

**LANGKUSE AND WHITE HAIR PRINCESS**  
*Langkuse dan Putri Rambut Putih*

Property of the State  
Not for Commercial Use

**Language Development and Cultivation Agency**  
**Ministry of Education and Culture**  
**Republic of Indonesia**  
**2018**

## LANGKUSE AND WHITE HAIR PRINCESS

Translated from  
*Langkuse dan Putri Rambut Putih*  
written by Budi Agung Sudarmanto  
published by  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
Ministry of Education and Culture  
in 2016

This translation has been published as the result of the translation program organized  
by The Center for Language Strategy and Diplomacy Development,  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture  
in 2018

Advisory Board	Dadang Sunendar Emi Emilia Gufran Ali Ibrahim
Project Supervisor	Dony Setiawan
Translator	Dilla Pastry Nentika
Reviewer	Raden Safrina
Editor-In-Chief	Theya Wulan Primasari
Editorial Team	Emma L.M. Nababan Andi Maytendri Matutu Syukron Ramadloni Hardina Artating Herfin Ariz Wijaya

All rights reserved.  
Copyrights of the original book and the translation belong to  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency,  
Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Indonesia.

Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Indonesia  
Jalan Daksinapati Barat IV, Rawamangun, Jakarta  
Telepon (021) 4706287, 4706288, 4896558, 4894546  
Pos-el: badan.bahasa@kemdikbud.go.id  
www.badanbahasa.kemdikbud.go.id



CERITA RAKYAT DARI SUMATRA SELATAN

# Langkuse dan Putri Rambut Putih



Diceritakan Ulang oleh  
**Budi Agung Sudarmanto**



## LANGKUSE DAN PUTRI RAMBUT PUTIH

Penulis : Budi Agung Sudarmanto  
Penyunting : Triwulandari  
Ilustrator : Pandu Dharma Wijaya  
Penata Letak : Giet Wijaya

Diterbitkan pada tahun 2016 oleh  
Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa  
Jalan Daksinapati Barat IV  
Rawamangun  
Jakarta Timur

### Hak Cipta Dilindungi Undang-Undang

Isi buku ini, baik sebagian maupun seluruhnya, dilarang diperbanyak dalam bentuk apa pun tanpa izin tertulis dari penerbit, kecuali dalam hal pengutipan untuk keperluan penulisan artikel atau karangan ilmiah.

PB 398.209 598 1 SUD 	<b>Katalog Dalam Terbitan (KDT)</b> Sudarmanto, Budi Agung Langkuse dan Putri Rambut Putih: Cerita Rakyat dari Sumatra Selatan/Budi Agung Sudarmanto. Penyunting: Triwulandari Jakarta: Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2016. ix 53 hlm. 21 cm. ISBN 978-602-437-110-4
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. KESUSASTRAAN RAKYAT-SUMATRA</li><li>2. CERITA RAKYAT- SUMATRA SELATAN</li></ol>

## Foreword

Literature work is not only series of word but it also talks about life, both realistically and idealistically of human. If it is realistic, the literature work usually contains life experiences, good model, and wisdom which have been added various style and imagination along with it. Meanwhile, if it idealistic, the literature work contains moral lecture, good character, advices, philosophical symbols, culture and other things related to human life. The life itself is very diverse, varies, and full of various problems and conflicts faced by humans. The diversity in humans life also affects to the diversity of literature work because the contents are inseparable from civilized and dignified humans life.

The literature works that dealing with life utilizes language as medium of deliverance and imaginative art as its *cultural land*. On the basis of the language medium and imaginative art, literature is multidimensional and multi-interpretative. Using language medium, imginative art and cultural dimension, literature deliver messages to be reviewed or analyzed from various perspectives. The outcome of that perspective depends greatly on who is reviewing and analyzing with various socio-cultural and knowledge background. There is a time when a literary reviewer reviews from the point of view of metaphor, myth, symbol, power, ideology, economy, politics, and culture can be refuted by other reviewers who see from perspective of sound, referent, or irony. Even so, Heraclitus said, "However opposite they work together and from different directions, the most beautiful harmony emerges".

There are many lessons that we can get from reading literature, one of which is reading folktales that are adapted or reprocessed into children's stories. The results of reading literature always inspire and motivate readers to be creative in finding something new. Reading literature can trigger further imagination, open enlightenment, and add insights. For this

reason, we express our gratitude for the processors for the story. We also express our appreciation and gratitude to the Head of the Coaching Center, Head of the Learning Division, and Head of the Subdivision of Modules and Teaching Materials and staffs for all the efforts and hard works carried out until the realization of this book.

Hopefully this storybook is not only useful as a reading material for students and the community to foster a culture of literacy through the National Literacy Movement program, but also useful as an enrichment of our knowledge of past life that can be utilized in addressing current and future life developments.

Jakarta, June 2016

Regards,  
Prof. Dr. Dadang Sunendar, M. Hum.

## Preface

One of the circulating folklore in Kayuagung, Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI) Regency, South Sumatra is Langkuse and White Hair Princess. Both of their parents were dead and left them all alone. This condition required Langkuse to be responsible for his younger sister. He took care of his sister well. Under the care of her brother, White Hair Princess grew up to be a beautiful and independent girl.

Langkuse is a brave, powerful, and kind young man. Princess White Hair is a girl who is full of smile, cheerful, and sociable. However, they both did not like arbitrariness or coercion to happen to them or befall the people around them. Langkuse, with his supernatural powers, will get rid of these people. Princess White Hair can actually make the hair of bad people turn white when she spit on them. That's why she got the name Princess White Hair.

