A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF BIDAYUH JAGOI PATUN

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Abstract

Bidayuh Pantun or Patun remains a under researched topic in Borneo studies and language research due to the difficulties associated with obtaining critical, poetic information in oral culture, language variations and societal mobility. Existing data from anthologies however provide little detail about the intrinsic and extrinsic features ascribed to the poem by the people who produce and use them. This paper attempts to explore patun from the Jagoi community. In this study, the structural aspects, themes and moral values of 47 patun from the Jagoi community were analysed. The initial explanations suggested by the poet were further analysed to determine the various structural features to place it alongside existing mainstream lyric poetry. The analysis of the intrinsic features showed that good rhythmic patun has four to six words per line and eight to 12 syllables per line, and the final syllables of each line has assonance and consonance patterns of a-a-a-a and a-b-a-b. The themes of the patun include love, advice, forgiveness, beliefs, hopelessness and happiness, and the moral values take the form of subtle advice and admonishments. The Bidayuh patun is indeed a projection of knowledge, experiences, beliefs, values, and emotions of the community.

Keywords: Patun, unique, mutual discourse, structural aspects, rhythmic verses

Introduction

The Bidayuh community in Sarawak is the second largest indigenous group in Sarawak, after the Iban, with a population of 198,473 making up 8% of the Sarawak population of 2,471,140 (Department of Statistics Malaysia, Sarawak, 2012). The Bidayuh live in predominantly Bidayuh areas such as Siburan, Serian, Padawan, Bau, Lundu and Samarahan. The Bidayuh groups in Bau believe that their ancestors originated from the top of Bung Bratak (Bratak Hill) before they dispersed into different areas and set up distinct linguistic groups as a result of attacks by warring communities. Today, a great majority of Bidayuh in Bau are Christians (Roman
Catholics in particular) and Singai continues to be used as a language of the church. This is mainly because Singai was one of the first Bidayuh groups that converted from animistic traditions to Christianity following the arrival of Christian missionaries during the British colonial era.

The Bidayuh are made up of several distinct linguistic groups as Bukar Sadong, Biatah, Singai and Jagoi. Jagoi, for instance, is the largest linguistic group in Bau which is a region located approximately 70 km west of Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak. The language used by this group, which is also called Jagoi, is not only used as a medium of daily interaction among its members, but also spoken by other Bidayuh linguistic groups living in the area as such as Serembuk and Singai. According to Chua (2009), within these dialects Jagoi exists as the dialect with the most speakers, (approximately 7,500) but the speakers can amount to more than 30,400 when the other groups, Serambu, Bratak and Singai, are taken into consideration. While a number of dialects are spoken by different dialectal groups in the region, Jagoi remains distinct from the other dialects due to its phonology. This has been attested by Rensch, Rensch, Joeb, and Ridu (2006) where despite all Bidayuh dialects having only liquid tap/flap [r] when syllable initial and a voiced apical trill [r] when word final, the Jagoi dialects would assume it to have a lateral quality, with speakers thinking of it as /l/ to mention a case (p. 39). Incidentally, all dialects in the region have lexical and syntactic differences with some language being more pronounced than others depending on the context. Although mutual intelligibility may not be high among these groups, the Bidayuh community share some common literature and language works.

In terms of common literature, Patun is a traditional poetic form that remains an integral part of Bidayuh community in Sarawak. Transmitted across generations as is the case for many oral traditions, the Bidayuh patun is viewed by the community as beautiful rhythmic verse that not only encapsulates, but serves as a source of shared experiences, values, and beliefs that needs to be maintained. Collectively owned by Bidayuh community, patun is considered very much alive, often learned by heart and recited from time to time in rituals and official gatherings. As an important source of culture, patun helps unite members of the Bidayuh community especially when recited collectively and individual during special events, gatherings and festivities. Patun is mainly recited by those who have high status within the community such as tukang gawai or pembaca mantra (ritual masters) during the annual harvest festival celebration. The recitation is usually accompanied by the beating of traditional drums or bergendang, a practice which is not uncommon among the Sarawak Malays as well.

