

NYAI BALAU

Nyai Balau

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NYAI BALAU

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Advisory Board	Dadang Sunendar Emi Emilia Gufran Ali Ibrahim
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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

Nyai Balau

Cerita Rakyat dari Kalimantan Tengah

Ditulis oleh
Tjak Basori

Nyai Balau

Cerita Rakyat dari Kalimantan Tengah

Penulis : Tjak Basori
Penyunting : Triwulandari
Ilustrator : Rizqia Sadida
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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, imaginative 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

Dear children,

You must know that our country, Indonesia, consists of hundreds of ethnic tribes. Among these tribes; there are thousands of stories in various forms, types, and themes. Interesting stories from these tribes are the wealth of the nation that we must explore.

Nyai Balau story is an adaptation of several folktales that live and develop in Central Kalimantan. The story of Supak whose honesty, diligence, and patience bring luck. Children can learn many things from this story. Hopefully, this story can add insight into children in understanding our rich Indonesia. Dear Children, enjoy reading and exploring this interesting story.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Head of the Language Development Center of Language Development and Cultivation Agency, and Story Writing Committee of 2016 National Literacy Movement which gave the author the opportunity to present this story to children all around our nation.

Palangka Raya, April 2016

Tjak Basori

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NYAI BALAU

1. Palangka Kingdom

A thousand years ago, it was told in Palangka Kingdom, located at nearby a downstream of Teluk Miri (Miri Bay). It was led by a king that was named as King Anua. There were only a few of people living out there, but almost all of them lived very well under the leadership of King Anua.

King Anua was the very wise and non-discriminatory king. Also, he was known as the tough king. Therefore, all the people could live very well, peacefully and safely. All the people could do their daily activities joyfully as they were not even fearful of any danger or threat from criminals.

The water in the River Kahayan, flowing along the kingdom, looked as clear as crystal. A school of fish was swimming around the stones with so many lichens. They swayed their tails beautifully as if they were the little dragons that lived in the river. In the land near the river, a group of *saluang* (local creature) was hunting insects. Some of the birds were flying so low, to catch out the fish that jump over to the surface. In the edge of the river was the great kingdom standing up so luxuriously, Palangka Kingdom. Its pillars were made of the black toughest wood.



The wind blew so nicely, to spread out the smell of the lichens in the river and pass through the windows. The smell was like to say hello to a little girl who was sitting by herself, making plaited mats in her room. The girl was staring at the river, with her brightest eyes. Her sharp view upon was observing the birds that flew along the rivers. She would like to have wings so much that she could reach wherever she wanted to. She was daydreaming about how happy she would be to chill out with the colorful butterflies that kept stepping by in the *Perdu* flowers (clump flowers).

“Nyai, the water’s been ready for you.” A little girl came into his room. She woke up from her daydreaming.

“Okay, I will take a shower soon,” answered Nyai Balau lazily. Actually, she still would like to enjoy the view in the dusk from the nice window in her room.

By then, she was allowed to smell how fragrant *Tilam* flower (purple trumpet-like flower) was. Nyai Balau stood up. She unraveled her hair. She had such a black shining thick hair that she was named as Nyai Balau, which meant the girl with the beautiful hair.

Nyai Balau went to take a shower and the little girl faithfully served her. She kept staring at the pretty Nyai Balau, “Nyai Balau is so lucky. She is very rich and inspiring,” she thought. Nyai

Balau never worked hard just like her. All she needed would be completely ready. Water, food, clothes, and everything were so easy to get. What a life if she were her.

On the other hand, she was not aware that Nyai Balau was envious to see how she lived her life in freedom. She missed her childhood age so much. She used to play with her friends, joked with each other, and chased each other until the dusk was coming. Also, she would take a bath in the river as long as she wanted to, and find to pick *karamunting* (downy myrtle flower) growing on the edge of the river.

Now, she could not be in that life anymore. Since her adolescent, she was prohibited to come out of her room. She did not need to work hard at all because what she needed had always been ready. But, she felt unhappy. She lost her freedom as she experienced a very long time ago.

She grew up to be the beautiful teen. As the princess, her freedom was restricted. That was how people in Palangka Kingdom run the custom.

The beautiful Nyai Balau became an apple of eye for young men around. All of them had known her very well. Nonetheless, no one was brave enough to propose her. They knew that they did not have a good specialty to propose her. It was an expensive dowry that limited almost all of them to propose her.

All about the beauty of Nyai Balau had been heard by Gajah Country. The King of Gajah Country was so curious about the beauty of Nyai Balau, the daughter of King Anua, the King of Palangka. For his curiosity and wonder about her beauty, The King of Gajah set a plan to kidnap her. Even, if necessary, he would conquer Palangka Kingdom, just to get the princess.

One day, suddenly, the King of Gajah commanded his troops to kidnap Nyai Balau, which was not known by the colleagues of Palangka Kingdom.

All the guard men and people in Palangka Kingdom did not suppose it happened, which got Nyai Balau successfully kidnapped by the troops of the King of Gajah. In the following day, all the people in Palangka Kingdom were so swarming after they knew that Nyai Balau was gone, kidnapped by the King of Gajah whose kingdom was so far from Palangka Kingdom.

For that reason, King Anua was so furious upon the guard men for their carelessness. He, then, announced that Palangka Kingdom was on a war, in which all the people were not allowed to have a party, gathering, and other typical occasions. All the people should be in the deep condolence for the loss of Nyai Balau from the kingdom. Also, the people were also anxiously concerned about her life, for they could not be sure if she had died or not.