The Beauty of the White Hair Princess makes many bachelors interested and fall in love, including a Sunan from Palembang. Unfortunately, the White Hair Princess was not interested in the Sunan. Various ways, both subtle and cunning, were carried out by the Palembang Sunan to conquer the hearts of Princess White Hair. However, the magic and kindness of Langkuse can defeat the cunningness committed by Sunan. With her heart purity, White Hair Princess also survived the cunningness. In the end, both of them were living happily, peacefully, and tranquilly in their beloved country, Perigi.

Sumatra Selatan, April 2016

Budi Agung Sudarmanto

## Table of Contents

Foreword.....	v
Preface.....	vii
Table of Contents .....	viii
1. A Beautiful Village.....	1
2. The Strong Langkuse.....	7
3. The Beautiful White Hair Princess.....	13
4. The Disaster.....	18
5. The Next Disaster.....	24
6. Defending Honor.....	27
7. Peace Returned to the Land.....	34
The Author.....	38
The Editor.....	41



## **1. A Beautiful Village**

Once upon a time, there was a village on the banks of Komering River's confluent. It was called Perigi. Perigi was located in what is now Kayuagung City, Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI) Regency, around sixty kilometers to the southeast of Palembang, South Sumatera. It was a peaceful, lush, and beautiful village. Huge trees with wide dense leaves grew all over the village. The people got clear water from a stream near a forest at the end of the village for cooking and other uses. The branch of Komering River ran on one side of the village, providing the people with water and all its natural resources. There were many fish on the river. In addition, the people also got their needs from the forest on the other side of the village.

As had been said, Perigi village was located between the confluent of Komering River on one side and a dense forest on the other side. Various kinds of animal lived in the forest; some were wild and dangerous, others were venomous. There were slithering animals, huge animals, and those that hung on the tree branches. Among the wild and dangerous animals were tigers, lions, wild ox, and buffaloes. The venomous kind included bees, and the slithering kind included snakes. Elephants were the huge animals and monkeys were the ones that hung on the tree branches.

One of the wildest and most dangerous animals in the forest was a wild buffalo. It was a beast with beehives hanging on each of its ears; that was how dangerous it was. Nobody ever dared to disturb the buffalo because it had been known that the wild beast only attacked people when they bothered it. As long as there was no evil people trying to annoy it, the wild buffalo would remain calm and did not bother anyone. It would spend most of its time deep in the forest.

In Perigi Village, in addition to the physical realm that the people and other creatures lived in, there was another realm. It was an invisible, metaphysical realm in which spirits and other supernatural creatures dwelled. This other realm was not always accessible to the villagers; even though its creatures sometimes crossed over to the real physical dimension. Several people had met these creatures.

In fact, there had been several occasions where the spirits and were-creatures attacked the people they met. The local people called the invisible realm Silap Village.

It got its name because Silap Village was not always there. Silap meant 'illusion'. Silap Village sometimes appeared, but more often than not it disappeared. Sometimes, the people from Silap came to the market on certain days. They brought produce from their village, including vegetables and fruits. These spirits took human form and traded their goods with whatever they needed.

They did not have human money, so they did barter. The people of Perigi did not know these people because they appeared in the market only once in a while. The ways they behaved, dressed, and talked were different from those of Perigi people. That was how Perigi people recognized them when they appeared once or twice in a year. It was almost always the same people who appeared before they disappeared again.

The life in Perigi was peaceful and harmonious. The villagers were happy and always glad to help each other. To earn a living, they worked as farmers, fishermen, or potters. Farmers spent most of their day in *talang* (field area) far away from home. The fields might be several kilometers from the village. They built huts to shelter themselves from the sun and rain during the day, and to sleep in if they had to spend the night. In the fields, they grew fruits, such as banana, papaya, and langseh, as well as other trees like coffee plant, rubber tree, and rattan.

In addition to farming, the people of Perigi utilized the confluence of Komering River to support their life. The river was the heart of the village. It produced a lot of fish during the wet season. It also connected the villages in the *Uluan* area (upriver) with those in the *Iliran* (downstream) area.



During the dry season, the river dried up. No one could sail downstream and there was no fish in it. The river then turned into a sand mine where children would play and the people would enjoy some quiet days. The children played all sorts of game there. They even used the river as a field to play soccer. The people also used the dried-up river as a shortcut to the villages on the other side of the river. They usually crossed the river in boats to reach the villages, but now they could just walk over.

The river was the trading route for people from Uluan area to sell their produce in Iliran area. The people from Komering inlands used the river to go to Palembang. They brought not only produce and crops, but also cattle like goats, cows, and buffaloes to sell.

In rainy season, when the river was flowing beautifully, there were many types of fish living in it. Perigi people caught those fish, particularly *belide*, *gabus*, *patin*, and *seluang* fish, for consumption. *Belide* and *gabus* fish were main ingredients in making *pempek* and *kemplang*, while *patin* fish was usually cooked in *pindang patin*. Until this day, the people of Perigi was known as the best producers of *kemplang* in South Sumatera.

Perigi people were also known for their skills in pottery. Usually, it was the women who made clay cauldron in the villages. This pottery work might be their primary job or a side job. Some women who had no other work made pottery as their sole way to earn money, while other women, who made a living by producing

*kemplang* or *pempek*, only did pottery in their free time.

