

# Languages of Malaysia (Sarawak)

Malaysia (Sarawak). 1,294,000 (1979). Information mainly from A. A. Cense and E. M. Uhlenbeck 1958; R. Blust 1974; P. Sercombe 1997. The number of languages listed for Malaysia (Sarawak) is 47. Of those, 46 are living languages and 1 is extinct.

## Living languages

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| Balau   | [blg] 5,000 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Southwest Sarawak, southeast of Simunjan. <i>Alternate names</i> : Bala'u. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayic-Dayak, Ibanic<br><a href="#">More information.</a>   |
| Berawan | [lod] 870 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Tutoh and Baram rivers in the north. <i>Dialects</i> : Batu Bla (Batu Belah), Long Pata, Long Jegan, West Berawan, Long Terawan. It may be two languages: West Berawan and Long Terawan, versus East-Central Berawang: Batu Belah, Long Teru, and Long Jegan (Blust 1974). <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Berawan-Lower Baram, Berawan<br><a href="#">More information.</a>   |
| Biatah  | [bth] 21,219 in Malaysia (2000 WCD). Population total all countries: 29,703. Sarawak, 1st Division, Kuching District, 10 villages. Also spoken in Indonesia (Kalimantan). <i>Alternate names</i> : Kuap, Quop, Bikuab, Sentah. <i>Dialects</i> : Siburan, Stang (Sitaang, Bisitaang), Tibia. Speakers cannot understand Bukar Sadong, Silakau, or Bidayuh from Indonesia. Lexical similarity 71% with Singgi. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Land Dayak<br><a href="#">More information.</a> |
| Bintulu | [bny] 4,200 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Northeast coast around Sibuti, west of Niah, around Bintulu, and two enclaves west. <i>Dialects</i> : Could also be classified as a Baram-Tinjar Subgroup or as an isolate within the Rejang-Baram Group. Blust classifies as an isolate with North Sarawakan. Not close to other languages. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-  |

	Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Bintulu <a href="#">More information.</a>
Bisaya, Sarawak	[bsd] 7,000 (1984 SIL). Southeast of Marudi, 5th Division. <i>Alternate names:</i> Bisayah, Bisaya Bukit, Visayak, Bekiau, Lorang Bukit. <i>Dialects:</i> Lower Bisaya, Mid Bisaya, Upper Bisaya. Lexical similarity 58% with Sabah Bisaya, 78% to 79% with Brunei Bisaya, and lower with other Dusunic languages. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Sabahan, Dusunic, Bisaya, Southern <a href="#">More information.</a>
Bukar Sadong	[sdo] 34,600 in Malaysia (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Serian 1st Division, Sarawak, 30 or more villages. Also spoken in Indonesia (Kalimantan). <i>Alternate names:</i> Sadong, Buka, Bukar, Tebakang, Serian, Sabutan, Seputan, Saputan. <i>Dialects:</i> Bukar Bidayuh (Bidayuh, Bidayah, Bideyu), Bukar Sadong, Mentuh Tapuh. Lexical similarity 86% with Kereho, 80% with Aoheng, 75% with Hovongan, 57% with Bahasa Malaysia. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Land Dayak <a href="#">More information.</a>
Bukitan	[bkn] 289 in Malaysia (2000 WCD). Kapit, 7th Division. <i>Alternate names:</i> Bakitan, Bakatan, Beketan, Mangkettan, Manketa, Pakatan. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Kajang <a href="#">More information.</a>
Daro-Matu	[dro] 7,600 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Population includes 4,800 Matu, 2,800 Daro. Matu River from north channel of Rejang River to the sea, around Daro and Matu. <i>Dialects:</i> Daro, Matu. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Melanau <a href="#">More information.</a>
Iban	[iba] 400,000 in Malaysia (1995 Martin). Population total all countries: 415,000. From Sadong River north to Bintulu, Sibuan, one village in Tawau District of Sabah. Also spoken in Brunei, Indonesia (Kalimantan). <i>Alternate names:</i> Sea Dayak. <i>Dialects:</i> Batang Lupar, Bugau, Skrang, Dau, Lemanak, Ulu Ai, Undup. Dialect of Second Division is the norm for literature. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-

