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BIDAYUH LANGUAGE AND DIALECTS**Stephen Jussem Dundon****INTRODUCTION**

There are several ways to improve communications within one's community, to spread and to promote common characteristic of the people within a community. One such way is to improve the uses of its language, its culture and political ideology. Members of national group of countries or people usually share a common language which sets them apart from people of other nations. The most common and the simplest way of identifying the nationality of man is by the language he speaks. Thus the Iban speak Iban, the Bidayuh speak Bidayuh, the Malays speak Malay and the Chinese speak Chinese, etc. Indeed the language of a people usually bears the same name of the people themselves.

The existence of a language has a double effect. On the one hand, it makes communication quick and simple between fellow men; a necessity if they are to have extensive relations with each other and thereby develop a strong feeling of identity. At the same time language accentuates the differences between people of the same community and outsiders, because it is extremely difficult for such people to communicate easily and satisfactorily.

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BACKGROUND

There are many reasons why this paper is written on this particular subject. The Bidayuh community is steadily growing but as it grows, its problems are also increasing even faster. One such problem is the fear that the Bidayuh may split themselves further due to various factors within the community. These factors which include language, dialects, poverty, social problems and politics to mention a few, are damaging and dangerous to the community if they are not handled carefully. We have seen and experienced these and they are still happening. The present generation Bidayuh must be made aware of this predicament. The sign of cracking is already on the wall. The Bidayuh language as one of the uniting and identifying factors is in great danger if something is not done about it immediately. Attempts must now be made and the concern of every educated Bidayuh must be awoken if we want to save the situation from further deterioration.