

LEKA

Lexical Knowledge Archive

Iban Terminology in Social Sciences

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Bromeley Philip
Amee Joan

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Preface

The Ibans are the largest indigenous community in Malaysia with an approximately 818,000 in population, making it a majority group in Sarawak, forming 30.3% of the 2.7 million of the whole total population in Sarawak itself (Department of Statistics, 2018), a state (124,451 square kilometres) almost the size of West Malaysia (132, 156 square kilometres). The Iban language is spoken by 1.484 million speakers in Malaysia, Brunei and West Kalimantan (Ethnologue, 2019). Besides the significance of the Iban language in terms of inter-ethnic interactions especially in Sarawak itself, the Iban community has a lot to offer in terms of ancient traditions, oral literature and literary sources, material and ethno-cultural sources as well as modern anthropological research sites and areas to explore from bio-medicinal, spiritual, cosmological to gender and global studies which can be interconnected to form an Iban epistemology or to coin a new term called Ibanology.

Although much research has been conducted involving the Iban community, there has not been any effort to construct Iban knowledge or what may be termed as IBANOLOGY. This LEKA Project is one research initiative intended to build Ibanology via language modernization, translation and eventually promotional works through Iban language school syllabus. Other preservation works should involve preservation/conservation of classical/literary texts with different genres through documentation, digitisation and archiving. While Iban society has now been the most carefully and fully documented of any society in Borneo, which has made major contributions to social theory, there is still much to be done. Iban society now provides the model, the background phenomena, on which all other ethnographic inquiries of Borneo societies can proceed. Iban research has informed the discussion of many theoretical issues in either socio-cultural or anthropological inquiry.

Whilst the Iban language has been recognized and incorporated into the Malaysian Educational Curriculum, the size of its word corpus especially in regards to modern terminology remains rather small, thus making it more of a vernacular for general conversational purposes than an academic language. There is a specific need to expand the word corpus of Iban language especially with regard to specialized terminology in various academic disciplines as far as possible. This effort entails collaboration among language and content experts and it is necessary to form and establish a committee of experts to produce wordlists and bilingual or trilingual reference dictionaries. The first effort has begun with our LEKA Committee comprising Iban language experts from different institutions and agencies established under the LEKA Project at the Institute of

Borneo Studies (IBS) UNIMAS, thus giving IBS the honour to host this inaugural effort of constructing LEKA (Lexical Knowledge Archive) for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), creating a significant piece of history in the development of the Iban language as an academic language. This LEKA Iban Terminology of SSH marks the beginning of hopefully more series of LEKA to be produced by IBS in the future, making IBS as world-first in constructing comprehensive collection of modern specialized terminologies for Iban language, an indigenous language spoken very widely in Sarawak and generally Southern Borneo.

At this juncture, we must realise that the status of the Iban language in Malaysia is still that of an ethnic vernacular. As a vernacular, at best it could only be offered as an indigenous language subject in schools and quite limited in use in the civil and administrative spaces. If our concern is for the development of the language, we would expect the language to become contemporary in its vitality and expressiveness to describe modern and contemporary ideas, concepts, conditions, situations, state of affairs and many more aspects of a contemporary civil society. The expectation of a contemporary dictionary is to have included a large repertoire of modern terminology that runs parallel to the current progress of a society. Yet the size of modern Iban language repertoire is still very limited even in comparison to Malay language. The size of corpus data in the Malay language is increasing on a daily basis, and the increasing size shows us that the language really is developing and expanding in terms of vocabulary, lexis, terminology and collaborations. There is no actual corpus compilation or analysis that has been done for the Iban language to build a corpus like the ones built by Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka. The Malay language has hundreds of sources if not thousand to enable compilation and retrieval of raw data input which is lacking for the Iban language.

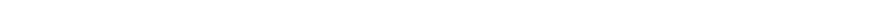
This LEKA Project involves language modernization and modification through word formation/coinage, word blending and word borrowing which focuses on developing specialised Iban terminology for Social sciences and Humanities in the Iban language. Thus far, our concerted effort has successfully engendered production and publication of quite a comprehensive wordlist, that is, some form of bilingual archive of specialised terminology in Social Sciences and Humanities. These very contributions thus help modernize the Iban language to elevate its function into becoming an academic language.