## **2. The Strong Langkuse**

In that beautiful village, lived a man and his sister. Langkuse and Princess with white hair loved each other even though they lived a very simple life. Their parents had passed away when they were little. They barely remembered their parents, so they depended on each other to survive. They knew there was no use to regret and whine about destiny. They could not afford to be lazy and dependent on other people. They did not want to entertain false hope. They knew they should stay strong and keep struggling to have a better life. Whining would only make life harder. They knew that to survive, they need to be strong, persevering, careful, and serious in living their life. Without all those traits, they would not survive this cruel world. Langkuse quickly took the role of the head of their household. He was the bread maker for the family and he tried to do his best. As a brother, he always tried to satisfy all their needs. He did not want his sister to live in misery. Whatever they needed, Langkuse tried hard to get it. Only after he fulfilled his obligation as the head of the family did Langkuse socialize with other people, doing his part as a villager.

“Sis, I have prepared all we need for a month. Please pound the unhusked rice to get rice. We have enough dried fish. You can pick vegetables yourself from the garden in our backyard. If you need anything else, you can go and buy them in the market,” Langkuse said to his sister.

“Yes, Brother. We have everything we need for now. If I need something else, I will find them myself. I can buy them in the market or ask a favor from our neighbors,” White Hair Princess replied.

Langkuse was not a prince or a nobleman. He was not born in a noble family. However, his handsome face, his polite words and actions were not less than those of a prince. Langkuse could even be a leader of the village if he wanted.

He had been born in a simple family. His parents had been a farmer and a potter. His father had been a diligent and careful farmer. He had cultivated his fields to produce the best crops. His love of his family had been the source of his strength and endurance. Langkuse’s mother spent her time at home to take care of the family. In her spare time, she made clay pots and cauldrons to sell. It had allowed her to help supporting the family.

At that time, the village was not as densely populated as it is today. There were not too many families in the village, and their houses were quite far from each other. The people did not meet each other every day. They usually gathered when it was time for market day. Langkuse never missed a market day because it was his best chance to see his friends.

Even though he rarely saw them, Langkuse was always polite and respectful towards other villagers. He was always friendly to



them. Every time he met someone, he always tried to greet them first, before they greeted him. He felt it was right to respect everyone. Langkuse did not care about position or status. He respected everyone equally. Thus, even though they rarely met him, the people of Perigi liked and respected Langkuse.

“Sis, I’m going to the forest. If you need me, you can find me there, okay?” Langkuse told his sister before he left.

Langkuse spent most of his time alone in the forest. He chose to get away from the noise of the village because he needed to concentrate for what he did. Unlike most people, Langkuse went to the forest to meditate and practice martial art. Meditation was crucial in maintaining and improving his ability. His meditation ritual required a long time and full concentration, thus he tried to avoid any possibility of anyone accidentally came across him while meditating. That was the reason why he spent his time in the forest. He only returned home once every few days, sometimes even weeks, to see his sister. If there was no urgent matter that he had to attend to at home, he would then go back to the forest.



Langkuse contemplated his life in the forest. He mediated and practiced martial arts in the quiet and peaceful forest. Since he was so disciplined, his skills were so great, almost unparalleled.

Beside martial arts, Langkuse also studied the art of healing. He was able to heal almost any minor injuries and some major illness. Langkuse used his skills to protect his village and help the villagers. In fact, Perigi became a peaceful and safe village because of Langkuse. The people were healthy because he was skilled in the art of healing and never refused to help them. Whenever something happened in the village, the people would find Langkuse. If a cattle was stolen, Langkuse was always able to track the thief and got the cattle back. If someone was ill or injured, the people would bring them to Langkuse and he was always able to heal them. This was another reason why Perigi people loved and respected him.

Even though he possessed great skills, Langkuse was just a man. He never considered himself better or superior than others. He always tried to stay humble. He was polite and kind to everyone and he never underestimated or had prejudice against other people. He also tried to guide the people to follow his example. He often told them to take care of each other, to help each other, and to do good deeds. He always reminded the people to have faith in God Almighty. Langkuse tried to instill religious values in the people because he believed that it was the best way to live a

life. Believing in God would allow the people to do good deeds without feeling arrogant.

Since he was always kind, sincere, and caring, the people of Perigi always tried to follow Langkuse's example. Langkuse never expected anything in return for his kindness. He did all those things just because he wanted to. He believed that doing good deeds would always result in good things. All that was well ended well. Following his example, the people of Perigi were always kind and respectful towards each other. They lived in happiness and peace because everyone was kind and helpful. The village was free of conflicts because of, at least in part, Langkuse.

### **3. The Beautiful White Hair Princess**

Langkuse's younger sister was called White Hair Princess. She was a beautiful girl. Her beauty was famous, not only in Perigi but also in other villages. Even people in Palembang had heard of her beauty.

Even though she was called White Hair Princess, she had long, wavy, dark hair. It was so long and beautiful that if she let it down, the hair would touch the ground. White Hair Princess was the prettiest girl in Perigi. No other girl could compete with her beauty. No wonder a lot of people adored her.

In addition, even though she was called Princess, she was not a king's daughter. She got the name because of her ability. She was able to change one's hair from black to white in an instant. If she spat on someone's head, that person's hair would instantly turned white.

