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Never-Neverland Revisited: Malay Adventure Stories

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Marije Plomp

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Never-Neverland Revisited
Malay Adventure Stories

With an Annotated Edition and Translation of the Malay *Story of Bahram Syah*

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus prof. mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
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Acknowledgements

I boarded this boat years ago, without a course in mind. I had learned how to raise the sails and where to find the wind, and thus felt confident enough to head out to the open sea. The winds blew and I sailed. The winds changed direction, and so did my boat. After a while, I realized that there was more joy to be derived from sailing. So I set a course and tried to follow it, only to abandon it shortly after. The destination did not seem to make sense. Then came the long calms, and I had to lay down the mainsheet and halyards. Changing currents carried the ship along. When the wind picked up again, I was prepared: I had several courses to test. Now, I have found the destination that suits me best. Looking back, it was not the arrival that I enjoyed the most; it was the lightness I experienced when the boat was being semi-lifted from the water while I was keeping course.

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Abbreviations

<i>BKI</i>	<i>Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde</i>
ÉFEO	École française d'Extrême-Orient
EHESS	École des hautes études en sciences sociales
<i>ENI</i>	<i>Encyclopaedie van Nederlandsch-Indië</i>
<i>JMBRAS</i>	<i>Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i>
<i>KBBI</i>	<i>Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia</i> (1989 and 1991)
KITLV	Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde
<i>Kl.</i>	<i>Nieuw Maleisch–Nederlandsch Woordenboek</i> , H. C. Klinkert (1930)
MAS	Malay adventure stories
<i>Ms.</i>	<i>Dictionnaire Minangkabau, Indonesian–Français</i> , Gérard Moussay (1995)
NBG	Nederlands Bijbelgenootschap (Dutch Bible Society)
<i>Pam.</i>	<i>Kamoes Bahasa Minangkabau–Bahasa Melajoe–Riau</i> , M. Thaib Sutan Pamoentjak (1935)
<i>SBB</i>	<i>Story of Banta Beuransah</i> (Hikayat Banta Beuransah)
<i>SBS</i>	<i>Story of Bahram Syah</i> (Hikayat Bahram Syah)
<i>SDM</i>	<i>Story of Dewa Mandu</i> (Hikayat Dewa Mandu)
<i>SIP</i>	<i>Story of Inderaputera</i> (Hikayat Inderaputera)
<i>SLB</i>	<i>Story of Langlang Buana</i> (Hikayat Langlang Buana)
<i>SMB</i>	<i>Story of Maharaja Bikramasakti</i> (Hikayat Maharaja Bikramasakti)
<i>PA</i>	<i>Story of Panglimo Awang</i> (Panglimo Awang)
<i>SSI</i>	<i>Story of Sahrul Indra</i> (Hikayat Sahrul Indra)

<i>T.</i>	<i>Indonesisch–Nederlands woordenboek</i> , A. Teeuw (1990)
<i>TBG</i>	<i>Tijdschrift voor Indische taal-, land- en volkenkunde</i>
<i>VDT</i>	Herman Neubronner van der Tuuk
<i>VDTo.</i>	<i>Minangkabausch–Maleisch–Nederlandsch Woordenboek</i> , J. L. van der Toorn (1891)
<i>VDW.</i>	<i>Maleisch–Nederlandsch woordenboek</i> , H. von de Wall (1877–1884)
<i>VOC</i>	Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie
<i>Wl.</i>	<i>A Malay–English dictionary</i> , R. J. Wilkinson (1959)

Malay Words

adat	customary law
air mawar	rosewater
akal	reason in human beings
alang-alang	a kind of long-leaved grass
anjung	outer and raised annex of a traditional Minangkabau house
bahara	a weight
bangsi	Malay musical instrument: flageolet
bawal	a kind of fish, pomfret (<i>Stromateus</i> spp.)
bengkunang	the larger mouse deer
bomor	traditional healer, shaman
buruk	a kind of bird; waterfowl
busuk	a weight
ceracap	musical instrument of the rattle or castanet type; bamboos beaten together
dadap	a kind of tree (<i>Erythrina</i> spp.)
dagang	foreigner, trader
dang	honorific title prefixed to the name of certain ladies at the court
danglak-dangli	generic name for trees belonging to the genera <i>Memecylon</i> and <i>Anisophyllea</i>
datuk	honorific title of a Malay chief
dukun	traditional healer

