



THE LINGUISTIC CONSEQUENCES OF BINTULU AND MIRIEK DUE TO LANGUAGE CONTACT

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Abstract

This paper looks at the linguistic consequences of ongoing language contact of two northern region ethnic languages, namely Bintulu and Miriek. A closer investigation shows that there are traces of linguistic disintegration happening in these languages. Literature shows that the process of linguistic disintegration can affect the phonology, morphology and lexicon of the recessive language. Imperfect language acquisition among speakers of the minority languages due to the exclusive use of the dominant language in their daily life is believed to be one of the contributors. The purpose of this paper is to explore the phonological, morphological and lexical changes of Bintulu and Miriek languages as a result of contact with the dominant Malay. The paper provides a preliminary description of the sound systems of the languages as they are spoken today. The sound system described in this study represents a general picture of the Bintulu and Miriek phonologies while recognising the existence of variations due to the