i>rautan</i>
115.	blowpipe	<i>sumpitan</i>	146.	lallang- grass	<i>lalang</i>
* 116.	dart	<i>piluru sumpitan</i>	147.	leaf	<i>daun</i>
* 117.	quiver	<i>tampat simpan piluru</i>	148.	bad	<i>jaat</i>
118.	spear	<i>bujak</i>	149.	good	<i>bagus</i>
119.	fish	<i>ikan</i>	* 150.	cold (weather)	<i>sajuk</i>
120.	fishtrap	<i>bubu</i>	151.	hot	<i>panas</i>
121.	rod-and-line	<i>panching</i>	152.	bitter	<i>pait</i>
122.	castnet	<i>jala, rambat</i>	153.	sweet	<i>manis</i>
			154.	sour	<i>asam</i>
			155.	far	<i>jau</i>

156.	near	<i>dakat</i>	191.	kill	<i>kasi mati, bunu</i>
157.	fat	<i>gumuk</i>	192.	cry	<i>manangis</i>
158.	thin	<i>kurus</i>	193.	drink	<i>minum</i>
159.	thick	<i>tabal</i>	194.	eat	<i>makan</i>
160.	thin	<i>nipis</i>	195.	fall	<i>jatu</i>
161.	heavy	<i>berat</i>	196.	follow	<i>ikut</i>
162.	light	<i>ringan</i>	197.	give	<i>kasi</i>
163.	high	<i>tinggi</i>	198.	hear	<i>dangar</i>
164.	low	<i>randa</i>	199.	hit	<i>pukul</i>
165.	long	<i>panjang</i>	200.	know	<i>tau</i>
166.	short	<i>pindik</i>	201.	laugh	<i>katawa</i>
167.	dark	<i>galap</i>	202.	look	<i>tinguk</i>
168.	light	<i>tarang</i>	203.	take	<i>ambil</i>
169.	stupid	<i>budu</i>	204.	see	<i>nampak</i>
* 170.	young	<i>muda</i>	205.	sit	<i>duduk</i>
* 171.	old	<i>tua</i>	206.	lie down	<i>limpang</i>
* 172.	new	<i>baru</i>	207.	sleep	<i>tidur</i>
* 173.	old	<i>lama</i>	208.	speak	<i>chakap</i>
174.	big	<i>basar</i>	209.	stand	<i>badiri</i>
175.	little	<i>kichi</i>	210.	steal	<i>churi</i>
176.	raw	<i>manta</i>	211.	throw away	<i>buang</i>
177.	hungry	<i>lapar</i>	212.	like	<i>suka, mau</i>
178.	thirsty	<i>aus</i>	213.	call	<i>panggil</i>
179.	satiated	<i>kanyang</i>	* 214.	I	<i>saya</i>
180.	white	<i>puti</i>	* 215.	you(sg.)	<i>kau, kita</i>
181.	black	<i>itam</i>	216.	he	<i>dia</i>
182.	red	<i>mira</i>	217.	we(dual)	<i>kita dua urang</i>
183.	yellow	<i>kuning</i>	218.	we(incl.)	<i>kita 'ni, kita urang(samua)</i>
184.	green	<i>ijaw</i>	219.	we(excl.)	<i>kami, saya urang</i>
185.	afraid	<i>takut</i>	220.	you(pl.)	<i>kamu urang</i>
186.	angry	<i>mara</i>	221.	they	<i>dia urang</i>
* 187.	go(some- where)	<i>pigi</i>	222.	who	<i>siapa</i>
* 188.	go, set off	<i>jalan</i>	223.	what	<i>apa</i>
189.	come, arrive	<i>datang, sampay</i>	224.	why	<i>kanapa</i>
190.	die	<i>mati</i>	225.	when	<i>bila</i>
			226.	where	<i>mana</i>

