

Wurm, S. A. and Lois Carrington, eds. 1978. Second International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics: Proceedings, Pacific Linguistic Series C-No. 61, Department of Linguistics, Research School of Pacific Studies, The Australian national University, Canberra.

# THE TARAKAN DIALECT OF THE TIDUNG LANGUAGE OF EAST KALIMANTAN: DISTRIBUTION AND BASIC VOCABULARY

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## INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

Speakers of the Tarakan dialect of the Tidung language inhabit the island of Tarakan as well as the lower reaches of the rivers on the mainland between the Sekatak and Kayan Rivers, according to informants. The present sample of the Tarakan dialect was collected from Tarakan Tidung inhabitants of the Sekatak River. The major informant was the son of full-Tarakan Tidung parents and had lived in Tarakan for 26 years. For the past 12 years he has been living on the Sekatak River.<sup>2</sup>

There are several other dialects of Tidung. These dialects are usually named for the river system that the Tidung inhabit, such as the "Sembakung Tidung."

A major misconception about the Tidung is that their name, incorrectly rendered as "Tidong," means "Hill." Beech (1908) uses this as evidence to infer that the Tidung have come originally from the interior hill regions (see also LeBar 1970:167; and Gender Stort 1916:i). However, in the Tidung language there is a minimal pair; Tidung:tidong. The word "tidong" means "hill"; the word "Tidung" refers only to the ethnic group.<sup>3</sup>

In the literature there is also some confusion as to the linguistic affiliation of the Tidung (Cense and Uhlenbeck 1958:30). However, Prentice has suggested the existence of a Tidung language group within the Murutic subfamily of the Idahan languages (see LeBar 1970:167). The Tidung themselves perceive that their closest linguistic affiliation is with the Bulusu' language. The Bulusu' are non-Islamic, swidden cultivators who inhabit the middle reaches of the rivers on the mainland opposite Tarakan. The two languages share many similarities in vocabularies, but are not mutually intelligible. Originally the Tidung people and the Bulusu' were also culturally similar, according to my informant.

Another misconception in understanding the linguistic and ethnic status of the Tidung is the claim by Beech (1908) that the Bulungan language is a dialect of the Tidung language.<sup>4</sup> However, Prentice has argued that the Bulungan language is not only a non-Tidung language, but that it is also a non-Idahan language (personal communication quoted in LeBar 1970:167).

The Bulungan and Tidung today intermarry freely and in many places have become one ethnic group, frequently referred to as "Tidung-Bulungan." Originally the Tidung and the Bulungan were culturally dissimilar and at one point in their history they carried on warfare against each other. Today, Tidung-Bulungan households speak either Tidung or Bulungan in the house depending on the closest affiliation, but most members of the family speak both languages. Both the Tidung and the Bulungan have been Islamicized for generations. This perhaps accounts for their close cultural relationship today.

The Tidung most commonly live in settlements along the rivers, usually just above the high tide level. They are excellent boatmen and often make their living as traders and fishrrmen. Much of their trade is with the interior indigenous peoples. The Tidung also often maintain small gardens of vegetables, coconuts, bananas, manioc, sugar cane and rice.

## BASIC WORD LIST5

## I. NOUNS

A. Human Beings

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. man                          | d laki'                |
| 2. woman                        | d nando;               |
| 3. old man                      | ulun tuwo'             |
| 4. old woman                    | d nando' tuwo'         |
| 5. married man                  | d laki' pongo' kawin   |
| 6. bachelor                     | bebuaioi popiyo' kawin |
| 7. clever man;<br>medicine man  | tukang nguwod          |
| 8. baby (male<br>or female)     | anak                   |
| 9. boy just<br>walking          | anak nigkang makow     |
| 10. young boy<br>(5-10 years)   |                        |
| 11. older boy<br>(10-15 years)  |                        |
| 12. husband                     | d lakino'              |
| 13. wife                        | yanduno'               |
| 14. small girl                  | d nando' lumot         |
| 15. girl at<br>puberty          | semandak               |
| 16. mother                      | ina'                   |
| 17. father                      | yama'                  |
| 18. elder brother               | yaka'                  |
| 19. younger<br>brother          | yadi'                  |
| 20. sister of man               |                        |
| 21. daughter of man<br>or woman |                        |
| 22. son of man or<br>woman      |                        |
| 23. people in<br>general        | ulun                   |