Compared to Malay pantun, Bidayuh patun remains unique due to its distinctive imagery and cultural features. For instance, while both poetic forms share common features such as number of verses (e.g., mostly four-line verses), the unique socio-cultural elements, visual imageries and language style used in Bidayuh patun help create an imagery depicting an inclusive community, landscape features and communal engagement as members partake in an exchange of ideas, beliefs, and experiences during patun recital. These unique features need to be explored to provide a better understanding of patun and Bidayuh community and highlight their cultural artefact over time.
Taking these various features into consideration, the emphasis of this paper is restricted to the four-line *patun* of the Jagoi Bidayuh community. The analysis of the intrinsic aspects of the Bidayuh *patun* focuses on the structural features such as the language style, rhyme, imagery, tone, feeling, message, attitude while the analysis of the extrinsic aspects focuses on the history and socio-cultural elements that help shape the *patun*, particularly the themes and moral values.

**Methodology**

This is an interpretive study in that the researchers did not in any way participate in the actual *patun* recitation activities. From collection of 83 *patun* collected from the four Bidayuh linguistic groups (Bukar Sadong, Bidatah, Jagoi and Singai), 47 *patun* identified as belonging to the Bidayuh Jagoi community were selected for analysis. The *patun* were recited by three elders from the community, namely, Ji’iam anak Daek, Ahiem Anak Majin, and Siah anak Daek. They were then invited to explain the verses. The analysis of the intrinsic elements is a follow up from the event and it focuses on structural features such as the stanza, lines, and words counts, syllable, and rhymes as outlined by Hashim Awang (1984). The extrinsic features of the *patun* will be explained alongside based on what has been explicated from the discussions with the elders. The role *bergendang* plays in shaping the intrinsic elements of *patun* is not included in the scope of the study.

**Analysis and Discussion**

According to literary critics, for any verse to be considered as a *pantun*, they must first satisfy a number of intrinsic and extrinsic features.

**Intrinsic features of Bidayuh Jagoi *patun***

For starters, the last word of the first line must rhyme with the last word of the third line, while the last word of the second line must rhyme with the last word of the fourth line to give it a rhyming pattern (e.g., *a-b-a-b*). Furthermore, each line may consist of eight or more syllables (e.g., 9, 10, and 12). The first two lines serve as a lead-in for the message that can be found in the last two lines. The lead-in, also known as the "rhymer", serves as an indicator of the message that appears in the concluding lines of a *pantun*.

In terms of lines in a stanza, Bidayuh *patun* of the Jagoi community mostly appear as four-line stanzas as shown in the example in Table 1.
Table 1
Joget Sowa Bauh by Ji’iam anak Daek, 61 years old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patun</th>
<th>Number of lines per stanza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tumu bikudu di puun sorai,</td>
<td>(4 lines per stanza)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Di maket jajak bijua tobuh,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oku bilagu di onu Gawai,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilagu joget sowa bauh.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Di maket jajak bijua tobuh,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobuh obuo, bijua saang,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilagu joget sowa bauh,</td>
<td>(4 lines per stanza)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samah samah 'to odi ngabang.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobuh ooo bijua saang,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saang, banuok, bisapur kuduk,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samah oto odi ngabang,</td>
<td>(4 lines per stanza)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mak nuok bagok jak 'to mabuk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saang banuok bisapur kuduk,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuduk oggi bisapur roee,</td>
<td>(4 lines per stanza)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sina garang bisapur mabu,.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mabuk oggi yak nimur kaee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuduk oggi bisapur roee,</td>
<td>(4 lines per stanza)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roee inoh bilagi pongan,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asal nye mabuk mak yak bikaee,</td>
<td>(4 lines per stanza)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitiek map samah bidingan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All five stanzas in the song are composed in lines of four per stanza. Most of the patun of the Bidayuh’s Jagoi community are composed in this manner. The total number of lines in a stanza of patun – be it two, four, six or eight – create its own uniqueness. The four-line stanzas as shown in the above example are similar to those of the Malay pantun.

In addition to the number of lines, Jagoi patun is also created by carefully taking into account the number of words per line in a stanza. A good patun usually comprises four to six words per line. In terms of prosody, four to six words per line will make a good rhythmic patun and will sound orderly when recited. Examples of four to six words in a line are shown in Table 2.