2. Supak and Gantang

In a township within Palangka Kingdom, there was a homestay built by its owner under the huge tree. The ones staying in the homestay were two newly-teenager boys, named as Gantang and Supak. They lived with their mother, Linge. Linge was very happy to see her sons grew well as a teenager. That meant her burden would be far easier for they had to be able to help her work every day.

In fact, Supak and Gantang were two young boys who were always obedient to their parent's advice. However, both of them had a very remarkable difference. Supak was diligent and a bit quiet, while Gantang was lazy, somehow, undebatable, and fun-oriented. Even when they were farming, Supak looked more diligent. He resulted in better yields than that of Gantang.

Further, intentionally, Linge had divided her farm into two parts. One part was for Supak, while another was for Gantang. Supak planted cassava, sweet potato, corn, long bean, watermelon, and banana. All the plants were growing very well as he looked after them very well too. Until then, all the plants in Gantang's were not as the same as that of in Supak's because he was quite ignorant upon his farm. So many weeds covered most of his plants. Linge could not do better to remove all the weeds by herself.

“Gantang, come on help me take away the weeds! Don’t just lay down over there!” said Linge.

“Leave it, Mom. They could grow up by themselves,” said Gantang while continuing his sleeping.

Linge remained silent shook her heard. That was how Gantang lived a life. What he just knew was playing and keeping his mother company without helping her.”

One day, Supak had a visit to the farm. As usual, he pulled out all the weeds he found, observed his plants’ growth, and watered them. When he saw at the cassava and sweet potato, Supak was shocked. All the leaves disappeared.

“Wow! There must be a parasite on my farm. This can’t be happening. I’ll get them trapped!” said Supak. Supak got prepared to get back home for preparing all he needed to set a trap.

“What happens, my son? Why you look so hurried?” asked Linge.

“Nothing, Mom. I just want to make a trap for the parasite in our farm,” answered Supak. “It just begins to steal out something from our farm,” he continued.



Linge nodded, a sign of understanding. Supak was going back to the farm to catch out the parasite. The trap was in the form of a hole with one-meter depth and was covered by leaves to make it invisible. The holes were set in every single side of the farm so that the parasite would be trapped into the holes. After setting out the trap, Supak, then, went home, while waiting for the result of what he did.

When the night had come, a pride of mousedeeers came to the farm. In fact, they were the things that ruined all the cassava and sweet potato on the farm. They were standing not too far from the trap.

“Hahahahaaaa. He thinks that we won’t know there were holes around the farm,” said one of the mousedeer to his friends.

“Let’s open the cover!” said another mousedeer. “Yes! Then, we could jump across them, and wouldn’t be trapped,” said the other one. So, all the covers were opened, so that they could see the holes. One by one, they jumped over the holes, heading to the middle of the center. They started to eat all the cassava and sweet potato. They digested until they were full. Afterward, they came out of the farm.

In the following day, Supak went to look at his farm. Again, he was shocked to see that many of his all plants were messed up by

the animal. All the covers were removed, remaining the footsteps of the mousedeer around the farm.

“It’s so weird! They seemed to know that there were some traps around here,” Supak said to himself. Replanting the cassava and sweet potato, Supak was thinking about what kind of trap that could be effective to use. He went home to get a rope.

“How were your traps, son? Does it succeed?” asked the mother.

“Nothing was trapped, Mom. All of them had known the traps already,” said Supak.

“Now, what’s your plan?” asked the mother.

“I’ll make a trap from the rope, Mom. I hope this succeeds,” Supak answered. His mother remained silent and Supak came back to the farm with the rope. In this chance, he would make a lasso trap. One pole was bonded at the tree, while another was knotted above the ground. Whenever the animals came and stepped right on the knot, it would get their legs trapped and their body hanged on. Henceforth, he came back home and waited for the outcome.

In the nights, the pride of the mousedeer came back to Supak’s farm. Before entering the farm, they broke all the traps.

“We’ve known this kind of trap. Don’t expect too much that we are trapped,” said one of the mousedeer to his friends. Again, the

cassava and sweet potato were eaten greedily. The plants went fewer and fewer in the Supak's farm because of them. They stopped to eat after they felt so full, and got back to the woods.

In the following morning, Supak was preparing to go to his farm to examine his plants and traps he had set out. None of the traps caught up the animal, even much more plants were eaten and withered. There were just a few of cassava, so were the sweet potato.

“They have been so outrageous!” Supak said while shaking head. “If they keep being like this, I would get a loss!” he continued. Then, Supak head off the farm to go home. He was walking perplexedly while thinking about what kind of trap the animal would not know about.

Arriving at home, Supak soon had a shower, mealtime, and rethought about how to deal with those animals.

His mother came back and brought him a *punai* bird (pigeon bird).

“Where did you find the bird, Mom?” asked Supak.

“I found this on my way home. Its body is full of gutta-percha. See!” said the mother while showing the birds full of gutta-percha.

“Let’s take care of the bird. Hope it could stay alive,” continued the mother. Supak remained silent for a while, ignoring what his mother said to him.

“Supak, what are you thinking of?” said the mother which got Supak aware from his daydreaming.

“Nothing, Mom. I’m just thinking about how to catch out the mousedeer in our farm,” Supak answered hurriedly.

“You said that this bird got so sticky because of gutta-percha,” said Supak. “Yes. Why?” asked the mother.

“That’s what I am looking for!” said Supak. His mother was just gawking, not understanding what her son meant to.