White Hair Princess was a kind girl, just like her brother. She was kind and friendly to everyone and she never refused when anyone asked her for help. She always helped others sincerely, without expecting anything in return. All Perigi people loved and respected White Hair Princess because of her beauty and her kind heart. Under her brother's guidance, White Hair Princess grew to be a strong, mature, and smart girl. Even though her brother was not always at her side, they always had a quality time when he

came home. Langkuse would teach her a lot of things, giving her advice to lead a good life. White Hair Princess listened, understood, and followed every advice that her brother gave.

Unlike her brother, White Hair Princess spent her time in Perigi Village. She loved the village very much because everyone in the village was her friend. She met them every day and always had a good time talking with every one of them. It was common for the villagers to visit each other's house any time, to just talk or to share food with each other. White Hair Princess found this tradition very nice. It always made her happy. She never wished to leave the village because of this kind of things.

White Hair Princess was always content with the life she led in the village. However, like any human being, White Hair Princess also had problems. One of the biggest problems that she always thought about was marriage. White Hair Princess did not like to talk about it. There had been many boys and men tried to propose to her. It was obvious, considering that she was a kind and beautiful girl. However, she always declined. On one hand, she did not want to marry yet. On the other hand, she did not find all men who proposed to her was suitable. She always considered their background before she made a decision. Because of these reasons, she had never accepted any man. White Hair Princess always made decisions based on her heart, particularly if the decision would have great impact on her future. She did not want

to make a rash decision because she did not want to regret it. Thus, every man who had come and propose to her always returned to their home with disappointment.

There had been so many single men coming to White Hair Princess's house to ask for her hands in marriage. These men came from all over the land.

However, she always rejected them because she did not find any of them fit her criteria. She wanted to marry a man who could touch her heart, who could make her feel calm. None of the men she met was able to do so. White Hair Princess did not mind waiting for the right person. She did not want to make a rash decision. That was why she would be so angry if anyone forced her to pick a man to marry.

Among the men who came to her, there was one or two who were too much. They forced White Hair Princess to accept their proposal, even though Princess had explicitly refused.

“What more do you want? I have brought you ten cows, chests of gold and diamond, and a lot of jewelries and gems. I have given you everything. Do you think you are the most beautiful girl in the world?” one of the man once said.

White Hair Princess was deeply offended. Those words hurt her heart.

“Take away all those gifts. I don’t want them and I don’t need them. Wealth does not dictate my happiness. Take a look in the mirror and see who you are! Now go away!” White Hair Princess exploded.

In her rage, she spat on the man’s head. In a blink of an eye, his jet-black hair turned white.

This did not happen only that once. There had been several other men who pushed their luck and angered White Hair Princess. She had spat on them and their hair turned white as soon as the spit touched their heads.

White Hair Princess was well known for that ability. That was why she was called White Hair Princess. The name was given to her not because she was a king’s daughter, but because she possessed an extraordinary ability to turn one’s hair white.





#### **4. The Disaster**

One day, Sunan Palembang, the leader of Palembang, heard about White Hair Princess. Sunan was known to be a sucker for pretty face, thus he began to gather information about White Hair Princess. When he heard enough, he decided to propose to White Hair Princess. He wanted her to be his queen. He then instructed his people to make the necessary preparation.

Sunan sent some people as emissaries to Perigi Village. One of Sunan's emissaries delivered his intention to White Hair Princess, but she refused him. Since the emissary was afraid that Sunan would punish him if he failed, he tried to persuade White Hair Princess to accept the proposal. This angered White Hair Princess and she spat on the man's head, turning his hair white. The emissary did not expect it at all.

The emissaries then returned to Palembang and reported everything to Sunan. Sunan was furious seeing that his emissary's hair had turned white. He felt that White Hair Princess had insulted him personally by spitting on his man's head. However, there was not much that he could do. He possessed no power to turn the man's hair back. Sunan then decided to investigate the whole matter. He sent some more men to find out everything about White Hair Princess's power. He wanted to know why and how White Hair Princess dared to spit on his emissary's head.

“I will be able to decide on the next step if I have all the information,” he thought.

Sunan calculated and considered everything about this incident. Considering that White Hair Princess had been able to turn dark hair white just by spitting on it, she might be very powerful. It would be difficult to defeat her through the usual ways. Therefore, Sunan devised a dirty plan. He would kidnap the girl. He sent his men to spy on her discreetly. He wanted to know everything about White Hair Princess’s power but he did not want her to suspect anything. It would spoil his plan. Sunan acted as if he was on a war. Meanwhile, White Hair Princess continued her life as usual.

A few days later, the spies returned. They found that White Hair Princess, whom Sunan thought to be very arrogant, possessed unnatural power. She did not want to marry yet and she had rejected every proposal. They believed that if Sunan proposed again, she would turn it down too. Their investigation also yielded another fact, the girl had a very powerful brother called Langkuse. Sunan was surprised when he heard that report. However, he would not give up easily. He had made his mind. He had to marry White Hair Princess, one way or another. To ensure that no one would hinder his plan, he had to get rid of the brother first. Langkuse was very powerful and he was the main protector of White Hair Princess. If Sunan was able to defeat Langkuse, it

would be easy to get the girl.

Sunan's first plan was to pit Langkuse against the wild buffalo that lived in the forest near the village. Sunan had received numerous reports concerning the wild buffalo. He knew that it was a dangerous beast. Even smelling human's presence near it was enough to make the buffalo mad. It had been living alone in the forest, eating grass and plants to its heart's content. It had been living away from any disturbance because people were terrified of it. Nobody dared to come near the buffalo. Only the most courageous people with great power dare to cross path with the dangerous beast.