	Polynesian, Malayic, Malayic-Dayak, Ibanic <a href="#">More information.</a>
Jagoi	[sne] 19,000 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Bau, 1st Division, Sadong, Samarahan and Lundu rivers, about 50 villages. <i>Alternate names:</i> Sarawak Dayak, Jaggoi, Bau-Jagoi. <i>Dialects:</i> Grogog (Grogoh), Stenggang Jagoi, Krokong, Gumbang, Serambau (Serambu, Serambo), Empawa, Assem, Singge (Singgai, Singgi, Singgie, Singhi, Bisingsai), Suti, Tengoh, Dongay, Taup (Tahup). Gumbang may not be a Jagoi dialect, but closer to Tringus. Related to Tringus. Lexical similarity 69% with Bukar Sadong, 53% between Bukar Sadong and Singgai. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Land Dayak <a href="#">More information.</a>
Kajaman	[kag] 500 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Near Belaga on the Baloi River in central Sarawak, 7th Division. <i>Alternate names:</i> Kayaman, Kejaman. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Kajang <a href="#">More information.</a>
Kanowit	[kxn] 100 (2000 Wurm). Middle Rejang River, below Tanjong language, 3rd Division. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Melanau <a href="#">More information.</a>
Kayan, Baram	[kys] 4,150 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Baram River area, Upper Sarawak. Not in Brunei. <i>Alternate names:</i> Baram Kajan. <i>Dialects:</i> Long Atip, Long Akahsemuka. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Kayan-Murik, Kayan <a href="#">More information.</a>
Kayan, Murik	[mxr] 1,120 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Below Long Miri (Banyuq) and below Lio Mato (Semiang) on the Baram River. <i>Dialects:</i> Long Banyuq (Banyuq), Long Semiang (Semiang). Not closely related to other languages. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Kayan-Murik, Murik <a href="#">More information.</a>
Kayan, Rejang	[ree] 3,030 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Rejang, Balui river areas. <i>Alternate names:</i> Rejang Kajan. <i>Dialects:</i> Ma'aging, Long Badan, Uma

- Daro, Long Kehobo (Uma Poh), Uma Juman, Long Murun, Long Geng, Lemena, Lisum. Limited comprehension of Baram Kayan. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Kayan-Murik, Kayan [More information.](#)
- Kelabit [kzi] 1,111 in Malaysia (2000 WCD). Population total all countries: 1,747. Northern Sarawak, in the remotest and highest of Borneo mountains. Also spoken in Indonesia (Kalimantan). *Alternate names*: Kalabit, Kerabit. *Dialects*: Brung, Libbung, Lepu Potong, Bario, Lon Bangag. Long Napir, Long Seridan, Pa'Dalih, Long Leilang, Bruang may also be dialects (Blust 1974). *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Dayic, Kelabitic [More information.](#)
- Kenyah, Bakung [boc] South central, near Kalimantan border. *Alternate names*: Bakung, Bakong, Bakung Kenya. *Dialects*: Oga Bakung. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Kenyah [More information.](#)
- Kenyah, Sebob [sib] 1,730 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). On the upper Tinjar River in northern Sarawak, 4th Division, between the Rejang and Baram rivers, several large villages. *Alternate names*: Sibop, Sebob, Sebob, Sabup, Sambup. *Dialects*: Tinjar Sibop, Lirong, Long Pokun, Bah Malei (Ba Mali), Long Atun, Long Ekang (Long Ikang), Long Luyang. Not closely related to other languages. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Kenyah, Sebob [More information.](#)
- Kenyah, Tutoh [ttw] 600 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Northeast, Tutoh River. *Alternate names*: Tutoh Kenya. *Dialects*: Long Wat, Long Labid, Lugat. Not closely related to other languages. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Kenyah [More information.](#)
- Kenyah, Upper Baram [ubm] 2,222 in Malaysia (2000 WCD). Population total all countries: 2,858. Upper Baram River near the Kalimantan border. Not in Brunei. Also spoken in Indonesia (Kalimantan). *Alternate names*: Upper Baram Kenja, Kenja,