3. Statue from Gutta-Percha

Supak, soon, walked out of the home. He brought his machetes and headed to the woods. He got an idea to trap the mousedeer by using a gutta-percha. He collected as much gutta-percha as possible and saved it into the huge bamboo. After everything was collected, Supak went home and created a human-alike statue. The statue was covered by the gutta-percha from head to hip, while the rest was remained uncovered to be plugged into the ground. Finally, he was finished to make the trap from the gutta-percha.

After lunch, Supak brought up the trap to the farm. The statue was plugged into the ground in the edge of the farm, where the mousedeer often passed through. He, then, took a look at the plants and pulled out the weeds. He saw watermelons on the ground. They looked so huge, and some of which looked ripe. “It won’t be so long to harvest them!” said Supak.

When the dusk came, Supak went home. He took a bath before joining his mother having a meal.

“It’s been a day full you work, son! You even have a limited time to have a rest,” said the mother.

“Don’t worry me, Mom. Even I’m so excited to look after our farm. After this we could harvest our watermelons,” said Supak to his mother. Afterward, they did their own duty. The mother was weaving a mat, while Supak was making a holder to his machete.

“Mom, tomorrow I should join you to the farm. It’s been a bit long time I don’t have a visit there,” said the mother.

“Alright, Mom. I’ll see you tomorrow. We’re going to go there together. Good night,” said Supak. Supak was sleeping so tightly. He was snoring as he was so tired of working all the day.

His mother just looked at him, feeling a pity for him. “What a pity you are, my son. You are the one I only may expect to hope,” his

mother cried. A teardrop fell down from the mother, been so old. She went to bed, then.

Meanwhile, in the farm, the mousedeer came back to eat out the cassava and sweet potato.

“Let’s find something in the farm. No trap could catch out us hahaha ...!” said the pride of the mousedeer while singing aloud. Suddenly, “Wait! There is a man on the farm,” said one of the mousedeer.

“Ah! Impossible. This is midnight. Someone couldn’t be here,” said another.

“Let’s have a look! It’s a man or not?” said the biggest one.

“It doesn’t make any movement! I’m sure it’s not!” said the other one.

One of the mousedeers then bravely approached the statue. “Hi, this is not a human, it’s just a statue! Look! Come here!” said the mousedeer.

After listening to the fact, the pride of the mousedeers headed to come closer the statue. “Foolish! Truly are they! They’ve lost their mind!” said the biggest one.

Without any serious purpose, a mousedeer asked the statue. “Hi, dude. Can I take some food from this farm?” The statue remained silent since it could not talk just like the human.

“Uh-uh! You’re so arrogant!” said another one.

“If you mind, I’ll punch out your head!” said the other mousedeer while pointing out to the statue. They were too joyful in making a joke with the statue until they had forgotten what their main goal was.

“Come on! Answer us! If you mind, feel it!” said the mousedeer while punching out the head of the statue. “Blaam!!” his right-forward leg punched out the head. He pulled out his leg back, he could not. His leg was strongly stuck out at the head.

“Goddamn it! How dare you are to hold my leg! I’ll kick you with my other leg! Release it!” said the mousedeers furiously. “Boom!” again his leg punched out the head and it was strongly stuck out. Now both his legs were stuck out at the head.

Because he could not get released, the mousedeer called upon his friends. “Hi, fellows! Help me! This statue has caught me up!” said the mousedeer.

“Goddamn it! Let’s finish him together!” said the biggest one.

The pride of the mousedeers, then, conquered the statue together. “Boom! Boom!” They kicked and punched out the statue. But,

their legs were remained stuck out strongly upon it. They were concerned about escaping themselves, but they could not do that. Until the morning was coming, all of the mousedeer were still stuck out at the statue, Supak's trap. He finally could save the farm from the mousedeer.

The sun shined brightly, passing through the spaces within the trees along the steep leading to the farm. There were seen Supak and his mother heading to the farm. Then, a machete was hanging on Supak's hip. Carrying a small and slender, they went to the farm. Afterward, they arrived at the farm. The mother directly looked at the watermelons with the small and slender with her, while Supak directly went to the end of the farmer, where he set out the trap.

Supak was shocked after finding out what happened to the trap. The mousedeer were stuck out at the statue from gutta-percha.

“Finally! Poor you, the parasite!” said Supak.

“Mom! Mom! Come here soon! Look at this!” shout Supak to call upon his mother. Quickly, the mother approached Supak.

“Wow! They're so many! Let's get them all slaughtered!” said the mother. One by one, the mousedeer was slaughtered. All day long, they brought them all back home



“Fantastic! It’s been too long we don’t have enough food to eat,” said the mother.

They started to grill some of the meat from the mousedeer. Most of the meat, meanwhile, were saved by means of drying it out. It was such a tiring day. Ashes came out of the fireplace with the smell of grilled mousedeer’s meat. The ashes, hence, called out Gantang, playing with his friends, to come. He thought that his house was caught on fire.

“Oh my God! My house was caught on fire!” he said.

Gantang hurriedly went home. He brought up a bucket of water to be poured over the fire. “Bloop!” All the water was poured over the fire.

“Hey! What are you doing, bro?” said Supak shocked.

“I just want to help you from the fire. Why are you angry with me, then?” said Gantang.

“Who is fired?” said Supak annoyed.

“Look! You get my grilling fire off!” he continued.

“Grilling? What are you grilling?” asked Gantang curious.

“Take a look at yourself!” said Supak.

Gantang was paying attention to the bunch of mousedeer's meat nearby the fireplace.