Two huge beehives hung from each of the buffalo's ears. The bees living in those hives were venomous. Even just one sting was enough to take an adult down. Once a man was stung, any body part that was stung would swell. It would be very painful. Then, the whole body would feel very unpleasant, smarting all over. The man would lose any feeling in his body and he would be paralyzed. His head would hurt as if it had been struck with a hammer. It would even cause the man's hair to fall and never grow again. It was terrifying to even imagine the effect of the bee sting, let alone experienced it directly. If the bees were disturbed, they would go berserk and cause disaster to anyone unlucky enough to be near them or the buffalo.

Sunan planned to use this terrifying beast to defeat Langkuse.

Sunan did not care what harm it might cause, as long as he could be rid of Langkuse. Without Langkuse in the picture, it would be easy for him to take White Hair Princess. Thus, Sunan sent someone to find Langkuse in the forest and take him to see Sunan. When the man that Sunan sent approached him, Langkuse had a bad feeling. He sensed that something bad would happen to him. His instinct told him that this man would bring nothing but disaster. However, Langkuse decided to accept Sunan's invitation. Once Langkuse stood before him, Sunan wasted no time. He told Langkuse to capture the wild buffalo. Langkuse smiled. He knew about the buffalo. He knew how dangerous the beast was. He had to be careful, particularly with those beehives hanging from the buffalo's ears. However, Langkuse was confident that he could defeat the beast. He would show Sunan that he could kill the buffalo and bring its head to Sunan.

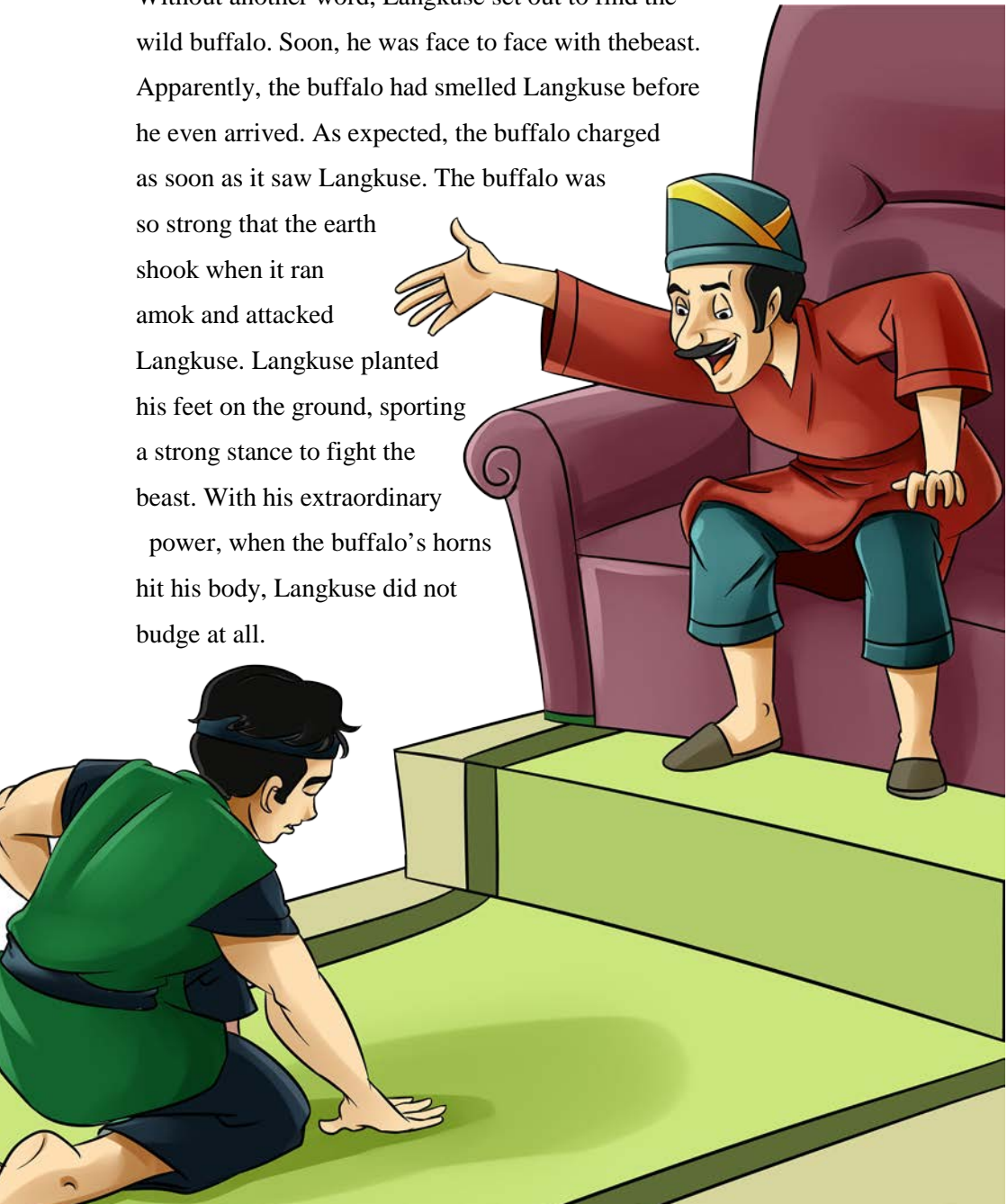
Meanwhile, Sunan believed that Langkuse would not be able to defeat the terrifying beast. He believed that Langkuse would die fighting the buffalo. He could not wait for that to happen. There would be no one to stop him taking White Hair Princess.