	<p>Kenyah, Kinjin, Kindjin, Kanyay. <i>Dialects</i>: Long Anap may be a dialect (Blust 1974). <i>Classification</i>: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Kenyah, Main Kenyah  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Kenyah, Western	<p>[xky] 1,250 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Balui, Belaga, Kalua, and Kemena rivers. <i>Alternate names</i>: Western Kenya, Kenja, Kinjin, Kindjin, Kanyay. <i>Dialects</i>: Long Bangan, Kemena Penan, Kakus Penan, Uma Bakah (Long Bulan), Lunan. Madang may be a dialect. Lexical similarity 80% between Madang and Lepu Kulit. <i>Classification</i>: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Kenyah, Main Kenyah  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Kiput	<p>[kyi] 2,460 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Northeast around Marudi. Not in Brunei. <i>Dialects</i>: Long Kiput, Long Tutoh (Kuala Tutoh), Lemiting. Related to Narom, Lelak, Tutong 2, Belait, Berawan. <i>Classification</i>: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Berawan-Lower Baram, Lower Baram, Central, A  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Lahanan	<p>[lhn] 350 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Central, east of Belaga, southwest of Long Murum. <i>Alternate names</i>: Lanun, Lanan. <i>Dialects</i>: Closest to Kayaman. <i>Classification</i>: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Kajang  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Lara'	<p>[lra] 11,331 in Malaysia (2000 WCD). Population total all countries: 19,603. Two small villages on Pasir River, Lundu, 1st Division. Also spoken in Indonesia (Kalimantan). <i>Alternate names</i>: Luru. <i>Dialects</i>: Related to Bukar-Sadong. <i>Classification</i>: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Land Dayak  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Lelak	<p>[llk] 220 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Northeast, east of Sibuti (Dali) and the Tinjar River (Lelak). <i>Dialects</i>: Lelak, Dali. Related to Narom, Kiput, Tutong 2, Berawan. <i>Classification</i>: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Berawan-Lower Baram, Lower Baram, Central, B</p>

[More information.](#)

- Lundayeh [Ind] 12,800 in Malaysia (1982 SIL). Population includes 10,000 in Lun Bawang dialect in Sarawak (1987), 2,800 in Lun Daye in Sabah. Southwestern border of Sabah and Sarawak. *Alternate names*: Lun Dayah, Lun Daye, Lun Dayeh, Lun Daya, Lun Dayoh, Lundaya, Lun Lod, Southern Murut. *Dialects*: Lun Bawang (Sarawak Murut), Lun Dayah, Adang, Balait (Tabun, Treng), Kolur, Padas, Trusan (Lawas, Limbang), Lepu Potong. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Dayic, Kelabitic  
[More information.](#)
- Madang [mqd] 2,222 (2000 WCD). Tinjar River, 4th Division. *Alternate names*: Badang, Medang, Malang, Lepo Tau Kenyah, Lepo Tau Kenya, Lepu Tau. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Kenyah, Sebob  
[More information.](#)
- Melanau [mel] 29,899 in Malaysia (2000 WCD). Population total all countries: 30,099. Coastal area of the Rejang delta up to the Balingian River, 3rd Division. Also spoken in Brunei. *Alternate names*: Milanau, Milano, Belana'u. *Dialects*: Mukah-Oya (Mukah, Muka, Oya, Oya', Oga), Balingian, Bruit, Dalat (Dalad), Igan, Sarikei, Segahan, Prehan, Segalang, Siteng. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Melanau  
[More information.](#)
- Narom [nrm] 2,420 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). South of the mouth of the Baram River around Miri and to the south. *Alternate names*: Narum. *Dialects*: Narom, Miri. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Berawan-Lower Baram, Lower Baram, Central, B  
[More information.](#)
- Okolod [kqv] 1,578 in Malaysia (2000 WCD). Population includes 1,000 in Sarawak, 100 to 200 in Sabah. Sabah southwest of Tenom and Sipitang districts on some of the plantation estates and some along the headwaters of the Padas River. Primarily in Sarawak and Kalimantan, Indonesia. *Alternate names*:

