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## **A grammar of Mualang : an Ibanic language of Western Kalimantan, Indonesia**

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**Text 2: *Apay Aluy meli pemat* ‘Aluy’s father buys death’**

*Ah, jadi Apay Aluy.*<sup>1</sup>  
*ah so father A*

A, so about Aluy’s father.

*Apay Aluy tu’ ka’ N-beli pe-mati.*  
*father A TOP want ACT-buy NOM-die*

As for Aluy’s father, he wanted to buy death.<sup>2</sup>

*Nyaw ke-lama’ ah tih jara’, ia tu’, nya’=m tih nyaw*  
*after NOM-long ah tih jara’ 3s this that=m tih already*

*ka’ N-beli pe-mati tih.*  
*FUT ACT-buy NOM-die tih*

After a long time, that’s how it was, he really was about to buy death now.

*Jaku’ sida’ anu’ tih jara’, sida’ sebayan:*  
*word 3p what.is.it tih jara’ tih jara’ 3p world.of.the.dead*

*“Asa pia’, aday kami N-gusung ia lah,*  
*whenever like.that exist 1p.excl ACT-go.after 3s lah*

*nti’ pia’, nti’ ia ka’ N-beli pe-mati.*  
*if like.that if 3s want ACT-buy NOM-die*

So, they, uh, those of the world of the dead, said: “In that case, we will go after him, if that is the case, if he wants to buy death.

*Apa lagi’ jara’, nema ia ka’ mati.”*  
*what again jara’ because 3s want die*

What’s more then, because he wants to die.”

*Aw’, pia’ m=ia tu’ tih jara’.*  
*well like.that m=3s this tih jara’*

Well, that’s how it was with him.

<sup>1</sup> Traditionally the Mualang people refer to a married adult with the name of his or her, usually, oldest child. Thus, the father of a child Aluy is referred to as *Apay Aluy* ‘Aluy’s father’.

<sup>2</sup> Aluy’s father thought that ‘death’ was something one could buy.

*Baru' sida' sebayan tu' tih N-gusung ia tih.*  
 then 3p world.of.the.dead this tih ACT-go.after 3s tih

Then those of the world of the dead went after him.

*Sida' ia' tih saja s-tjung.*  
 3p that tih incredibly ONE-end

They (who came for him) were incredibly abundant (lit. from one end to another end of the road).

*Nyaw ke-tujuh ari sida' ka' N-am'i' ia.*  
 after ORD-seven day 3p FUT ACT-take 3s

On the seventh day, they were going to pick him up.

*Baru' ia', datay ka Apay Aluy tih, anu' tih, Aluy*  
 then that come to father A tih what.is.it tih A

*tengan ba-ban.*  
 PROG ANPAS-make.proa

Then, (when) they were coming to father of Aluy, uh, father of Aluy was making a proa.

*Jadi N-dinga awuh urang, teka m=N-tingkap*  
 so ACT-hear echo person right.away m=ACT-prostrate

*diri' ka peraw.*  
 one.self to proa

Thus, hearing the echo of people's voices, he right away lied face down inside the proa.

*Ah dia' m=ia tih, baru' ia N-pen'ing sida' jara'.*  
 ah there.(near) m=3s tih then 3s ACT-eardrop 3p jara'

Ah, there he was, then he eavesdropped on those people.

*Baru' sida' N-padah: "Jadi Apay Aluy tu', amat-amat ia*  
 then 3p ACT-say so father A TOP true-RED 3s

*ka' mati lah kini, ka' N-beli pe-mati?*  
 want die lah kini want ACT-buy NOM-die

Then they said: "So, this father of Aluy, we wonder, does he really want to die, does he want to buy death?"

*Aw', nya' mah," jaku' sida' keda' jara', "Anti' amat ia*  
 yes that mah word 3p other jara' if true 3s

*ngay lah, aw',babi ia ti besay lah,*  
 won't lah wellpig 3s REL big lah

*ia' N-ganti' mati, ti ting'i' ari nturan."*  
 that ACT-substitute die REL tall from nturan

“Yes, that’s it,” said another one of them, “If he really won’t, well, his pig which is a big one, that will die instead of him,, the one that is taller than a *nturan*<sup>3</sup>.”

*"Aw'," jaku' sida' jara'.*  
 yes word 3p jara'

“Yes, it will,” they said.