B. Parts of the Body

- |                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| 24. head             | utok  |
| 25. hair of the head | abuk  |
| 26. hair of the body | bulu' |

- |                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 27. forehead                   | abas        |
| 28. eye                        | mato'       |
| 29. nose                       | adung       |
| 30. ear                        | t lingo'    |
| 31. mouth                      | kabang      |
| 32. tongue                     | djila'      |
| 33. throat                     | liyog       |
| 34. nape of neck               | bulu' ipus  |
| 35. lip                        | bibir       |
| 36. tooth                      | ipon        |
| 37. mustache                   | cumit       |
| 38. beard                      | jangkut     |
| 39. cheek                      | pelingas    |
| 40. jaw, chin                  | bagang      |
| 41. shoulder                   | likip'      |
| 42. chest                      | kubab       |
| 43. breast of woman            | titi'       |
| 44. belly (exterior)           | tinai'      |
| 45. stomach (interior)         | udan tinai' |
| 46. heart                      | penyawo'    |
| 47. skin                       | kulit       |
| 48. liver                      |             |
| 49. kidney                     | ginjal      |
| 50. blood                      | dada'       |
| 51. fat                        | ente' kamuk |
| 52. upper arm                  | belinger    |
| 53. lower arm                  | tendulu'    |
| 54. thigh                      | apa'        |
| 55. knee                       | atud        |
| 56. lower leg                  | lulud       |
| 57. foot                       | tano'       |
| 58. ankle                      | perapatan   |
| 59. buttocks                   | alu'        |
| 60. navel                      | pusod       |
| 61. back                       | awak        |
| 62. backbone                   | tulang awak |
| 63. bone (in general)          | tulang      |
| 64. nail of finger<br>or toe   | samdop      |
| 65. a sore                     | pilad       |
| 66. body                       | anci'       |
| 67. soul (of living<br>person) | menbuluwo'  |
| 68. ghost                      | setan       |

C. Landscape and Nature

69.	sun	mato adow
70.	moon	bulan
71.	star	bintang
72.	Pleiades	
73.	sky	kuanan
74.	cloud	titai' bariu'
75.	lightning	kerijat
76.	thunder	tengkarud
77.	rain	dasam
78.	rainbow	belintung
79.	dew	ambun
80.	fog	ambun
81.	night	kiwon
82.	morning	sumpur
83.	midday	mundok adow
84.	afternoon	adow madow
85.	evening	jualop
86.	water (fresh)	timug
87.	river	sungoi'
88.	bank of river	bibir sungoi'
89.	earth, ground	tana'
90.	mud	langas
91.	clay	tana' belita'
92.	stone	batu'
93.	cave	guha'
94.	sand	agis
95.	light	cahaiya'
96.	darkness	niyod
97.	island	pulu
98.	hill, mountain	tidong
99.	valley	tidak
100.	plain	dumut
101.	bush	lagar
102.	bay	laruk
103.	shore	bibir
104.	garden	kubun-dangan
105.	swamp	lagar
106.	current of river	arus
107.	north	utara
108.	south	selatan
109.	east	timur
110.	west	barat
111.	wind	bariu'

112.	wet season	musim pendasam
113.	dry season	musim lasu'
114.	fire	apui
115.	smoke	lisun
116.	path	dalan
117.	charcoal	
118.	ashes	kawug
119.	food (generally)	nakan
120.	greens	sayur
121.	ginger	laiyo'
122.	tree	upun
123.	root	pakat
124.	stem, trunk	tangkai, batang
125.	forked branch	adan
126.	leaf	dawun
127.	flower	busak
128.	fruit	bua'
129.	seed	umi'
130.	grass	rumpot
131.	sago (palm)	natok
132.	bamboo	bulu'
133.	banana	punti'
134.	coconut	piasau
135.	sugarcane	tabu'
136.	betel nut	bua' pinang
137.	pepper	sahang
138.	betel lime	apug
139.	sweet potato	sabai demarat