“Wow! It's too much meat. Where did you steal it? Ups, sorry! I mean, where you can get this all, Supak?” asked Gantang.

“Don't talk too much! Now help me grill all this meat! I'll tell you later.”

While helping Supak grill the meat, Gantang kept asking Supak to tell how he got the mousedeer.

“Come on, bro! Tell me now! How did you do all these things?” asked Gantang.

“If I tell you the truth, I'm sure you'll make everything worst!” said Supak.

Come on! Tell me, please! I don't even understand what you meant,” Gantang said.

Their conversation was over since Linge called upon both of them. “Supak ... Gantang. Come into the home now! Let's eat together,” said the mother.

“We talk about it later. Let's eat first, come on!” asked Supak to Gantang.

It had been served some variants of food in the kitchen. While eating, Gantang could not stop asking about where they got the meat. Often, he got the food he chewed came out of his mouth.

“Okay, I’ll tell you later. It’s not good, eating while speaking,” Supak reminded.

Gantang tried to be silent, keep being not too curious about how Supak got the meat. After eating, Gantang asked for Supak’s promise. “I got this one from the trap with gutta-percha that I set out on the farm. The mousedeer would get stuck out at the statue,” said Supak while showing him the statue with gutta-percha. Gantang directly grabbed the statue from Supak.

“I borrow this for a couple of days. I’ll set this out at my farm!” he said and left Supak.

“Be careful when using it!” Supak reminded.

Gantang hastily left home.

“Hey ... where are you going to go, Gantang?” asked the mother.

“I want to go to the farm to set out the trap, Mom,” he answered from miles away.

4. The Careless Gantang

Gantang was heading to the farm to set out the trap, the statue from gutta-percha made by Supak. He forgot to ask him about how to set it out.

It had been three days Gantang had yet to return the gutta-percha statue of Supak.

“It’s been three days he hasn’t returned my gutta-percha statue, Mom,” said Supak.

“Perhaps, no animal hasn’t got trapped yet,” answered the mother.

“I’m afraid that he can’t use the trap, Mom,” Supak continued.

“What do you mean, son?” asked the mother half-wondering. “It’s been three days he hasn’t returned yet from the farm, or maybe he kept waiting for his trap. I’m also anxious about him. Would you mind picking him up home, Supak?”

“Okay, Mom,” replied Supak.

Arriving at the farm, Supak shouted to call upon Gantang, “Gantang! Gantang! Let’s get back home!” A thousand times Supak called upon Gantang, but no reply. Supak was walking around on the edge of the farm while keeping calling upon Gantang.

“Gantang! Gantang! Come on get back!” shouted Supak. Continuing walking, Supak kept calling upon Gantang.

Supak was nearly hopeless since he found no one. He decided to get back home. But, suddenly he heard someone crying from the distance.

“Oh, help me please!” his voice sounded so weak.

“Supak looked for the voice. He saw someone bending over on the ground, with legs and hands stuck out at the gutta-percha statue.

“Hi, Gantang. What is happening?” asked Supak.

“Help me ...,” Gantang said in a low tone. Supak soon helped Gantang escape from the trap. He was so weak, for he did not have any energy and felt starving to death – he could not even walk. Perforce, Supak piggybacked his brother and brought him home.



Very difficult, Supak was piggybacking Gantang who was so fat. At times, he stopped walking because of exhaustion. Eventually, they arrived at home.

Linge came to help Supak hold Gantang, “What happened, Gantang? Why were you this way?” asked the mother. Gantang could not answer the question. His body got even weaker, and he felt a bit unconscious. He was laid down in the house. Linge came to give him a water and spoon-fed him a food. While removing the gutta-percha sticking out at the entire of his body, Linge said. “Take something meaningful from this accident, son! I wish you a better change after this.”

Slow but sure, Gantang was getting alright. He had been shown to speak. “I’m very sorry about my carelessness, Mom! I promise to always listen to what you say to me, and Supang too,” he said with teardrops falling.

The mother was so sad after listening to her son. “Forget that, my son. I’ve forgiven you. I wish you best of luck for tomorrow.”

That was it. After the accident, Gantang was so diligent to work and did everything so carefully. Together with the mother, he was farming every day. All the weeds were pulled out of the ground and thrown away, with the hope of removing the parasites.

The harvesting season had come. Supak and Linge helped to carry out the harvest in the Gantang's farm. They lived peacefully and securely without any problems.

5. The Order of King Anua

One day, Gantang and Supak went fishing. They got on a little raft and paddled upon the downstream of the river, to reach a spot where so much fish was swimming around. Gantang and Supak did not even know that all people in Palangka Kingdom were very chaotic and in the deep condolence because of war. Both these boys were so joyful anytime. Also, they were so brave, not afraid of anything scary or dangerous.

While going on paddling the raft, both were singing joyfully and hit down the raft to make a sound of a drum and *gamelan* (traditional music instrument from Java). It was so crowded from the distance. Too happy, they were not aware that they had arrived in front of the King Anua's kingdom. They kept singing aloud ecstatically as if they were not caring about what happened around them.

The happiness shown by these two boys had attracted all the people over there, including those who were in the deep condolence because of that the princess was kidnapped by the king of Gajah country. It got King Anua so furious, then he

commanded the guard men to observe who made that annoying sound.

Outside of the kingdom, the King saw two half-teen boys paddling the raft and enjoying singing aloud without any attention to their surroundings. When finding that kind of condition, King Anua was more furious. King Anoua commanded his guard men to arrest the boys. Then, the command was soon executed by them.