*Ah baru' nyaw ke-lama' udah ia' jara' ah, Aluy tu'*  
 ah then after NOM-long after that jara' ah A this

*N-pen'ing di peraw ia, da baruh peraw tih,*  
 ACT-eardrop LOC proa 3s LOC under proa tih

*peraw ti udah da-keban ia.*  
 proa REL PERF PASS-make.proa 3s

Well, then after a long time, (father of) Aluy eavesdropped (on them) in his proa, under the proa, the proa that had been made by him.

*Baru' nyaw ke-lama' datay ka rumah, sida'=m ba-jalay.*  
 then after NOM-long come to house 3p=m ANPAS-road

Then after a long time, they came to the (father of Aluy’s) house, they (came) walking.

*Baru', Aluy tu' pulay ga'.*  
 then A this go.home also

Then, as for (father of) Aluy, he went home too.

<sup>3</sup> *Nturan* is a beam on the edge of the floorboard in a traditional longhouse to support the poles of the house. The height from the base of the *teluk* (a small long gutter-like space located between the room (*bilik*) and the long gallery (*ruay*) to the *nturan* is about 50 centimeters.

*Baru' datay ka rumah tih.*  
then come to house tih

Then, he arrived at home.

*Ah, jadi sida' ia' datay mah dih.*  
ah so 3p that come mah dih

Ah, so now they did come.

*Ah, baru' sida' N-tanya' ia tih jara': "Kati wan*  
ah then 3p ACT-ask 3s tih jara' how 2s.hon

*Apay Aluy, kati wan laju N-beli pe-mati?"*  
father A how 2s.hon agree ACT-buy NOM-die

Ah, then that's how it was, they asked him: "How is it then with you, father of Aluy, did you agree to buy death?"

*"Akaaay!" jaku' ia ia', "Mati=m nti' pia' mah dih.*  
ouch word 3s that die=m if like.that mah dih

"Oh, my!" he said, "I would be dead indeed, if that were true.

*Naday ku ka' mati ga'."*  
NEG 1s want die also

I don't want to die yet."

*"Kati lah udah?" jaku' sida' jara'.*  
how lah already word 3p jara'

"What could we do then?" they said.

*"Wan udah N-am'u' tu'.*  
2s.hon PERF ACT-plan this

"You have planned this.

*Asa wan ngay, baru' wan N-bunuh babi wan*  
whenever 2s.hon won't then 2s.hon ACT-kill pig 2s.hon

*ti besay, ti ting'i' ari nturan."*  
REL big REL tall from nturan

When you don't want to die, then you (must) kill your big pig, which is taller than a *nturan*."

“Aw’, *barang nti’ pia’.*”  
 yes whatever if like.that

“Ok, whatever you say, if that’s how it should be.”

“Aw’, *pia’ mah dih,*” *jaku’ inay ah jara’.*  
 yes like.that mah dih word mother ah jara’

“Yes, just let it be like that,” said (Aluy’s) mother.

“Aw’, *wan nisi’ guna, macam-macam ti*  
 well 2s.hon nothing benefit kind-RED REL

*da-kerja,*” *jaku’ Aluy jara’.*  
 PASS-work word A jara’

“Well, you’re so useless, you just do all kinds of odd things,” said Aluy. (Aluy reprimanded his father)

*Ah, baru’ dih jara’, ah nya’=m babi ti ting’i’ ari nturan.*  
 ah then dih jara’ ah that=m pig REL tall from nturan

Ah, and then, ah, there it was, the pig that is taller than a *nturan*.

*Nya’=m da-bay’ sida’ jara’, saja galaw babi ia’,*  
 that=m PASS-bring 3p jara’ incredibly huge pig that

*kelimpay, jaku’ kita.*  
 big.pig word 1p.incl

That’s what would be taken by those people (of the world of the dead); what a huge pig that was, a *kelimpay* as we call it.

*Ah baru’ ia’=m da-bay’ sida’ ah tih.*  
 ah then that=m PASS-bring 3p ah tih

A, then that’s what was taken away by them.

*Aw’ selamat=m dih, naday m=ia mati dih.*  
 well safe=m dih NEG m=3s die dih

Well, he was indeed safe, he didn’t die.

*Baru’ sida’ ia’ tih pulay mah dih.*  
 then 3p that tih go.home mah dih

Then, those people, they returned home.

*Aw', gisah udah mah dih.*  
well story finished mah dih

Well, the story really is over.