E. Animals, Reptiles, and Birds

140.	tail of animal	ingkoi
141.	fur of animal	bulu' bintang
142.	bird	pempulu'
143.	wing	alad
144.	feather	bulu'
145.	egg	talu'
146.	nest	sanong
147.	dog	asu'
148.	rat	tikus tupar
149.	bat	bengkawot
150.	flying fox	mendipo'
151.	snake	tembulalas
152.	lizard	
153.	monitor lizards	

154. frog	keladak
155. crocodile	buaiyo'
156. green pigeon	
157. eaglehawk	
158. parrot	
159. hornbill	sangang
160. fowl	manuk (chicken)
161. duck	bibik
162. goose	angsa'
163. owl	puwok
164. crow	mangkak
165. turtle	s lanid

F. Fishes, etc.

166. fish	kanon
167. scale of fish	sulud
168. fin	sirik
169. tail of fish	engkui
170. shark	keritan
171. stingray	
172. crab	lemangu
173. eel	balul

G. Invertebrates

174. fly	bengalod
175. lice	kutu'
176. worm	lengguwang
177. black ant	lensadom
178. red ant	
179. yellow ant	semut
180. mosquito	namuk
181. butterfly	kulit bambang
182. moth	ngabut
183. centipede	endipal
184. scorpion	antpikala'
185. spider	tengkerawa
186. grasshopper	tetuka'

H. Weapons and Utensils

187. material for making fire	pekakos apui
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188. house (single)	baloi
189. house (longhouse)	baloi buat
190. village	pagun
191. spear	ganjul
192. fish spear	jerampang
193. shield	
194. axe	kapas
195. belt	panding
196. canoe	padau
197. paddle	busai
198. string, rope	tabid
199. skirt	rok
200. knife	lading
201. blow pipe	sapuk
202. blow dart	anak sapuk

II. ADJECTIVE

203. alive	muyag
204. dead	matoi
205. big	tupar
206. small	lumot
207. long	buat
208. short	jiwa'
209. good	bayis
210. bad	marat
211. sick	dualan
212. well	subur
213. thirsty	pua' liyog
214. hungry	dedusan
215. tired	mumpoi
216. red	liya'
217. white	pulak
218. black, blue	mitom
219. yellow	silow
220. hot	lasu'
221. cold	salui
222. lame	pingka'
223. blind	balow
224. sad	keujuran
225. happy, glad	sanong
226. full, sated	panu'
227. empty	kusung
228. quick	capot

229. slow	buoi
230. new	bagu'
231. old	tuwo'
232. strong	mikang
233. weak	lemami'
234. right	kemagot
235. left	kayit
236. right (correct)	manong
237. wrong	sala'
238. fat	entaramuk
239. thin	temukar
240. angry	mengitan
241. peacable	mangow
242. sleepy	gendangdungol
243. young	embulok
244. grey-haired	abuk nyalot
245. pregnant	kitian
246. hard	kotoa
247. soft	lami
248. sweet	mamis
249. bitter, sour	payit

## III. VERBS

250. die	ngapung
251. eat	ngakan
252. drink	nginum
253. stand	kemindi'
254. sit	temudung
255. rise	kadat
256. speak	ngendagu'
257. call	lagow
258. run	menturus
259. walk	makow
260. bring	ngibit
261. take away	munit
262. get	ngalap
263. snatch, grab	sedia'
264. give	saiyang
265. hit	menambang
266. break	putul
267. fall	datu'
268. see	gilong
269. watch	ngenjaga'

