

**Bidayuh lens:**

# **Living as a Bidayuh in Today's World**



**Edited by  
Su-Hie Ting  
Florence Gilliam Kayad**

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# *Narrative Structure of Bidayuh Animal Tales*

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### **Introduction**

Folk tales are traditional stories of a community or a culture (Bascom, 1965). They are intangible cultural heritage as they symbolise the cultural and social identity of a community and therefore they need to be safeguarded and maintained (UNESCO, 2003). Traditionally, folk tales were one of the main sources of entertainment and education, particularly for young children and creative and skilled story tellers were highly regarded by the local community. While folk tales across many cultures are now available and accessible in both printed and digital form, folk tales are usually part of oral tradition, being passed down from generation to generation by creative and skilled storytellers. As such, the original author is unknown and there are often many versions of the tale, both within one culture and across different cultures. There are some remote and rural communities, particularly illiterate or indigenous

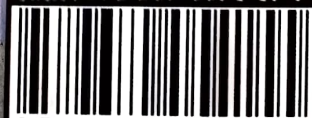
**Bidayuh lens:**

# **Living as a Bidayuh in Today's World**

This book showcases various aspects of the Bidayuh culture beyond the oft-highlighted visible tangible artifacts. The Bidayuh Lens unravels the intangible cultural heritage of a wonderful unique group living in Sarawak and offers a glimpse of the lens through which the modern Bidayuh sees the world. This book discloses the knowledge that is currently available to a select few on the significance of the different types and ways Bidayuh celebrate Gawai. The book explains the intellectuality and relevance of the old and traditional Bidayuh proverbs in the modern world today. This book also deepens appreciation for the meanings of the much-treasured Bidayuh folktales which, surprisingly or not surprisingly (depending on personal views), share features with oral traditions in other parts of the world. Ethnic stereotypes exist in any society and the Bidayuh lens unveils the changing (and the fixed) representation of the Bidayuh people in newspapers and tourism materials. The authors invite you to take the journey to see the Bidayuh with different eyes.



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