“Your Highness, to what do I owe this pleasure of meeting you?” Langkuse asked.

“Langkuse, I know you care a lot about your village. If you want your village and its people to be safe, you have to destroy the greatest threat, the wild buffalo that lived in the forest.”

“I understand, Your Highness. I will leave now and kill it.”

Without another word, Langkuse set out to find the wild buffalo. Soon, he was face to face with the beast. Apparently, the buffalo had smelled Langkuse before he even arrived. As expected, the buffalo charged as soon as it saw Langkuse. The buffalo was so strong that the earth shook when it ran amok and attacked Langkuse. Langkuse planted his feet on the ground, sporting a strong stance to fight the beast. With his extraordinary power, when the buffalo’s horns hit his body, Langkuse did not budge at all.



In fact, the buffalo's head split open when it touched Langkuse. All bones in its body immediately snapped and cracked. The buffalo met its demise in Langkuse's hand. Just in one move, the wild buffalo was defeated.

Langkuse then took the buffalo's head and brought it back to Perigi Village. He then gave the head to Sunan's emissary, who brought it back to Palembang and presented it to Sunan. The emissary, who had been watching the whole fight, reported everything to Sunan.

"Your Highness, this is the buffalo's head," the emissary said.

"Thank you," Sunan replied curtly.

Sunan was shocked. He had never expected that Langkuse would be able to finish off the terrifying beast. The buffalo's head was the proof. Sunan shuddered when it dawned on him what Langkuse had just done. "Such a dangerous and wild beast was killed in just one move, imagine what he could do to a man," he thought, "this man is truly powerful."

## **5. The Next Disaster**

Sunan's first attempt failed miserably. With a forced confidence, Sunan tried to think of another plan. He had to believe that there are other ways to defeat Langkuse. He began to formulate another plan, one that was more cunning. He gathered more information to ensure that his plan went smoothly. Sunan had absolutely lost his mind. He did not care about anything else except getting rid of Langkuse and kidnap White Hair Princess. Finally, he discovered about a very deep well in Perigi Village.

Sunan investigated the well and found out that it had dried out. Sunan then told his guards and soldiers to stick a lot of spears at the bottom of the well, with the sharp end pointed upwards. He specifically chose heavy and sturdy iron spears, with very sharp tips. The spears in the well were a trap for Langkuse. After the soldiers finished setting the trap, Sunan put his ring on one of the spear ends. He would ask Langkuse to retrieve the ring, hoping that he would fail and get stabbed by the spears. Sunan then sent one of his guards to call Langkuse.

Langkuse went to see Sunan, who was waiting by the well. However, he was always on guard. Being careful was one of Langkuse's golden rules of life. In the first incident, his carefulness had saved him from the wild buffalo. Since then, he had learned to be wary of Sunan Palembang.



Langkuse suspected that whatever task Sunan would ask him to do would be a scam. Thus, he put up his guard even more. When Langkuse arrived, Sunan asked him to look in the well. Many people had gathered there to see what was going on. Sunan then asked Langkuse to get his ring, which had “fallen” to the well. Langkuse had no intention to directly disobey Sunan. He did as he was asked. With his acute senses, he knew that there were a lot of spears at the bottom of the well, ready to skewer him.

Langkuse jumped in the well. As soon as he jumped, all the spears broke under the weight of his body. Even though the spears were broken, Langkuse was not hurt at all. Not even a scratch or a cut was found on his body. He soon emerged from the well with Sunan’s ring. Sunan and his men was surprised to see Langkuse got out of the well without a scratch.

They could not believe their eyes. With shame and disappointment, Sunan returned to Palembang.

There was nothing else he could do. At his palace, Sunan asked his guards and advisors for suggestions. He still wanted to take White Hair Princess as his wife.

“Is there any of you who can capture White Hair Princess?” Sunan asked his guards. They could hear the frustration and desperation in his voice. Nobody in the room dared to volunteer for the task of kidnapping White Hair Princess. Since no one

volunteered, Sunan decided to take matters into his own hands. He instructed his people to create a new river from Teloko Village to Tanjung Agung.

These two villages were the closest area that connected Palembang to Perigi Village.

Sunan spared no expense for this project. He sent many men and resources to dig the river. It took several weeks for them to dig the ground and let Komerling River flow through the newly dug trenches. When it was done, the two villages had been connected by a river. Then, Sunan and his people set out from Palembang, along Teloko River, to Tanjung Agung. Their boats docked in Tanjung Agung and Sunan continued the journey to Perigi Village on foot. The distance between Tanjung Agung and Perigi was about two kilometers. For the sake of his desire, Sunan was willing to sacrifice everything. All his life, that moment was probably the first time he had ever walked that long.

Sunan did not care about his position and status as the leader of Palembang. All he cared about was White Hair Princess and how to take her. He did not even consider that White Hair Princess might not be willing to come with him.

## **6. Defending Honor**

The weather was fine that day. The sky was clear and the sun rose steadily. Birds chirped merrily on the trees. Roosters crowed loudly, waking people up to start the day. Nobody suspected that something big would happen in Perigi Village.

The village was bustling with activities that fine morning. White Hair Princess was finishing a clay pot at her house. She was immersed in her work as she had always been. Everything seemed normal. Little did she know; a disaster was about to happen to her.

That morning, Sunan and his people were ready to execute his evil plan. They were going to kidnap White Hair Princess. They walked to Perigi Village and headed straight to White Hair Princess's house. Long story short, Sunan managed to kidnap White Hair Princess.