They arrested Gantang and Supak, then sent them to face upon the king. Gantang was afraid and shivering for the king kept asking and getting angrier to him. Until then, shivering, Supak pushed himself to bravely state that they did not even know about the order of mourning. He told the king that they were from so far area, that he could not know what really happened in the kingdom, let alone in case of an accident like that one.

After getting understood of his soft explanation, the king's anger lowered down. Then, the king gave them an order. "By today, you must go exploring everywhere to look for Nyai Balau who's gone away. You must get her. Then, send her back to the kingdom. One of you who succeeds to get her will be married to her. Also, I'll announce him as the young king. But, if you can't, I'll get you punished. Now, you can go!"



After that, the king commanded the treasurer to give them enough preparation. After everything was prepared, both went back to the raft. When getting on the raft, Supak looked unhappy, unlike they went fishing from home. Meanwhile, Gantang seemed very happy to see that there was so much food because he had never seen as much and tasty food as that of at the time. Gantang and Supak started to paddle their raft back to home and canceled their planning to go fishing.

While paddling the raft, Gantang had a try to the tasty food, but Supak did not – he was crying a lot. Supak did not keep his eyes on how Gantang acted so joyfully, eating out what the king gave to them. Gantang mocked Supak who kept crying a lot and being sad because of receiving the great fortune.

Supak said, “You’re just thinking about your tummy. Don’t you think that looking for something we don’t even know is like as scarce as hen’s teeth? Don’t you think if we couldn’t do that, we’ll be murdered? If so, what about our mother?”

In a sudden, they had arrived at home. Linge wanted to know the reason why Supak was crying aloud. “What is happening, Supak?” “Do you both fight? Are you sick?” many questions were asked so rapidly.

Supak answered, “No, Mom. We don’t fight and I’m not sick.” Supak, furthermore, told his mother what they really experienced

from the beginning to the ending. After listening to the story, Linge, then, started crying.

While crying, Linge said, “Go on, son. This is how you dedicate to the wise King Anua. As one of the people under his leadership, we shall follow all his orders. God must take care of you until you succeed and get what you aim to find. I’ll cross my fingers to both of you.”

6. Searching for the Princess

In the following day, Gantang and Supak went to explore, following every single step their feet were stopping by to find out Nyai Balau. Linge was just staring at their leave from the distance with her heart feeling so anxious. She just kept praying, to wish them success to find the lost princess.

It had been many days both explored the jungle, climbed the mountain and passed across the valleys. When they were starving to death, they stopped a while to eat. They were staying whenever the nights were coming. They hardly suffered from rains and heats, and wild animals and obstacles too. They only had one determination, Nyai Balau should be found out.

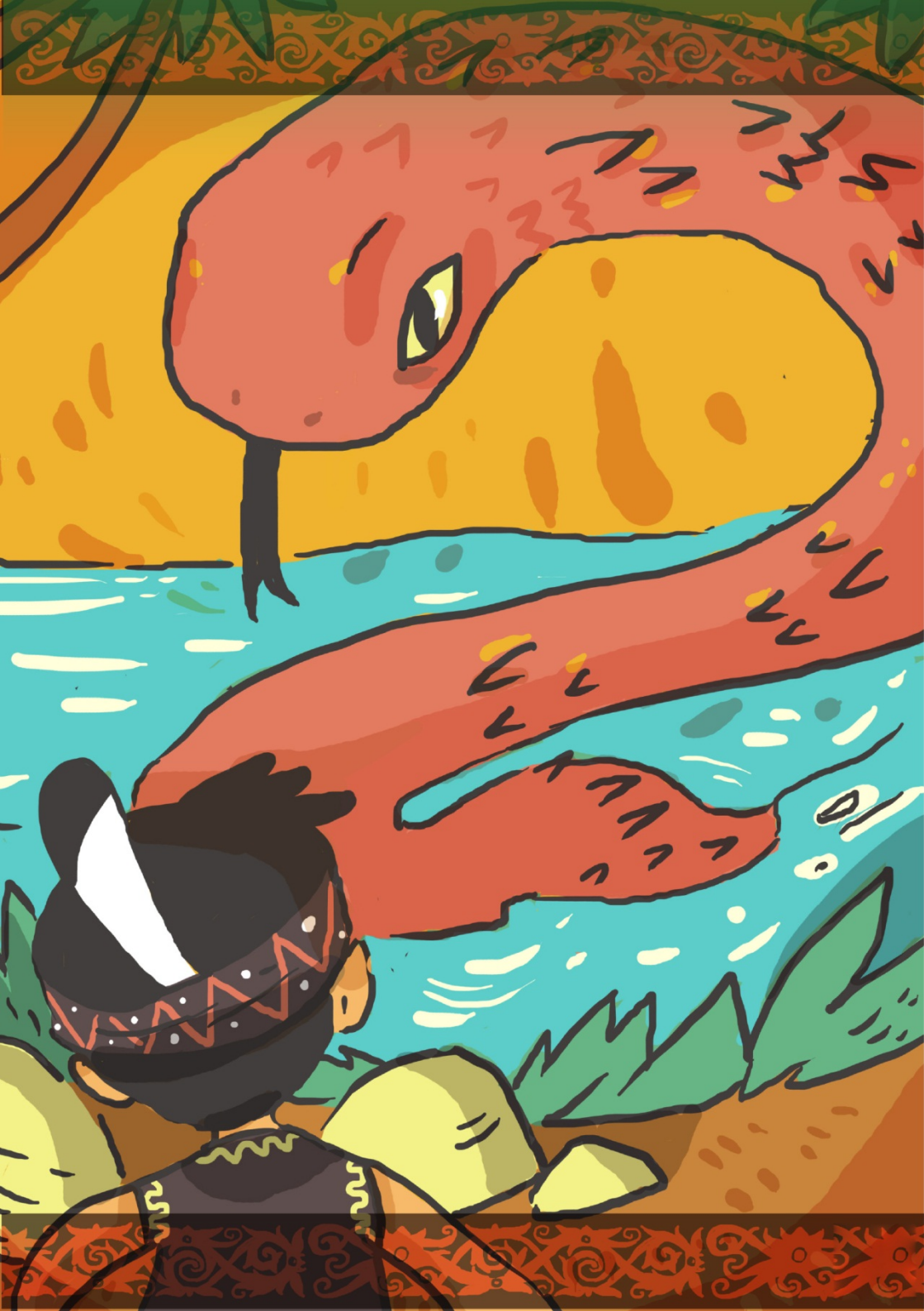
One day, the sun went west. Both were heading to the edge of the very large lake. In the middle of the lake, a little island looked a bit nebulous. The wavy water got them difficult to pass across the lake. Gantang kept crying aloud since he was very afraid. He did