Associate Professor Dr Bromeley Philip

A



| English | Meaning | Iban |
|---|---|---|
| activist | a person who takes up a social or political cause and campaigns for it – for example, affordable housing or NCR land right a person who works regularly for a political party, sometimes a person who is in disagreement with the main policies of their party or whose views are more extreme than those held by the majority of their party _ <i>The meeting was disrupted by an argument between the chairman and left-wing activists.</i> _ <i>Party activists have urged the central committee to adopt a more radical approach to the problems of unemployment.</i> Also called party activist . | aktivis |
| ad hoc committee | a committee that is formed to carry out a particular task and then breaks up when the task is over. | komiti arau |
| aegis | a form of protection or support from a more powerful organisation. For example, a state agency would have the support of a Government department. They would work under the ‘aegis’ of that department. | serayung |
| assimilation | a minority group’s internalization of the values and norms of the dominant culture. The minority group becomes socially, economically, and politically absorbed into the wider culture. | asimilasyon |
| anarchy | a society with political and social disorder caused by lack of government control and a disregard of the law by citizens. | anarki |
| anthem | an uplifting song of praise; called a national anthem when it is about a countr. | lagu menua |
| antisocial behavior (sometimes anti-social) | acting in a violent or threatening way that alarms or distresses people and makes them feel unsafe. | beperangai antisosial; enggai begulai enggau orang |
| assembly | a group of people gathered together for a special purpose, sometimes as a law-making body, as in the Northern Ireland Assembly. | gempuru |



| English | Meaning | Iban |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| attorney general (ag) | the main legal advisor to the Government. | attorney general |
| abandon | to give up or not to continue something _ to abandon a Bill, an action to give up trying to promote a Bill. | ngelengka |
| abdicate | to give up the position of king or queen of a country. | ngemaduka diri nyadi raja |
| abdication | the act of giving up the position of king or queen of a country. | pengawa ngemaduka diri nyadi raja |
| abide by | to obey something such as an order or a rule _ <i>The government promised to abide by the decision of the High Court.</i> _ <i>The rebels did not abide by the terms of the agreement.</i> | nitihka |
| abolish | to put an end to an institution or practice _ <i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to ask Parliament to abolish the tax on alcohol.</i> _ <i>The Senate voted to abolish the death penalty.</i> | muai |
| abolition | an act of putting an end to an institution or practice _ <i>to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty</i> _ <i>Anarchists advocate the abolition of the state.</i> | pengawa muai |
| abstain | not to do something deliberately, especially not to vote _ <i>Sixty MPs abstained in the vote on capital punishment.</i> | ngendaka diri |
| abstention | The act of deliberately not doing something, especially voting _ <i>The motion was carried by 200 votes to 150, with 60 abstentions.</i> | pengawa ngendaka diri |
| abuse | the wrong use of something _ <i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer has introduced a Bill to correct some of the abuses in the present tax system.</i> abuse of Parliament something that breaks accepted parliamentary rules of conduct abuse of power the use of legal powers in an illegal or harmful way abuse of rules the use of rules to achieve a purpose which is open to criticism, e.g. the use of the right to introduce a motion into the House of Commons to prevent a debate from Continuing to abuse your authority to use your authority in an illegal or harmful way to say rude words to someone _ <i>He abused the police before being taken to the cells.</i> to treat someone badly, often in a sexual way. | salah nguna kuasa |

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Iban Terminology in Social Sciences

The LEKA (Lexical Knowledge Archive) Project involves language modernisation and modification through word formation/coinage, word blending and word borrowing which focuses on developing specialised terminology for Social sciences and Humanities in the Iban language. This may look like an ordinary wordlist, a form of bilingual archive of specialised terminology in Social Sciences and Humanities, but for the authors this is our labour of love. Years of research is finally manifested into a publication with hopes to further modernize the Iban language to elevate its function into becoming an academic language. Leka in Iban literally means a seed of fruits or vegetables or a seed of word, hence the term LEKA aptly represents this initiative.



Noria Tugang is a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur in 2011 in the area of Arts, Culture and Humanities. She currently serves as a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts, University of Sarawak Sarawak (UNIMAS). She has 25 years of experience in the Arts, Culture and Humanities studies.



Bromeley Philip is Associate Professor at the Academy of Language studies, MARA University of Technology (UITM), Sarawak campus. He has MSc in TESOL, and MSc in Training & HRM, from the University of Stirling, Scotland, and the University of Leicester, England, respectively. In 2000, he was awarded the distinguished Tunku Abdul Rahman (TAR) Scholarship by the Sarawak Foundation to pursue a PhD at University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). He received the BEST PhD Thesis Award 2005 for his doctoral thesis in the area of metacognition in language learning with distinction from the School of Language Studies, Linguistics and Literature, UKM. Philip heads several research projects at UITM Sarawak, one of which is financed by the Fundamental Research Grants Scheme of the Ministry of Higher Education. His specialization and research interest includes ethnolinguistic with a specific focus on the development of the Sarawak Iban system of writing. He has worked closely with linguistic software, a US company in developing the Iban Alphabet into digitized fonts for word-processing purposes. His current passion for Borneo Studies ranges from dialectology to history.



Ameer Joan has a diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), Bachelor of Science in TESL and Masters in Education. Currently, she is attached to the Faculty of Language and Communication, University Malaysia Sarawak. She has produced the first Kejaman (ethnic from Belaga, Sarawak) picture dictionary.


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