227.	how many	<i>barapa</i>	239.	twenty	<i>dua pulu</i>
* 228.	one	<i>satu</i>	240.	hundred	<i>saratus</i>
229.	two	<i>dua</i>	241.	many	<i>banyak</i>
230.	three	<i>tiga</i>	242.	yes	<i>ya</i>
231.	four	<i>empat</i>	243.	no, not	<i>tidak</i>
232.	five	<i>lima</i>	244.	there is not	<i>tiada, tid'ada</i>
233.	six	<i>enam</i>	245.	all	<i>samua</i>
234.	seven	<i>tujuh</i>	246.	don't	<i>jangan</i>
235.	eight	<i>lapan</i>	247.	this(one)	<i>ini</i>
236.	nine	<i>sambilan</i>	248.	that(one)	<i>itu</i>
237.	ten	<i>sapulu</i>	249.	right	<i>kanan</i>
238.	eleven	<i>sabalas</i>	250.	left	<i>kiri</i>

#### 4. NOTES

- 20, 23 All languages of Northern Borneo so far encountered have a gloss for "arm" and a gloss for "fingers"; none, however, have a gloss for "hand". In the majority of languages the same word translates "hand" and "fingers".
- 27-8 Easily distinguished by eliciting *ati babi* "pig's liver" for 27, and *sanang ati* "happy" (literally "easy in the heart") for 28.
- 33-4 When dealing with Muslim or Christian informants, it is wise to avoid the terms given here, particularly when women are present, as their use may alienate the informant. The following euphemisms should be used instead: *kamaluan jantan* or *zakar* (to Muslims) for 33, and *kamaluan parampuan* or *lubang paranakan* for 34.
- 37 *ch* is often pronounced [s] in Colloquial Sabah Malay.
- 40 "leg" and "foot" are not differentiated in any Bornean language known to the writer.
- 68 *ari* has two meanings ("day as a unit of time" and "daylight") which are translated differently in most

languages of the area. The former meaning can be obtained by using a phrase such as *ari ini* "today" or *satu ari* "one day".

- 116 Literally, "blowpipe bullet".
- 117 Literally, "place for keeping bullets".
- 124 *nyamuk* and its cognates mean "housefly" or "sandfly" in many dialects. The possibility of confusion is eliminated by asking for *nyamuk yang isap dara* "mosquito which sucks blood".
- 136-7 Differentiate by using *munyit yang panjang iku(ng)* for 136 and *munyit yang pindik iku(ng)* for 137.
- 144 *akar* "root" should be distinguished from *akar* "liana" by eliciting *akar kayu* "root of tree".
- 150 Many dialects differentiate between "cold to the touch" and "cold, of the weather or a person". Use a phrase like *sajuk malam ini* "it's cold tonight".
- 170-1 If the informant repeats his answers for 80 and 81, use *muda* and *tua* in predicative phrases like *anjing ini tua*, *anjing itu masi muda*, "this dog is dog is still young".
- 172-3 Malay uses these words not only as adjectives, but also as temporal adverbs with the meanings "then", "only then" (*baru*) and "a long time ago" (*lama*). It is therefore advisable to use them in an adjectival phrase such as *ruma baru* "new house" and *rumah lama* "old house".
- 187-8 *pigi* means "go to somewhere or for something", whereas *jalan* means "go, set off, start moving". Use in contexts like *saya mau pigi kaday* "I'm going to town" and *saya mau jalan bisuk* "I'm leaving tomorrow".
- 214-21 Considerable difficulty is often experienced in obtaining accurate responses for personal pronouns, particularly in the case of the 2nd and 3rd persons. The easiest way of avoiding confusion is to posit an

imaginary situation in which the investigator is not involved, and in which the informant is the speaker, e.g. "You meet your friend on the road, you ask him 'Are YOU going to town?'" In many languages of the area, the 3rd person pronouns are used only to refer to something which has already been mentioned, otherwise demonstrative pronouns ("this one", "that one", etc.) are used. Again, the best means of ensuring the desired reply is the use of an imaginary context, such as *saya mau pukul anjing ini, dia yang churi daging itu* "I'll beat this dog, it was HE who stole the meat".

- 215 *kita* is more polite than *kau* and should be used to people older than oneself, at least on first acquaintance.
- 228 Many dialects distinguish between "one in a series" and "one only". The latter meaning will be elicited by asking for *satu saja*.