



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

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

Tjia, J.

Citation

Tjia, J. (2007, April 25). *A grammar of Mualang : an Ibanic language of Western Kalimantan, Indonesia*. LOT dissertation series. LOT, Utrecht. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/11862>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/11862>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Text 5: *Sempang*

A *sempang* is a saying, an idiom, or a proverb. *Sempang* are metaphorical expressions that are typical for the socio-cultural settings of Mualang society and Mualang world view.

Kala' N-celuk puting d-alam ulu.
never ACT-take.out tip.of.knife LOC-inside end.part

Don't ever take the tip of the knife out from its handle. (That is, don't ever say bad things about someone else, since we don't know exactly what is in his/her mind.)

Nupa kita taw' N-tem'us mata ka ban'ir.
not.like 1p.incl can ACT-pierce eye to broad.lower.parts.of.tree-trunk

We can't see through the broad lower parts of a tree-trunk. (That is, we don't know things that will happen in the future.)

Idup ba-sun'ang gaway, mati ba-sun'ang bangkay.
live ANPAS-set.head.to feast die ANPAS-set.head.to corpse

Life sets head to the feast, death sets head to the corpse / To live is to feast; to die is to become a corpse. (That is, sharing good and bad things together.)

Upa pukang ngkadah buah.
like small.squirrel face.up fruit

Like a squirrel facing a fruit. (Said of a disappointed person (who can't get something he/she likes)

Pasak besay ari tiang.
peg big from pole

The peg is bigger than the pole. (That is, one's consumption is bigger than his/her gain)

Batang ting'i' ari tung'ul.
trunk high from tree.stump

The trunk is higher than the stump. (That is acting beyond one's rights or limits; being higher in position than one deserves to be)