He ambushed White Hair Princess who was so focused on her work that she had not realized there were people in her house. Sunan and his men quickly took White Hair Princess to their boats. It was the first time in the history of Perigi Village that a person was kidnapped.

Fortunately, several villagers noticed Sunan and his people when they ran from the house. Everyone panicked. Perigi Village had always been a safe and peaceful place, and now a kidnapping was

happening. The people quickly ran to the forest to find Langkuse and told him what had happened. They found Langkuse was taking a bath in the river.

“Langkuse, come home, quick! Sunan Palembang has kidnapped your sister,” a man called Langkuse from the river bank.

Langkuse, who was in the water, did not hear his neighbor calling. A moment later, another man came running from the village. He called Langkuse and gave the same news. For the second time, Langkuse did not hear. He kept swimming in the river. This morning, the water felt especially refreshing for Langkuse. It felt like heaven. He enjoyed it so much that he did not even realize there were two men yelling his name from the river bank, trying to tell him that his sister had been taken away.

The villagers were confused. They thought that Langkuse could not hear them. He did not know what danger his sister was facing. Why else would he keep swimming in the river and not running to save her? On the other hand, it might be because Langkuse was confident that he could solve the problem easily. Either way, Langkuse did not get out of the water until the third man came to the river.



Langkuse had just finished his bath when the third man arrived and told him the news. The man stammered because he was so nervous, worrying about White Hair Princess. However, Langkuse responded calmly.

“Where is she?” he asked. He said nothing else, as if there was nothing to worry about.

“She... she was taken... Sunan took her... to his ship... in Tanjung Agung,” the man stammered. The distance between Perigi and Tanjung Agung was about two kilometers. For normal man, it was a long distance and it would take at least half an hour on foot. However, it was not a difficult feat for Langkuse. He could go that far in just a few minutes.

After hearing the villagers’ explanation, Langkuse knew he had to do something to defend the honor of his sister and to save his village. He had to take back his sister and return peace to the village. He would teach those men a lesson for harming White Hair Princess and for destroying the peace of his beloved village. Langkuse immediately set out to Tanjung Agung, where Sunan’s ships docked.

It took him a short amount of time to reach Tanjung Agung and find the ships. Before he did anything, Langkuse stood on the river bank and consider the situation. He needed to do this right.

Any mistake could lead to a disaster for himself, his sister, and

the people in his village. After considering everything, he formulated a plan of attack.

He called out to Sunan, who was standing on the largest ship, “Your Highness, please try to balance your ship, because I am going to jump there.

Sunan and all his people laughed at Langkuse.

“If you want to jump, just jump! Don’t talk nonsense! Why should I balance the ship? As big as you are, you will not be able to topple this ship just by jumping on it!” Sunan called from the deck of his ship. His tone clearly showed that he mocked and underestimated Langkuse.

Langkuse did not reply. He had warned Sunan and everyone on board. If they would not listen, it was not his fault. Langkuse jumped. While he was in the air, a thunderous voice was heard.

It was a spell that Langkuse uttered, echoing along the river.

He said, “*Mundur sedepu maros sabidang ngumong*”, which meant “one step back and move forward like a lightning.”

A moment later, Langkuse landed smoothly on the ship. Then, an unbelievable thing happened. The ship crashed and broken into pieces. The woods from the ship flew through the air and landed everywhere. Some fell on the land across the river, some landed on the water. The surface of the river was filled with shards and

pieces of woods from the ship.

Everyone on the ship panicked. Most of them fell in the river and others were stuck in the wreckage of Sunan's ship. Sunan was thrown in the river and immediately busy saving himself. He held onto a plank and tried to swim to the river bank. His soldiers and guards were busy trying to survive. They used anything and everything around them. Some followed Sunan's example and grabbed planks around them. Other tried to swim to dry land. It was phenomenal. Sunan never expected that Langkuse could destroy his ship. He had thought that it would be easy to kidnap White Hair Princess and bring her back to Palembang. Among the people who were thrown in the river was White Hair Princess. She had lost consciousness when she fell. Langkuse jumped from the ruins of the ship and got his sister. He picked her up and jumped to the land. Carefully, he put her down on the ground.

When Langkuse jumped, with his sister draped over his shoulders, a unique thing happened. White Hair Princess's *tangubai* (hair pin) fell in the river. It was unique because there would be a new village built in the area, and it was called Lubuk Tangubai, which meant the place of hair pin. The people gave it that name to commemorate White Hair Princess.

Langkuse's success in saving his sister, and defending his honor as a brother, meant a lot. By winning against Sunan Palembang, Langkuse had saved his village from Sunan's arrogance. Sunan



always thought that he could do anything to anyone because he was the leader of Palembang, a big city. He would not hesitate to burn Perigi Village to the ground just to get what he wanted. Langkuse never liked that kind of person. He despised people who forced other people, for whatever reason. When his sister, White Hair Princess, rejected Sunan Palembang's proposal, Sunan should have respected that decision. However, Sunan kept forcing her to accept his proposal. He even went too far to get what he wanted, using trickery and violence. Fortunately, Langkuse managed to stop him ruining White Hair Princess' honor.

## 7. Peace Returned to the Land

Disappointed, Sunan returned to Palembang. Meanwhile, Langkuse returned to Perigi Village with pride and joy. Sunan was devastated after what had happened. He never thought that his plan would fail. He could not wrap his mind over it. How couldn't he get White Hair Princess? He had been able to get any girl in any land before.