270. hear	kedingog
271. like, want	guang
272. sing	buadingang
273. cry	gelandui
274. steal	gentakow
275. cook (boil)	kupos
276. roast	awak
277. ask (for or about)	manot, ngentano'
278. answer	ngenawop
279. blow (with mouth)	benaposbuat
280. wind blows	mujuk
281. sun rises	matanadowsemila
282. sun sets	matanadowmumpos
283. moon rises	bulan semila
284. moon sets	bulan mumpos
285. climb	nakod
286. jump	semamput
287. laugh	gadak
288. tickle	ngenjajog
289. scratch	engkukut
290. remember	ningot
291. forgot	lapanan
292. throw away	menabo'
293. send	pibit
294. scold	hadir
295. swim	ensadui
296. fish swims	ensaduiengilad
297. look for	giyum
298. smell (a thing)	awow
299. cover up	tenutub
300. uncover	senukap
301. wait for	galung
302. dance	menari'
303. finish (a job)	pango'
304. make	ngentugos
305. tell a lie	rebutan
306. go (away)	pango'
307. turn	tengibong
308. come	kesaboi
309. come back	menduli'
310. put	nitau
311. hold, keep	nyanggol
312. show	penilong
313. hide	semuni'
314. lose	tatag

315. hunt	peninda
316. move (by itself); move (something)	ngentimung
317. leave	napung
318. follow	maya'
319. carry	
320. we meet	intamu'
321. pass by	insayil
322. crawl (of snake)	gebebinit
crawl (of baby)	enkamang
323. lead (a person)	ketuwo'
324. push	minit
325. pull	ngedulun
326. roll (an object)	
327. wave (a flag, etc.)	ngelamboi
328. fly (of bird)	ngentulud
329. dive	ngentalop
330. catch	ngendakop
331. miss	tatog
332. shoot (fun)	ngeduang
333. knock at	temitik
334. kick	nupak
335. bite	ngabut
336. pinch	nancip
337. dodge	ngensala
338. spear	mintar
339. whistle	besuit
340. spit	ngiwog
341. vomit	gerua'
342. grow	tumu'
343. cough	gusod
344. sneeze	imberasin
345. shiver	temintig
346. bend down	bungkung
347. chop (wood)	ngeampal

## SUPPLEMENTARY WORD LIST

## I. THE BODY, LANGUAGE AND MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS

348. eyebrow	bibir mato'
349. eyelash	bulu mato'

350. brain	utok
351. waist	awak
352. thumb	tempupu tendulu'
353. first finger	tunjuk
354. second finger	tenggagai bantong
355. third finger	tenggagi
356. little finger	tengkikis
357. muscle	uwat
358. wrinkle	kemerudot
359. fist	sintuk
360. lap	empaiyu'
361. armpit	belekitok
362. penis	butu'
363. testicles	tali'
364. anus	tumbung
365. vulva	badi'
366. lump	lemantub
367. boil (sore)	kupos
368. fever	gegaran
369. pain	dualan
370. tears	timug mato'
371. juice	pataw
372. marrow	sumsum
373. talk, conversation	dagu'
374. book	buku'
375. paper	keratos
376. argument	bakacou
377. agreement	bebakot
378. a lie	lebutan
379. truth (to tell the truth)	manong
380. a song	lagu'
381. a story	cerita'
382. a dance	tari'
383. circle, ring	lingkor
384. centre	pusod
385. outline	garis tupar
386. parts of spear, butt; half; point	
387. bundle	benungkus
388. funeral	kubur

## II. ADJECTIVES

389. awake	kadat
390. clever	pintor
391. clumsy	enggalaoid
392. sensible	akal mikang
393. anxious	kuatir
394. astonished	jayip
395. lonely	beberinow
396. alone	siowkebatid
397. selfish	perilu diri kebatid
398. liberal	ngamit
399. beloved	kekasih
400. eager, keen	ketilai kepaiyang
401. patient	sabor
402. impatient	nuposabor
403. famous	tekanol
404. lazy	bentiron
405. active	petulid
406. busy	kacou
407. idle	bentiron
408. rich	keliliran
409. poor	miskin
410. just	adil
411. unjust	nupo' adil
412. taboo	senaioi
413. secret	rahasia
414. foreign	nupo' payu'
415. shy	ngiwan
416. naughty	jayil
417. crippled	pingka
418. cunning	teliwot pintor
419. thick	kapar
420. thin	mipis
(of objects)	
421. narrow	kasip
422. wide	tawa'
423. high	sawat
424. low	disau
425. absent	nupo' adir
426. upright	siap
427. horizontal	lantak
428. steep	sawat
429. loose as a post	lelipos
430. tight	kasip