Table 2
Classical Bidayuh Patun (Part 1) by Ahiem Anak Majin, 66 years old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patun</th>
<th>Number of words per line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jika tumbuh rada di pintu,</td>
<td>(5 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papan jawa batang rimbutan,</td>
<td>(4 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jika la sungguh pasca begitu,</td>
<td>(5 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>badan diyawa sayang jurahkan.</td>
<td>(5 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duak cina duak melayu,</td>
<td>(4 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duak tambi menjadi enam,</td>
<td>(4 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apa kena’ bunga dilayu,</td>
<td>(4 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cara puhun mula ditanam.</td>
<td>(4 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betul-betul bertonan sireh,</td>
<td>(4 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batang juredang di tengah ngemas,</td>
<td>(5 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jika sebetul tuan berpilih,</td>
<td>(4 words per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bercarik dayang bertanduk emas.</td>
<td>(4 words per line)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Batang juredang di tengah ngemas,  
Burung tekkur terebang tinggi,  
Bercarik dayang bertanduk emas,  
ben carik ekor yang bershama tinggi.

Mudah-mudahan limau berbuah,  
Sigeklah batang limau manis,  
Mudah-mudahan badan bertuah,  
Mendapat bunga sekuntum manis.

Rumah bugok pintu sembilan,  
Naik terubuh tiada’ rubuh,  
Bagai pugguk merindu rimbulan,  
Menanti jatuh tiada jatuh.

Mudahan limau berbuah,  
Sigeklah batang limau manis,  
Mudah-mudahan badan bertuah,  
Mendapat bunga sekuntum manis.

A number of four to six words per line in the above examples make a patun rhythmic when recited, and this leads to eight to twelve syllables per line in a stanza of quatrain as shown in Table 3. When recited, the patun sounds pleasing to the ear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3</th>
<th>Classical Bidayuh Patun (Part 2) by Ahiem Anak Majin, 66 years old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ro/mah/ go/dang/ ber/din/ding/ ba/ta/,</td>
<td>(9 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Te/pat/ ting/gal/ ra/ja/ ba/ha/ri/,</td>
<td>(9 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Se/re/mat/ ting/gal/ pe/nyu/dah/lah/ ka/ta/,</td>
<td>(11 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U/mur/ pan/jang/ be/jum/pa/la/gi./</td>
<td>(9 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma/nih/ be/na/ bu/ah /ram/bu/tan/</td>
<td>(9 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu/ah/ pa/di/ di/ lan/toi/ ko/ta/</td>
<td>(9 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma/nih/ be/na/ pa/ros/mu/ tu/an/</td>
<td>(9 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Te/me/sih/ ko/pi/ ta/ru/h di/gu/la</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Li/mak/ la/ li/mak/ jo/rn/ di/ ta/ngan/,</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Du/ak/ ta/ngan/ jo/di/ se/pu/luh/,</td>
<td>(9 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Su/dah/ me/na/nam/ bu/ah/ je/ri/ni/gan/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa/ri/ak/ mu/da/ be/rk /di/ tum/buh/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Du/ak/ la/ du/ak/ ta/ngan/ jo/di /se/pu/luh/,</td>
<td>(12 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ta/nam/la/ bu/luh/di /da/la/m /pa/dang/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Po/ri/ak /mu/da /be/rk /di/tu/muh/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ji/ko/lau /tu/muh/ ja/ngan /di/bu/ang/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu/ang/la/ ba/ju/ ko/re/na/ ta/peh/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ta/pis/laa/ di/a /ma/na/na/ntas/ ku/it/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bu/ang/la/ /ma/la/ ke/ra/na/ ko/seh/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ji/ko/lau/ ko/seh/ me/yan/di /ba/it/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>En/cik/ a/wan/ a/nak /pan/ha/lu/</td>
<td>(9 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Du/duk/ ber/ma/ni/ /i/kan/ be/na/ga/</td>
<td>(10 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ji/ka/au /tu/an/ ma/ti/nya/ da/lu/lu</td>
<td>(11 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tung/gu/ sa/ya /pin/tu /syur/ga</td>
<td>(8 syllables per line)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The next intrinsic feature of *patun* is the final syllable of each line. Assonance and consonance play a vital role through the existence of similar vowel sounds at line endings such as *a-a-a-a*, or *a-b-a-b* that provide a heightened tempo or a signal to the context and content of the recital. This is similar to the rhythmic alliteration such as *a-b-c-a-b-c* in a sextet stanza and *a-b-c-d a-b-c-d* in an octave stanza. Table 4 shows more examples of *patun* that adhere to the rules of this orderly rhyme and metre.