Any girl that he desired, some were even prettier than White Hair Princess, had thrown themselves at his feet. This was the first time he experienced such a thing. A girl had refused to marry him. He felt humiliated because he could not get a common girl from Perigi Village. In addition, he was devastated because he had lost a lot of things. He had given almost everything he had. He had bent over backwards for the girl. Yet, White Hair Princess had slipped away from his grasp. Thus, as soon as he arrived in Palembang, Sunan made a vow. His vow was, “My descendants will never be prospered if they marry anyone from Perigi in particular, and from Tanjung Agung in general.”

Meanwhile, Langkuse returned to Perigi Village and his community. Langkuse and White Hair Princess continued their life as usual. Everyone welcomed Langkuse with joy. They welcomed him as a hero. He had not only saved his sister from Sunan Palembang, but also saved Perigi Village from a disaster. If Langkuse had not succeeded, Perigi would be taken over by Sunan Palembang. After the incident, everyone in Perigi Village felt safe. They lived happily because no one dared to disturb the peace in the land. Langkuse became famous all over the land. More and more people heard about Langkuse and his sister, White Hair Princess. The brother and sister became the topic of people’s talk because of their kindness. Langkuse and White Hair Princess finally returned to their peaceful life in their beloved Village, Perigi.

Perigi Village became peaceful again. The trading route along Komerling River became more and more prosperous. After the incident, there was no more threat to the traders in the area. Any bandit or marauders along Komerling River did not dare to do anything because they were afraid of Langkuse. They preferred staying away from Komerling River to facing Langkuse.

White Hair Princess never got married. She chose to spend the rest of her life without a husband because she believed that was the best for her. She never met a man who met her criteria.



In the end, White Hair Princess stood by her principle; it was better to not get married than force herself to marry someone but not be happy. She lived with that principle all her life. She would rather spit on someone's head and turn their hair white than accept their marriage proposal. She never forced someone to do anything they did not want to, and she did not want anyone to force her to do anything she did not want to. Perigi Village became peaceful again. Peace returned to the village because Langkuse had fought to defend it.

## The Author



Nama lengkap : Budi Agung Sudarmanto, S.S.,M.Pd.

Telp. kantor/ponsel : (0711) 7539500/081334714076

Pos-el : budi\_agung\_s@yahoo. com

Akun Facebook : Budi Agung S.

Alamat kantor : Jalan Seniman Amri Yahya, Jakabaring,  
Palembang, Sumatera Selatan

Bidang keahlian : Sastra dan Bahasa

### **Riwayat pekerjaan/profesi (10 tahun terakhir)**

1. 2005 –2011: Staf Balai Bahasa Sumatera Selatan
2. 2011–2016: Peneliti Muda Bidang Sastra, Balai Bahasa Sumatera Selatan

## **Riwayat Pendidikan Tinggi dan Tahun Belajar**

1. S-2: Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Negeri Malang (2002–2007)
2. S-1: Sastra Inggris, Universitas Udayana, Denpasar (1991–1997)

## **Judul Penelitian dan Tahun Terbit (10 tahun terakhir)**

1. “Subalternasi Tokoh Aku dalam ‘Minggu Legi di Kyoto’ Karya Satyagraha Hoerip”, dalam Jurnal Kandai, Volume 8 Nomor 1, Mei 2012, Kantor Bahasa Provinsi Sulawesi Tenggara.
2. “Kajian Strukturalisme Genetik Lucien Goldmann dalam Novel Dian yang Tak Kunjung Padam Karya Sutan Takdir Alisjahbana”, dalam Jurnal Metasastra. Volume 5 Nomor 2, Desember 2012, Balai Bahasa Provinsi Jawa Barat.
3. “Identitas Masyarakat Keturunan Tionghoa di Palembang”, dalam Jurnal Sejarah dan Budaya Wala- suji, Volume 3 Nomor 2, Balai Pelestarian Nilai Budaya Makasar.
4. “Mitos Keperawanan dalam Cerpen Jemari Kiri Karya Djenar Mahesa Ayu”, dalam Jurnal Ilmiah Kebaha- saan dan Kesastraan Widyaparwa Volume 43, Nomor 2, Desember 2015, Balai Bahasa Provinsi D.I. Yogyakarta.

### **Informasi Lain**

Lahir di Magetan, 6 Februari 1973 dan telah menikah. Saat ini menetap di Palembang. Aktif di organisasi profesi kesastraan dan kebahasaan. Terlibat di berbagai kegiatan di bidang kesastraan dan kebahasaan, serta pengajarannya, termasuk BIPA. Beberapa kali menjadi pemakalah di seminar/konferensi nasional dan internasional di dalam dan luar negeri (Malaysia dan Jepang).



## **The Editor**

Nama : Triwulandari  
Pos-el : erierieri777@gmail.com  
Bidang Keahlian : Penyuntingan

### **Riwayat Pekerjaan**

Tenaga fungsional umum di Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa (2001—sekarang)

### **Riwayat Pendidikan**

S-1 Sarjana Sastra Indonesia Universitas Padjajaran, Bandung (1996—2001)

S-2 Linguistik Universitas Indonesia (2007—2010)

### **Informasi Lain**

Lahir di Bogor pada tanggal 7 Juni 1977. Aktif dalam berbagai kegiatan dan aktivitas penyuntingan, di antaranya menyunting di Bapenas dan PAUDNI Bandung.