431. extra colors	
432. bright	mengkilop
433. raw (meat, fish)	gerua'
434. cooked	ensubon
435. wild (animals)	binatang buas
436. tame	
437. savage	ganas
438. barren	keranggasan
439. important	penting
440. alike	serupa'
441. different	ando'
442. apart	penasuai
443. easy	gampang
444. difficult	pagon
445. true	manong
446. false	palsu'
447. vain, proud	tekabur
448. early	tikas
449. late	buwoi
450. strange, peculiar	heran
451. slippery	lamog
452. insecure (as a stone not balanced)	nupo mikang

## III. VERBS

A. General

453. begin	nimpun
454. hurry	mumpoi
455. put off	ngelugot
456. stop	berhantikogulu'
457. change	beruba'
458. replace	genantimumum enduli'
459. need	penereluno'
460. to be unable (to do)	nupo' malap
461. scatter	nyimbor
462. renew, make new	perbagu'
463. embrace	ngamol
464. kiss	ngadok

465. commit adultery      ngehina'  
 466. "hang around,"      berkeliaran  
       refuse to go

B. Natural

467. float                      belabu'-labu'  
 468. sink                      lasod  
 469. melt (as fat in  
       fire)                      lemanak  
 470. tremble                  temintig  
 471. swell                    lemantob  
 472. flow                     temiris  
 473. overflow                bunsu'  
 474. burst                    ngelagum  
 475. stick, adhere          nyikot  
 476. shine, of a  
       light                    ngintai  
 477. reflect; dazzle        tepenaru'  
 478. fade, of colors        malis  
 479. decây                    mutong  
 480. be suspended          beniling  
 481. to lean                  semandig  
 482. slip                     kelidas  
 483. drip                     matok  
 484. splash                    temundang  
 485. revolve                  penutor  
 486. wither                   melaya'

C. Action, etc.

487. enter                    penumpas  
 488. go out                   semila  
 489. wander aimlessly      makow  
 490. go on hands  
       and knees               berangkat  
 491. ride                     makow mudan sidon  
 492. steer a boat            ngupir  
 493. ring a bell              gebungkung  
 494. swing (by itself)      nindong  
 495. row a boat              busai  
 496. roll (by itself  
       as down a hill)        bedulun

497. point                    petada'  
 498. fetch                    ngalap  
 499. leap as a frog          laiyut  
 500. chase                    muga'  
 501. stray from a path      palid  
 502. bow down                temukom  
 503. bend the head          temukom  
 504. fold the arms          beselibon tangan  
 505. cross the legs          beselibon tango

D. Human and Animal

506. fell                     ngangkam  
 507. sneak up on            nyerimud  
 508. taste                    rasa'  
 509. touch                    kegagad  
 510. bury                     nerasok  
 511. smile                    bekanyom  
 512. marry (man or  
       woman)                kawin  
 513. wound                   penilat  
 514. sweat                    begumos  
 515. cure (sick person)    penebayis siya  
 516. shve                    begunting  
 517. comb hair               senulud  
 518. curl hair                bekeriting  
 519. tear a thing            benincang  
 520. feed                     kenakan  
 521. sting                    minduk  
 522. swallow                tenalom  
 523. kneel                    begatud  
 524. bow down               penembungkung  
 525. open                    senukab  
 526. shut                    tutub  
 527. lick                     nyila'  
 528. frown                    kenijat  
 529. choke (by  
       oneself)               satap  
 530. choke (someone)      senakak  
 531. stoop                    bungkung  
 532. crawl                    temungol  
 533. hiccough               kemensibok  
 534. peep                    nyigag  
 535. stare                    kerenduong



E. Mental

536. mind, care for	mapas
537. remind	ngingot
538. mean (what do you ...?)	maksud
539. believe	percaya'
540. excite	penapanas
541. choose	ngempili'
542. adopt (child)	tenangung
543. promise	denindang
544. praise	ngunpod
545. blame	ngensala
546. accuse	nandos
547. forbid	nyawai'
548. flatter	nganja'
549. tease	ngeguda'
550. annoy	nyusa'
551. worry	perduli'
552. confuse	ngacau
553. quarrel	beselisihan