not really have any bravery to pass across the lake without a raft. Until then, Supak was in silence and thinking of. Then, he kneeled on the edge of the lake. Afterward, he tapered the water three times and spelled out – he looked to say something.

A few minutes later, the water seemed to roll over, and there was a dragon coming out of the lake where Supak and Gantang were standing up. Looking at the giant dragon, Gantang felt more fearful. Counterproductively, Supak looked so confident to deal with the dragon.

The dragon which just came out of the surface of the lake stared at the two young boys, and said, “My grandson, don’t be afraid. I used to be the friend of your grandma in a long time ago. It’s been a long time I have been waiting for this encounter with you. Isn’t your goal to pick up Nyai Balau? Listen! Nyai Balau now is alright. She’s now staying over the kingdom around the island in the middle of this lake. Now get on my back and hold my horn strongly. I’ll send you two to the island.”

Afterward, both felt relieved. Then, Supak and Gantang soon got on the dragon’s back. The dragon, then, dived into the lake with them both. They were so happy to pass across the lake with the dragon. Even, they and what they brought were not even wet during their diving. Almost midnight, they arrived at the island. They were amazed at the city and the palace of King Gajah, which were very luxurious and bright.



The dragon, further, said, “Get off, grandson! Pick up Nyai Balau with your wisdom and bravery.” Afterward, the dragon disappeared and went back into the water. After the dragon was gone, both the young boys were thinking of how to save Nyai Balau from King of Gajah.

Supak requested his elder brother, Gantang, to go inside the palace of King Gajah and pick up Nyai Balau. However, Gantang refused. He was not that brave to face King Gajah. Eventually, Supak was the one who would do that. Supak went to the palace. It took a quite long time from coastline to the front of the palace of King Gajah. Nearly midnight, he had just arrived in front of the palace of King Gajah.

In that midnight, in the palace, King Gajah held a very festive party. Many people were singing, dancing, and drinking so much that it got them overdrunk. All the guard men did too.

When the night went darker, a giant centipede, guard of the kingdom, came into the palace and met Nyai Balau. The centipede disallowed her to join the party. Also, he commanded her to change her clothes, to wear manly clothes, and to leave out her room. He asked Nyai Balau to come out of her room with her for-men clothes.

Since the giant centipede came, Nyai Balau was wearing the for-men clothes and moved back and forth aimlessly outside of the

palace. People were not taking care of her as they were all overdrunk and overjoy in the party. The night went so much darker and cold. People were gathering in the center point of the palace. There was a show of dance by the kingdom's dancers.

The situation of the palace of King Gajah was so jam-packed and made all the people forget Nyai Balau, the one they had kidnapped from Palangka Kingdom. They were too happy in the joy as if they were never feeling it before.

Meanwhile, Supak had arrived at the palace of King Gajah. He could easily walk around the palace and take a look at the situation around, which was still in the party joy. He was not even afraid of them as they did not take care of anything there. When Supak approached the palace, he saw someone standing up, looking like to wait for something. Then, he approached and noticed that person. After taking a look carefully the person, he was certain that she was Nyai Balau. He could still remember well how Nyai Balau looked like based on what King Anua explained to him for the first time.

Nyai Balau was standing up by herself near the ladder of the palace. When there was a chance to get closer to her, Supak quickly approached Nyai Balau and told her that he was mandated by the King Anua to pick up Nyai Balau. Nyai Balau could not be happier to listen to what Supak said. He was overjoyful since the savior had come to help her escape. She had been

missing her family for a long time. Supak and Nyai Balau fast run away to leave out the palace. Then, they both just arrived at where the dragon had sent Gantang and Supak before. Arriving at the coastline, Gantang was waiting for them, while they were taking a rest. Not too long after that, the giant dragon came out to pick them up and send them back to the edge.

In the dawn, they had arrived and get off to the coast. They did not forget to say “thank you” to the giant dragon that had helped them pass across. Before leaving, the dragon reminded, “My grandson, you need to keep being cautious as the danger may still come. Keep the princess safe. Goodbye and see you around.” The giant dragon returned and disappeared into the water.

Until then, in Gajah Kingdom, they were aware that Nyai Balau had escaped. All the people had got chaotic. They were shocked to know that Nyai Balau had been gone. Then, the king gave an order to his servants to find out Nyai Balau. Looking for her around the kingdom, none of the found her. It did not take a long time because the king commanded the people there to have a party for celebrating the new birth of his son. He was no longer concerned about where Nyai Balau went away.