garuda	giant mythical bird
gulai	curry dish
gulambai	an old and dirty looking male ghost believed to cause fires
hadith	'tradition': body of literature about the sayings and doings of the Prophet Muhammad
haji	Muslim pilgrim
hajj	pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina
hantu	ghost or spirit
hantu pemburu	a (Minangkabau-)Malay hunter ghost
hikayat	genre in Malay writing: long prose narrative
hikmat	charm or object used to manipulate life force (<i>semangat</i>) or spirits
hilir	downstream
hulu/mudik	upstream
ilmu	esoteric knowledge
jawi	script derived from the Arabic script used for writing Malay
jin	Islamic ghost
jumpul	a kind of fish: grey mullet (<i>Mugil planiceps</i>)
kaba	narrative genre in Minangkabau storytelling
kafr	unbeliever, infidel (non-Muslim)
kampung	village
kapas-kapas	a kind of fish: silver bream (<i>Gerres</i> sp.)
kapur	camphor
kati	a weight
kecapi	four-stringed lute
ketapang	Indian almond tree (<i>Terminalia catappa</i>)
khatib	person who delivers the sermon in the mosque during the Friday and Eid prayers
kijang	barking deer
kitab	book
kitab kuning	'yellow books': generic name for Islamic textbooks in the Malay world
kitab (takbir) mimpi	Malay dream book
kongsi	(Chinese) trade association
kulak	a measure of capacity

kupang	a coin or currency value
madrasah	Islamic religious school
mahang	a kind of plant (<i>Macaranga</i> spp.)
marah	honorific title for the nobility in the area of Padang
masuk Melayu	to become Malay; to embrace Islam
maulana	Arabic term used for addressing learned doctors of the law
merantau	Minangkabau diaspora
momongan	shallow gong
nafiri	Malay trumpet
nafsu	passion, desire
naga	mythical sea snake
nama	one's name or status
napuh	the larger mouse deer
negara negiri	state kettle drum
negeri	state
nesba	element of an Arabic personal name, often indicating the place of origin of the individual
nyai	domestic servant- <i>cum</i> -concubine of male Dutch colonialists
pelanduk	mouse deer
penghulu	headman, superintendent
peranakan	Chinese of mixed descent
pesantren	Islamic religious school
pesisir	coastal region
pikul	a weight
pustaha	Batak zigzag books made of hammered tree bark that contain divinations
raja	title of a Malay chief
rapat	meeting, council
rebab	Malay violin
rusa	deer
sampan	small boat
sayyid	honorific title for individuals who trace their, often mixed, ancestry back to an Arab lineage
selamatan	commemorative meal

semangat	life force or 'soul' that imbues man, animal, plants, water and earth
serdam	musical instrument: a bamboo pipe with a clarinet mouthpiece
serunai	Malay clarinet
si	definite marker in Malay preceding a personal name
sijombang	a West Sumatran form of sung narrative
singiang-ngiang	In West Sumatra, the Singiang-ngiang is a female ghost who dwells in the jungle
sukat	a measure of capacity
suku	a weight
sura	chapter of the Quran
sutan	honorific title for aristocratic men in West Sumatra and Southern Tapanuli
syaiikh	honorific title for Islamic religious teachers
syair	genre in Malay writing: a long narrative poem
tafsir	interpretation (of dreams, for example)
tahil	a weight
takdir	divine preordination (Islam)
talibun	sung poem popular on Sumatra's West coast
tambo	genre in Minangkabau writing: historical writings relating to the founding of a state or dynasty
tarekat	'Path of the Mystic', Sufi brotherhood
telempong	percussion instrument
tenggiri	a kind of fish: narrow-barred Spanish mackerel
tobat	Islamic practice of repentance
tolak bala	to avert danger or harm
tuanku	honorific title for a Malay ruler
wudhu	'small' ritual bath for Muslims

Dutch Words

controleur	colonial government official who assisted the <i>resident</i>
gouverneur	colonial government official who headed the residency of West Sumatra; until 1862 this post was held by a military governor
inlandsche raad	native council
kweekschool	<i>Kweekschool voor Inlandsche Onderwijzers</i> : Dutch teacher training college
landraad	local judicial body installed by the colonial government; its members were drawn from the local elite
posthouder	colonial government official lower than <i>controleur</i> , who represented the colonial government in remote areas
resident	colonial government official who headed a province

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