Table 4

*Bikalan Stiang by Ji’iam anak Daek, 61 years old*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tongon butan di pang olan.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadab payang bikan stiang.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninga bitang sinok bulan.</td>
<td>→</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngokab jawa doras tiring.</td>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadab payang bikan stiang.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topat mamuh bujang di nouh.</td>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngokab jawa doras tiring.</td>
<td>→</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tirang nyoka bulan ayuh.</td>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topat mamuh bujang di nouh.</td>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kajon bilajon bigati-gati.</td>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oggi di mamuh di piin koruh.</td>
<td>→</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oggi di maad kakon bilidi.</td>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kajon bilajon bigati-gati.</td>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninga ki sobak piin mo koruh.</td>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oggi di maad kakon bilidi.</td>
<td>→</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oggi di odi nakon bauh.</td>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a rhythmic assonance pattern of *a-a-a-a* as shown in Table 5.

Table 5

*Patun Patiek by Ji’iam Anak Daek, 61 years old*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bojuh bauh sluar bauh.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kan eh pakai rasu yak towoh.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudik eh patuh, sikiek eh paguh.</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mun baai di piliek duwuh.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A good *patun* usually binds itself to the intrinsic features and these help maintain its character and uniqueness. The features must be followed closely by the creators of these *patun* to retain their significance.

**Extrinsic features of Bidayuh Jagoi patun**

The analysis of the extrinsic features of the 47 Jagoi *patun* revealed the themes and moral values play an important role in maintaining the identity of the Bidayuh *patun*. Appendix 1 shows examples of *patun* with good and appropriate choice of theme,
inculcation of personal beliefs and moral values, portrayal of societal values, advice and subtle sarcasm to name a few.

The choice of themes which border on love, advice, transmitting beliefs, expressing emotions and so forth were chosen based on one’s experiences. Besides these themes, thought-provoking *patun* are also created by including lines that contain moral values which can be in the form of subtle advice or admonishment. Moral values such as honesty, sincerity, patience, tolerance, love, helping one another, kindness, thankfulness, pride and joy, high spirits of motivation and perseverance are also popular. An interesting feature of the recital is that the poets generally end their *patun* seeking readers’ forgiveness. *Patun* is uttered merely to deliver advice, without any intention to offend any party. It serves as a form of entertainment rather than revenge, as follows:

**Pantun Nasihat/Gurauan**
(by Siah anak Daek, 51 years old)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jagoi patun inculcation of personal beliefs and moral values, portrayal of societal values, advice and subtle sarcasm to name a few.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Dorod Stapok jadin kuali*  
Nyaa kroja nun batuh karang  
*Bitapok bidenam di soon skoli*  
Oku suka biterus terang. |
| *Guru-guru to ninga katun*  
Ninga katun di kasa tibi  
*Idoh dik oku ponai bipatun*  
Patun oku simadi madi. |
| *Batu Kawah sungi bisokap*  
Topat nyaa slalu ngijala  
Salah silap ku mitiek map  
Oku sikadar manusia biasa. |

**Pantun Nasihat/Gurauan**
(Translated to Malay)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jagoi patun inculcation of personal beliefs and moral values, portrayal of societal values, advice and subtle sarcasm to name a few.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Gunung Stapok menjadi kuali*  
Orang kerja ambil batu karang  
*Berdendam tidak sama sekali*  
Saya suka berterus terang. |
| *Duduk-duduk tengok kartun*  
Tengok kartun di kaca tv  
*Bukan saya pandai berpantun*  
Pantun saya sahaja sahaja. |
| *Batu Kawah sungai bercabang*  
Tempat orang selalu menjala  
*Salah silap ku minta maaf*  
Aku sekadar manusia biasa |

The underlying aim of many of these *patun* is raising the listeners’ awareness and appreciation of the lines for its merits. The *patun* creator goes to great lengths to ensure that the listeners take them in good faith and do not leave the premise with negative feelings. This is probably an intrinsic aspect of the culture itself where the speakers take precaution to ensure that they do not unintentionally belittle or ridicule anyone through their callous banter or lyrics. In other words, the *patun* is meant to entertain, raise awareness about the communities’ values and inculcate tolerance and never to hurt or put anyone down.

