PERCEPTIONS OF BIDAYUHON IMPORTANCE OF THE BIDAYUHLANGUAGE



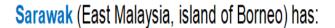
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Languages in Malaysia

• 134 established languages, 112 indigenous languages (Eberhard, Simons, & Fennig, 2020)



• at least 25 different ethnic groups (Kheung & Adruce, 2018)

Bidayuh

- previously known as Land Dayak
- · second largest indigenous group in Sarawak,
- 217,800 speakers (Sarawak Government Portal, 2017), after the Iban

Purpose of Study

To examine perceptions of Bidayuh community in Sarawak, Malaysia on the importance of the Bidayuh language

Specific aspects:

- 1. reasons for the importance of the Bidayuh language
- 2. connotative associations of the language

Method of Study

Descriptive study involving **61 participants** (Bidayuh family, friends and contacts) Instrument: **Online questionnaire** with 5 sections:

- A. demographic information
- B. proficiency in Bidayuh
- C. frequency of Bidayuh usage
- D. language use in nine domains
- E. importance of the Bidayuh language and connotative associations of the Bidayuh language on a five-point Likert scale

Method of Study

Demographic background

- · good spread of age groups but mostly in their 30s and 40s
- Gender balance: 52.46% female, 47.54% male
- 72.13% had degree or higher
- About 60% had BM medium primary and secondary education, about 35% had English medium education, and 7% had Chinese primary education
- 95.08% were Christians
- Most of the participants spoke <u>Bau</u> (44.26%) and <u>Biatah</u> (40.98%) varieties. Serian (9.84%) and others (4.92%)