Meanwhile, arriving at the edge of the lake, Supak and Gantang let Nyai Balau have a rest while they were preparing to help Nyai Balau return to Palangka Kingdom. They, then, looked for some

stuff that might be necessary to create *keba* (bucket for carrying thing), which was used to take Nyai Balau back home.

They spent almost a half of the day to collect the needed composition just for making *keba*, and so did they to make *keba* itself. After they thought it was finished, they soon leave out. Supak and Gantang, in turn, carried on their shoulders Nyai Balau by using *keba*, passing across the wild jungle. The foods they had from Palangka Kingdom were still so many. Nyai Balau was so pleasant to enjoy food from the kingdom where she was originally from.

Where the night came, three of them were staying over the wild jungle. They both, Supak and Gantang, in turn, kept Nyai Balau safe. Nearly dawn, when getting the turn of guarding the sleeping Nyai Balau, Gantang was, in fact, falling asleep. Then, a forest dragon came out of below the hill. The giant dragon kidnapped Nyai Balau in which she was still sleeping so tightly that she was unaware that she was taken away from there. She, instead, was dreaming of meeting with the parents she had been missing all this time. She felt that all the people were loving her much more than that of before. All the people, even, yearned her presence and welcome her excitedly.

In the following morning, waking up from their falling asleep, they had been aware that Nyai Balau was gone. Supak and Gantang were blaming each other. Supak, who really knew his

elder brother, remained silent. He walked around to observe all the leaves on the ground that looked so messy. He followed the traces and finally invented a giant hole that looked so slippery and dark. Supak was certain that Nyai Balau had been stolen out by the giant dragon into the hole. His belief was proved by some traces that appeared in the giant plants around there.

They were thinking about how to come into the giant hole. Supak said that the hole was where the giant dragon brought Nyai Balau away from them. They, of course, needed something to help them find the princess as the hole was very deep and dark. Supak called Gantang to cut off the rattan for making *salang* (a bucket from the giant rattan to carry human) and to make a rope in order to get into the hole.

Supak was not even afraid to deal with the giant dragon. It was because he had been granted by the giant dragon, his grandma's friend, with a magical power and unbeaten power. Nonetheless, Supak did not want to speak so much and be arrogant just like Gantang. He was so careful and full of consideration cautiousness.

After *salang* was ready and the rope was readily set, Supak soon came into *salang* while Gantang was stretching out the rope from above. Been only a minute inside the hole, the giant snake had gridlocked Supak in the *salang*. Supak killed out the dragon by using *duhung* (a flat-shaped weapon with two sharp poles).

Finally, Supak arrived at the end of the hole. There was so light as if there were another life. Over there, Supak met Nyai Balau who had been arrested in an iron bucket. Supak, then, commanded the giant dragon to release Nyai Balau. But, the dragon refused and called Supak for a fight.

Then, Supak and all the snakes of the giant dragon were involved in a serious war. Supak toughly conquered all the snakes around him, and the snakes did too. They snatched each other to get and eat out Supak. But, fast, Supak could withdraw all the attacks. His *duhung* had many times got the snakes hurt. After a quite long time, Supak finally could murder all the snakes, including the giant dragon.

Supak quickly freed Nyai Balau from the iron bucket. After the bucket was opened, Nyai Balau jumped out of it and embraced Supak gladly. Then, both were walking upon *salang*. Because *salang* could not be used for two persons, Supak let Nyai Balau escape from the giant hole first. Afterward, *salang* was to be lowered down to uplift Supak.

Nonetheless, Nyai Balau was concerned that if she came out the first, Gantang would not lower down *salang* for Supak. Because of Supak's persuasion, Nyai Balau followed all he said to her. Before getting separate, Nyai Balau exchanged her ring to Supak's. Nyai Balau thought that she owed too much to Supak who helped her all of this time. Then, they exchanged ring each

other – the ring of Palangka Kingdom had encircled the ring finger of Supak, and so had the Supak’s ring on Nyai Balau’s ring finger.

7. Gantang’s Betrayal

Supak warned Gantang to pull her up to come out of the hole. Nyai Balau finally successfully escaped from the hole. Gantang was extremely happy to see her freed from the hole. Gantang put down the rope of *salang* on the ground. He did not want to help Supak any longer. Because of knowing that Gantang no longer wanted to help Supak, Nyai Balau attempted to persuade him to help Supak come out of the hole.

However, Gantang was so hard to be persuaded. *Salang* rope was cut down into pieces by his *duhung*. Nyai Balau begun crying. Gantang enforced her to get on *kaba*, and brought him to be back home.

Supak was remained by himself in the hole. He was horribly sad. He was very sure that Gantang had left him behind inside the hole. Supak dropped tears, contemplating why his elder brother was so evil to him.

Supak kept thinking about how to escape from the hole. With the pieces of iron from the bucket where Nyai Balau was arrested. He, then, made a ladder from it. After suffering so hard during

seven days, he could escape from the hole. He was very thankful, then.

Been outside of the hole, Supak was staring at around him. He was so sad to see pieces of the rope made by Gantang. He was certain that Nyai Balau had to be sad to see how evil his elder brother was. But, he was aware that Nyai Balau and Gantang was no longer there.

Supak decided to leave out that place, then continued to go home by himself. Despite the lack of preparation of food, he was not afraid of hunger. He kept calm and not being afraid of the wild animals.