Fowler (1965, p. 217) states that literature is a record of writers attempting to create and put forward ideas of hope, dreams, emotions, thoughts and experience as well as their relationships with society. Literature talks about humans’ life in times of crisis and hurt feelings, and teaches about love, hatred, motivation, dignity, hope, sympathy and sacrifice. In this matter, the Jagoi *patun* is no different. Fowler’s statements hold much truth in that *pantun* or any other kind of creative oral traditional writings are created as written projections of emotions such as happiness or sadness that one can feel. Mohd Amin Arshad (1988) pointed out that
creative writing exists as a product of creative and imaginative thinking, brought forward via literature. All these are a record of the poet’s intention to put forward their ideas of hopes, dreams, ambitions, thoughts, emotions, experiences and so forth in humans’ life. Therefore, in this context the Jagoi patun projects all aspects of life. These life aspects are used as teaching and learning tools, especially to create a balance in one’s insight, mental judgement, emotions, characters and one’s social well-being. Hence, it can be said that the patun and the Jagoi community’s insight, mental judgement, emotions, characters and one’s social well-being are strong combinations of individual growth and therefore non detachable. In addition, Wilkinson and Winstedt (1957) also stated that:

One of the most important objects of Malay research is to enable those who come in contact with the Malay to comprehend his faculty for ideas and his range of passim. No one would attempt the mental history of England without study of its literature; of the Scot without study of Burns; and no one can estimate the mental scope of the Malay without an understanding of the pantun. (p. 3)

Wilkinson and Winstedt’s contention makes much sense in the context of Bidayuh verses. Patun plays a vital role for helping the world understand the mental scope of the Malays. Similarly, the culture, the beliefs, and the welstanchaunng (material culture) of the Bidayuh’s community is best understood via patun. Additional and systematic insights into the Bidayuh language and literature will enable the outside world to not only understand the language, culture, beliefs, and welstanchaunng but also the history and development of the Bidayuh’s cultural roots and their place in the community.

Conclusion

To conclude, it must be said that the Jagoi patun is just one of the ways to visualise and identify key elements that provide an insight into a fast diminishing agrarian lifestyle that is being taken over by development in Sarawak. The patun therefore holds much promise and mirrors many other native communities’ aspirations, concerns and experiences in the region. Jagoi patun remains important for two important reasons: firstly, it can serve as important resource for documenting social interaction patterns; and secondly, it also helps bring urban Bidayuh closer to one another and to the cultural aspects of their lives. It can also motivate members of the community to engage in mutual discourse, recreate and promote greater inclusivity and respectfulness. Passed on from one generation to the next, the patun remain as a beautiful rhythmic verse that encapsulates the communities’ experiences, beliefs, values, emotions, and as a vital source of communal experiences. Therefore, these patun should be seen as tools that help boost interaction, creation, cultural dialogues and communal engagement.

Presently, given the internet and greater awareness about the need to maintain language rights and cultural resources, opportunities to expand the use of patun among its community members can open doors to emerging new social
spaces, ideas, and language growth. It will also provide increased focus on getting people to have a say in matters that interest them. The society may be changing and cultures melting, but patun gives the Bidayuh an opportunity to share a common point of view and help members understand new concepts. It is a means of paving the way to overcome new walls, meeting new friends, remembering a distant past.

References


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Appendix 1: Themes and moral values in Patun

**Patun**

Joget Sowa Bauh  
(by Ji’iam anak Daek, 61 years old)  
Theme: Happiness  
Moral value: Visiting each other, don’t drink too much, don’t quarrel, seeking forgiveness

Translation in Malay

Joget Tahun Baru  
(by Ji’iam anak Daek, 61 years old)  
Theme: Environment  
Moral value: Patience

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**Tumu bikudu di puun sorai,**  
_Di maket jajak bijua tobuh,**  
Oku bilagu di onu Gawai,**  
Bilagu joget sowa bauh.*

Translation in Malay

_Tumbuh mengkudu di pohon serai,**  
_Di market jaja menjua tebu,**  
_Saya berlagu di hari Gawai,**  
_Berlagu joget tahun baru.*

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_Tobuh ooo bijua saang,**  
_Saang, banuok, bisapur kuduk,**  
_Samah otto odi ngabang,**  
_Mak nuok bogok jak ‘to odi ngabang.*

Translation in Malay

_Tebu habis, berjual cili,**  
_Cili, ubi kayu bercampur keladi,**  
_Bersama kita pergi menziarah,**  
_Jangan minum banyak nanti kita mabuk.*