F. General

554. leak	pasut
555. swing	ngindong
556. sprinkle	ngambur
557. smash	mantung
558. poke	ngajuk
559. squeeze	neramos
560. prick	nyusuk
561. paint, decorate	beukir
562. sew	nyalut
563. twist	ngempili'
564. scrape (as a hide)	ngegarisi
565. upset, spill	saud'
566. stir	penembaoul
567. mix	penambap
568. pour out	tenumtug
569. dip	nyibuk
570. sweep	ngempapas
571. wipe	mumpapas
572. pluck, as a bird	ngelikas

573. stretch, make taut	tebabar
574. cut	mutul
575. fasten	ngendulung
576. grind	ngerinda
577. crush to powder	gemusug
578. tie	ngendukug
579. fasten	
580. wrap up	bemungkus
581. pack up	bekamor
582. leave out	getetatag
583. waste	garas
584. share out	ayam
585. whisper	giyum
586. swear	besumpa
587. win	manong
588. draw (picture)	ngegambor
589. console	ngelilin
590. arrest a man	ngadakop
591. tempt, to try out	gemuda'
592. warn	peningot
593. attack	sesawai'
594. escape	napungno'

## NOTES

1. Field work among the Bulusu' was undertaken in 1980-81 under the sponsorship of N.S.F. Grant BNS-79-15343 with G. N. Appell, Ph.D., as principal investigator. I undertook linguistic research among the Tidung as a research assistant. I am indebted to him for his guidance in this work and for his help in the preparation of the final draft of this paper.
2. My major informant was Muhidin A. R. an inhabitant of the village of Sekatak Buji on the Sekatak River of East Kalimantan.
3. An article discussing and correcting Beech's 1908 dictionary is forthcoming.
4. A basic word list of the Bulungan language is also forthcoming.

5. The Language Questionnaire used was prepared by the Department of Linguistics, Research School of Pacific Studies, the Australian National University, for collecting data for their Linguistic Atlas of the Pacific. The values for the symbols used in rendering the vocabulary can be found in Gudschinsky (1967).

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# THE BULUSU' LANGUAGE OF EAST KALIMANTAN: ETHNOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND BASIC WORD LIST

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## INTRODUCTION1

The Bulusu' are a people of East Kalimantan. They inhabit primarily the middle to lower reaches of the Sekatak River, the Bengara River, and the Batayau River in the Kecamatan Tanjung Palas of the Kabupaten Bulungan. In the literature and government reports the Bulusu' are referred to as Berusu. However, Berusu is an exonym (see Appell 1968) and Bulusu' is the preferred autonym.

The Bulusu' maintain that their closest linguistic allies are the Tidong, who inhabit the lower reaches of these rivers frequently interspersed with Bulusu' villages. Upriver from the Bulusu' are Punan, whose language is considerably

different from the Bulusu' so that it is not mutually intelligible.

The Bulusu' traditionally are longhouse dwellers and swidden agriculturists. Their main crops are rice, manioc, and taro. Maize is also grown. Of major importance are a variety of fruit tree crops which in the fruit season provide considerable income as the surplus is sold to the markets in Tarakan.

The Bulusu' are experienced canoe builders and river travelers. Much of the travel to swidden fields is done by canoe, and considerable fishing along the river and out to the river mouths is done by canoe.

The social organization of the Bulusu' is cognatic (see Appell 1982). The kinship terminology is of the Eskimoan type. Residence after marriage is virilocal and a large bride-price is required. The farming unit is the nuclear family. However, the consumption unit can be the larger extended family that live in the longhouse apartment. This is based on a married couple, and their male children with their spouses and children.

Inheritance rights of certain items are preferentially sex linked. Head beads are usually devolved on female children, and swords are devolved on males. Fruit tree groves and scarce jars and gongs which have high value and important ritual functions are devolved on all children with the eldest male having preferential rights, so that in the case of jars they will be lodged in his longhouse apartment.

## BASIC WORD LIST2

### Human Beings

1. man	laki
2. woman	dandu'
3. old man	laki tuo
4. old woman	dandu' tuo
5. married man	laki pongow pagandu'
6. bachelor	buaiyoi