	<p>Kolour, Kolor, Kolod, Okolod Murut.  <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Dayic, Murutic, Murut  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Penan, Eastern	<p>[pez] 2,100 in Malaysia (2004). East of the Baram River, Apoh River District. Also spoken in Brunei. <i>Alternate names:</i> "Punan". <i>Dialects:</i> Penan Apoh. Related to Western Penan and Kenyah, but not inherently intelligible to each other's speakers. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Punan-Nibong  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Penan, Western	<p>[pne] 9,000 in Malaysia (1988 Lian). Population total all countries: 9,050. Upper Baram and Balui rivers around Mt. Dulit, 3 villages, 4th to 7th divisions, and Nibong branch of the Lobong River, a tributary of the Tinjar River. Also spoken in Brunei. <i>Alternate names:</i> Nibong, Nibon, "Punan". <i>Dialects:</i> Nibong, Bok Penan (Bok), Penan Silat, Penan Gang (Gang), Penan Lusong (Lusong), Penan Apo, Sipeng (Speng), Penan Lanying, Jelalong Penan. Not closely related to other languages. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Punan-Nibong  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Punan Bah-Biau	<p>[pna] 450 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Central, around Merit, Rejang River, 7th Division. <i>Dialects:</i> Punan Bah (Punan Ba), Punan Biau. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Rejang-Sajau  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Punan Batu 1	<p>[pnm] 30 (2000 Wurm). Central, west of Long Geng, southeast of Belaga. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Kajang <a href="#">Nearly extinct.</a>  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Remun	<p>[lkj] 3,500 (2000 SIL). Serian District, Kuching Division, 13 villages southeast of Serian to Balai Ringin. <i>Alternate names:</i> Milikin, Millikin. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayic-Dayak, Ibanic  <a href="#">More information.</a></p>
Sa'ban	<p>[snv] 1,111 in Malaysia (2000 WCD). Population total all countries: 1,959. Northeast on the Kalimantan border, northeast of Ramudu, Upper Baram, 4th Division, including</p>

	Long Banga'. Also spoken in Indonesia (Kalimantan). <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Dayic, Kelabitic <a href="#">More information.</a>
Sebuyau	[snb] 9,000 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Lundu, 1st Division, mouth of the Lupa River, west bank around Sebuyau. <i>Alternate names</i> : Sibuyau, Sabuyau, Sibuiian, Sibuyan, Sabuyan. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayic-Dayak, Ibanic <a href="#">More information.</a>
Sekapan	[skp] 750 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Belaga, 7th Division. <i>Alternate names</i> : Sekepan. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Kajang <a href="#">More information.</a>
Selako	[skl] 3,800 in Malaysia (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Saak, Lundu, 1st Division, 22 villages. <i>Alternate names</i> : Selakau, Salakau, Silakau. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayic-Dayak <a href="#">More information.</a>
Sian	[spg] 50 (2000 Wurm). Belaga, 7th Division. <i>Alternate names</i> : Sihan. <i>Dialects</i> : May be intelligible with Bukitan, Ukit, Punan Batu 1. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Kajang <a href="#">More information.</a>
Sibu	[sdx] 420 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Sibu, 3rd Division, Rejang River. <i>Alternate names</i> : Siduan, Siduani, Seduan-Banyok. <i>Dialects</i> : Seduan, Banyok. May be intelligible with Melanau. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Melanau <a href="#">More information.</a>
Tanjong	[tnj] 100 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Rejang River above the Kanowit language area, below Song village, Kapit, 7th Division. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Melanau <a href="#">More information.</a>
Tring	[tgq] 551 (2000 WCD). Long Terawan village,



- lower Tutoh River. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Dayic, Kelabitic  
[More information.](#)
- Tringgus [trx] 350 in Malaysia (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Southwest of Kuching, south of the Jagoi, on the Kalimantan border. Also spoken in Indonesia. *Alternate names*: Tringus. *Dialects*: Tringgus, Mbaan (Sembaan, Bimbaan). Each dialect has a few villages. Closer to Biatah than to Jagoi. Gumbang may be a Tringgus dialect rather than a Jagoi dialect. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Land Dayak  
[More information.](#)
- Tutung 1 [ttx] 10,000 in Malaysia. Along the lower Limbang River. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Sabahan, Dusunic, Bisaya, Southern  
[More information.](#)
- Ukit [umi] 120 (1981 Wurm and Hattori). Upper Rajom and Tatau rivers, Baleh, 7th Division. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Kajang  
[More information.](#)

## Extinct languages

- Seru [szd] Extinct. Kabong, 2nd Division. *Classification*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Melanau  
[More information.](#)

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