After tens of days walking, Gantang and Nyai Balau arrived safely at Palangka Kingdom. All the people around were so happy to welcome Nyai Balau back from her being gone. Therefore, a fantastic 7-day party was held to celebrate it. It was such a jam-packed party. All the people could not be happier as their one and only princess had been back home.

Gantang was allowed to stay over the palace by the king. To the king, Gantang was telling about his struggle to grab Nyai Balau back from King Gajah and about to fight upon the dragon in the cave, where Nyai Balau was arrested by the dragon when going back home to Palangka Kingdom. Besides, he also told that his

younger brother, Supak, the one kept him company, had been dead in the fight with the dragon.

All the servants and people of the kingdom put respect to Gantang because of his effort, to save the princess. He would be, in future, the husband of Nyai Balau, and be granted as the young king. The king soon would like to announce that Gantang and Nyai Balau would marry.

Meanwhile, Supak directly headed to home to see his mother. His mother could not be more joyful to see Supak. She directly embraced Supak. She was so jubilant to know that his son was back safely. Then, she also asked him about the duty he should do.

His mother felt so proud after listening to Supak's story. She also wondered why Gantang was so evil to leave out his younger brother alone in the huge hole, where the dragon was hiding. Meanwhile, it had been widely shared that Nyai Balau and Gantang would marry soon.

After listening to Supak's story, she had Supak to come into the marriage party held in the kingdom. But, Supak was so reluctant to have a visit to the kingdom. He would not distract his elder brother who had been happy with Nyai Balau. He tried to find alibies not to head off the home for visiting the kingdom.

Linge, the mother of Supak and Gantang, asked Supak, “Can you tell me why Gantang doesn’t have a visit here, Supak?” Supak remained silent. He would not like to answer even though he had known that Gantang had to be ashamed upon Nyai Balau and also King Anua because his mother was poor.

Meanwhile, in the palace, Gantang kept telling his bravery, skills, or magical power he had mastered when saving Nyaing Balau from all the foes. He looked very happy as, after this, he would be married to Nyai Balau.

Differently, Nyai Balau was not that way. She looked very sad and gloomy. She lost her temptation to eat something as if she were suffering from the chronic illness. Even, she did not look joyful whereas her marriage day would come soon. After all, her parents were very sorry to see Nyai Balau’s condition.

8. Honesty, a Key to Get Lucky

One day, when the D-day of the marriage had been announced, both Gantang and Nyai Balau were together, side by side, and paraded around the kingdom by getting on the golden horse-wagon. Many kinds of sound were hearable to get the kingdom very jam-packed.

When the parade went past the point where Supak was standing up, an unexpected thing happened. Nyai Balau stopped the wagon and came out of it. She unswervingly reached Supak and

embraced him so tightly. Loudly, she shouted to all the people around there and declared that Supak was the hero of hers, to save her from all the dangers. Supak was the one with the hard effort and struggle for her.

Also, she commanded each of the people around there to notice the ring in Supak's ring finger. The ring was from the kingdom Nyai Balau had given to for reminder. All the people over there noticed the ring finger of Supak, the one, she said, had helped her.

After that event, Gantang was very ashamed. He regretted to have been a greedy and egoistic man. He truly promised not to return doing the same thing anymore.

A couple of time later, he came to have a visit Supak who was walking around the kingdom. He said to Supak that he would not repeat doing the same thing as that of before in the past. He promised to be good for everyone.

To Supak, he also confessed that he deserved to be the husband of Nyai Balang for he had strongly put his best effort to save her. In addition, he promised him to always help without any specific intention, whenever and however it would be.

After listening to Gantang, Supak felt touched. He said that everyone had to have a mistake and err. As Gantang had been aware of his mistake, Supak was heartfelt to give him a forgiveness.



As a symbol of love from him to Gantang, Supak, the young king, invited Gantang and his mother to stay over the palace with his new family in that kingdom. But, Gantang rejected that request for he would like to deepen his knowledge by taking something to learn from his wandering to somewhere only he and God knew.

Moreover, Supak advised him to take a valuable learning from all he had just experienced, so that he would get prepared. Also, he told Gantang to let him know if he needed something or not. If he did, he could meet Supak in the palace of King Anua, or wherever it was supposed to. Then, Gantang had a farewell to continue his new journey. Supak, again, was touched to let him go. He crossed fingers for Gantang, so that he could have the power to see who he actually was and could become very helpful to other people.

The Author



Nama Lengkap : Basori, M.Hum.
Telp ponsel : 085787572731
Pos-el : tjak.bas.aku@gmail.com
Akun Facebook : tjak bas
Alamat kantor : Jalan Tingang Km 3,5 Palangka Raya
Bidang keahlian : Linguistik

Riwayat pekerjaan/profesi (10 tahun terakhir)

2002--2016 : Staf Balai Bahasa Kalimantan Tengah

Riwayat Pendidikan Tinggi dan Tahun Belajar

2008--2011 : S-2 Magister Linguistik Universitas Padjadjaran

1995-2000 : S-1 Sastra Indonesia Universitas Airlangga

Informasi Lain

Lahir di Lamongan, 4 Januari 1977. Menikah dan dikaruniai dua anak. Saat ini menetap di Palangka Raya. Terlibat di berbagai kegiatan di bidang penelitian bahasa, penyuluhan bahasa Indonesia di Kalimantan Tengah.

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

1. S-1 Sarjana Sastra Indonesia Universitas Padjajaran, Bandung (1996—2001)
2. 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.