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## **Never-Neverland Revisited: Malay Adventure Stories**

Plomp, M.

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**Author:** Plomp, Marije

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## Never-Neverland Revisited: Malay Adventure Stories

Marije Plomp

1. More attention for personal and geographic names and their functions in Malay adventure stories is needed.
2. The Never-Neverland of Malay adventure stories (*negeri Entah-Berentah*) might well be translated as the Land of Multiplicity as often, the form *Anta-Beranta* ('many-natured', Wilkinson 1959, 38) is found instead of *Entah-Berentah* (entah-entah, 'no one yet knows', Wilkinson 1959, 307).
3. The Malay concept of *semangat* (detachable life force) and concomitant ideas on sickness and health are perhaps one of the constants of the shifting cultural core elements of what constitutes Malay identity.
4. Herman Neubronner van der Tuuk was not (only) the misanthropic, sour, and difficult man Rob Nieuwenhuijs (1962) portrayed. The fact that he was able to build and maintain relationships with men from all sections of Barus' indigenous and European population marks him as a man with developed social skills.
5. The belief in the efficacy of the occult powers of other ethno-cultural groups is a transformation of man's basic fear of the Other.
6. Contemporary Malay identity politics in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore obstruct an integrated scholarly view on all things Malay.
7. Indonesia's New Order school curriculum has estranged a whole generation of Indonesians from their own regional narrative traditions.
8. One of the benefits of studies of other world views than our own, Western one is that they highlight both the particularity and relativity of our own way of seeing. Besides teaching us modesty, this knowledge may foster intercultural understanding, as well as offer alternatives for the social ailments of our own society. At the same time, learning about other ways of making sense of the world also brings to the fore universals that connect us to other peoples distant in time and space.
9. The adhesive power of sale price stickers is inversely proportional to the price reduction.
10. Mental hygiene should be taught from an early age at home and in schools.
11. Carpets in reading rooms enhance study results.
12. A dissertation is a poor format for the dissemination of knowledge. If only I could have told a story.