

Tribal Communities in the Malay World

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Tribal Communities in the Malay World

Historical, Cultural and Social Perspectives

Edited by
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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES, The Netherlands



INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES, Singapore

First published in Singapore in 2002 by
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Pasir Panjang
Singapore 119614

E-mail: publish@iseas.edu.sg

Website: <http://www.iseas.edu.sg/pub.html>

First published in Europe in 2002 as a co-publication by
International Institute for Asian Studies
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The Netherlands

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ISEAS Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Tribal communities in the Malay World: historical, cultural and social perspectives /
edited by Geoffrey Benjamin and Cynthia Chou.

Papers presented originally to a Conference on Tribal Communities in the
Malay World : Historical, Cultural and Social Perspectives, Singapore, 24-27
March 1997, organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies ... [et al.].

I. Ethnology—Asia, Southeastern—Congresses.

2. Tribes—Asia, Southeastern—Congresses.

I. Benjamin, Geoffrey.

II. Chou, Cynthia.

III. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

IV. Conference on Tribal Communities in the Malay World : Historical,
Cultural and Social Perspectives (1997 : Singapore)

GN635 A9T82

2002

sls2002010850

ISBN 981-230-167-4 (hard cover)

Printed in Singapore by Seng Lee Press Pte Ltd.

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PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Words in Aslian and related languages are transcribed in this volume according to the orthography currently used in Mon-Khmer linguistic studies. The symbols employed are pronounced approximately as indicated below:

Vowels

- i* As in Malay *tapis*. Kensiw *kəlanis* “liver”.
- e* As in Malay *leher*. Jahai *teʔ* “earth”.
- ɛ* As the *e* in English *get*. Temiar *leb* “wife”.
- u* As the *u* in Scottish *hus* (“house”) or the *ü* in German *Hütte*. Jah Hut *kəbʉs* “dead”.
- ə* The “neutral” schwa (*pěpět*) vowel, like the *e* in Malay *betul* or *sumber*. Jah Hut *bəs* “throw away”.
- a* As in Malay *belah*. Semai *gərpəp* “pigeon”.
- u* As the first *u* in Malay *pucuk*. Temoq *luk* “dart quiver”.
- o* As the *o* in Malay *gol* (“goal” in football): Lanoh *dooʔ* “father”.
- ɔ* As the *au* in English *taut*, but shorter: Jah Hut *jɔŋ* “foot”.
- uu* As the Vietnamese vowel *u* (or somewhat like the Russian vowel usually romanized as *y*). Pronounced like *u* but with the lips unrounded.
- x* As the Vietnamese vowel *ơ*. Pronounced like *o*, but with the lips unrounded.
- v* As the *o* in (British) English *hot*.

Nasal vowels are written with a superscript tilde: Chewong *haʔūt* “rotten”. The phonemically long vowels of Central Aslian are written doubled: Temiar *teʔ* “earth”, *teɛʔ* “earlier today”.

Consonants

These are mostly written and pronounced as in the modern romanized spelling used for Bahasa Malaysia, but some of the symbols require further explanation:

- c* Pronounced like the *c* in Malay *cuci*; unlike Malay, this consonant commonly occurs word-finally, as in Temiar *bəcuuc* “sour”.
- j* Pronounced like the *j* in Malay *janji*; this too can occur in positions unknown in Malay: Batek *hāj* “rain”, Temiar *bəjbəj* “lick”.
- ɲ* Pronounced like the *ny* in Malay *nyanyi*. The uppercase form is *Ń*.
- ŋ* Pronounced like the *ng* in Malay *nganga* or English *singer* (not as in *finger*). The uppercase form is *Ņ*.
- ʔ The glottal stop (*hamzah*), a consonantal phoneme, sounding like the *k* in Peninsular Malay pronunciations of *duduk* or *rakyat*. The uppercase form is *ʔ*.
- k* Always pronounced as a velar, like the *k* in Malay *makan*, and not as a glottal stop, even word-finally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful acknowledgement to the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands; Centre for Environment, Gender and Development, Singapore; and Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Institut für Ethnologie, Münster, Germany for support in convening the conference on “Tribal Communities in the Malay World: Historical, Cultural and Social Perspectives”, together with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore in March 1997; and the Japan Foundation Asia Center for its support towards the research costs and publication.