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_Bikalan Stiang (nama satu tempat untuk mandi)**

_Tongon butan di pang olan,**  
Sadab poyang bikalan stiang,**  
Ninga bitang sinok bulan,**  
Ngokab jawa doras tirang.*

Translation in Malay

_Pohon kelapa di tepi jalan,**  
_Tepikayang bikalan stiang,**  
_Lihat bintang berdekatan bulan,**  
_Pancaran cahaya terangnya kuat.*

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_Sadab poyang bikalan stiang,**  
_Topat mamuh bujang di nouh,**  
Ngokab jawa doras tirang,**  
_Tirang nyoka bulan ayuh.*

Translation in Malay

_Tepikayang bikalan stiang,**  
_Tempat mandi orang bujang dahulukala,**  
_Pancaran cahaya terangnya kuat,**  
_Terang memancar bulan purnama.*
A preliminary analysis of bidayuh Jagoi patun

Patun Ngan Ajar
(by Ji’iam anak Daek: 61 years old)
Theme: Hopelessness
Moral values: Be a person of virtue, Do not commit any wrong or evil deed

Doik tiborak sumuk ginaka,
Doik pirassi doik tiborak,
Sukun eh nuok rasun, pak toro ninga,
Pak daap di’eh ponai nang mak.

Pantun Nasihat

Tiada guna nenek derhaka,
Tiada belas tiada kasihan,
Cucu minum racun termenung melihat,
Tercel sahaja tanpa berkata jangan.

Pantun Nasihat/Gurauan
(by Siah anak Daek, 51 years old)
Theme: Love
Moral values: Perseverance, patience, honesty

Tiang taas jading tiboyan
Jadin topat so nye pasan bunga
Dowon mas bibunga intan
Akan ku nupas walaupun tung nyaa.

Batu karang di daang donu
Di ropot dorod Batu Kawah
Ku pait salam jambong di muu
Yak bidapod sapey nyam payah.

Ikien sipat di dowon koyuh
Robuk ki piin bironang ronang
Bukan sitakat nye oda idip bauh
Tandanye rindu otinnye nyayang.

Pantun Nasihat/Gurauan
(by Siah anak Daek, 51 years old)
Theme: Beliefs
Moral values: Seeking forgiveness, praying, advice

So Siniawan odi ki Bau
Muun nga ku nyaa biloma
Kakat tongan smoong tilinyuk

Pantun Nasihat/Gurauan
Dari Siniawan pergi ke Bau,
Turun melihat orang berlumba,
Angkat tangan sepuluh jari,
Mitiek apun map di Topa.
Ruang kasang biyon di ragak
Buak bungul nyikon di boru
Odi smayang bidoa di Topa
Mitiek bidoa oda umur omu.
Bojuh omu sluar kodok
Bojuh motong di kedey teller
Oni di toru dosa nye bogok
Dapod nye ngapun tanon di Topa.
Bila bigawea nye mo nai pogang
Ogi taya gutan tun akat
Sitigal karoke nye ngabai smayang
Watnoh keh gaya nye nyaran adat

Minta ampun kepada Tuhan.
Biji kakang tuang ke raga,
Bunga balung ayam simpan di tempurung,
Pergi sembahyang berdoa kepada Tuhan,
Minta berdoa umur panjang.
Boju panjang seluar pendek,
Baju dipotong di kedai jahit,
Kenapa takut banayak dosa,
Dapat kita minta ampun pada Tuhan.
Bila bergawai kita buat lelang,
Ada tayar digantung atas akat (sejenis tiang),
Gara-gara karaoke sembahyang diabai,
Begituakah kita menjalankan ibadah?

Pantun Nasihat/Gurauan
(by Siah anak Daek, 51 years old)
Theme: Forgiveness
Moral value: Humility
Batu Kawah sungi bisokap
Topat nyaa slalu ngijala
Salah silap ku mitiek map
Oku sikadar manusia biasa.

Pantun Nasihat/Gurauan
(by Siah anak Daek, 51 years old)
Theme: Advice
Moral values: Be humble, not egoistic and arrogant
Pakai kreta odi ki Sabah
Singah ki hotel topat nye boos
Tanon lawa biar disah
Apalagi nye yak supah kobos.

Guna kereta pergi ke Sabah
Singghah ke hotel tempat tidur
Berkata sambong biarlah usah
Apalagi nak bersumpah mati