



# Untukun

*Riddles*

X-2965

Yakan

# Untukun

A Collection of Yakan Riddles

Compiled by  
Dietlinde Behrens



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A Riddle Book in Yakan

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## FOREWORD

Some of the glory of the Philippines lies in the beautiful variety of people and languages within its coasts. It is to the great credit of the national leadership over the years that no attempt has been made to destroy this national heritage. The goal has been instead to preserve its integrity and dignity while building on this strong foundation a lasting superstructure of national language and culture.

The present book is one of many designed for this purpose. It recognizes the pedagogical importance of dividing literacy and second-language learning into two steps-literacy being the first. When a student has learned to read the language he understands best, the resulting satisfaction in his accomplishment gives the drive and confidence he needs to learn the national language. His ability to read, furthermore, is the indispensable tool for the study this program will require.

The Department of Education and Culture of the Philippines is proud to present this latest volume in a nationwide series designed to teach the national language through literacy in the vernaculars. It will strengthen both the parts of the nation and the whole.

Juan L. Manuel  
Secretary

## Preface

This booklet contains a collection of Yakan riddles. Many Yakan people living in Lamitan, Limook and Badja on the island of Basilan contributed to it. Sincere thanks to all of them.

The book is designed for Yakan readers and for their enjoyment of their cultural heritage. The riddles are not arranged in any particular order so that the fun of guessing might not be decreased. In the back of each page the answers are given for easy reference.

In the back of the book the English translation of the riddles and their answers are given following the same numbers as the Yakan part.

The letters of the Yakan alphabet as it is written here are a,b,d,e,g,h, i,j,k,l,m,n,o,p,r,s,t,u,w,y.

Glottal stop is symbolized with the single quote ('). It is written wherever it occurs. All the other letters correspond to their counterparts in the national language.

## Pahati

Libru inin inenan "untukun" pegge'  
kemon sulatnen me' untukan. Untukan  
inin ineddo' amban me' a'a Lamitan,  
Limo'ok duk si Badja'. Bu me' a'a depu'  
untukan inin gey kajari sinulat enden  
pegge' ekka siye. Seguwa' megsukul ku  
si siye kemon.

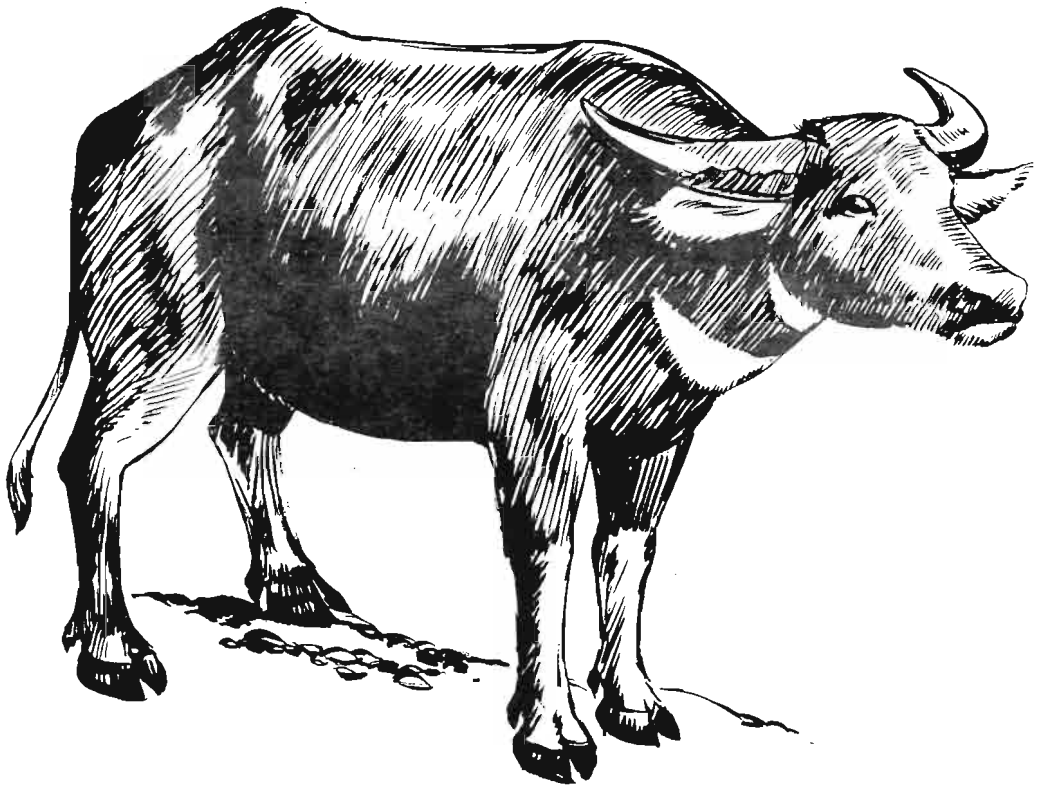
Bang ka'am matsa, untukun bi dahu'.  
Bang gey ta'untukbi payamanun bi lu'u  
si dembiya' pamatsahanbi lu. Niya' ne  
sinulat sambungne. Seguwa' untukun bi  
dahu'.

Si dengkepak libru inin niya' isab me'  
untukan sinulat si bisaa Inglis.

Kete'uhanbi me' ekka beyu'-beyu'an sulat.  
Bang dem libru inin sulatnen arak sali'  
duk bisaa Pilipino. Seguwa' bang intag-  
intag niya' batang ayin sinulat du isab.  
Bentuk batang ayin kuwe' bentuk tobbok  
diyata' (').

Na kuwe'itu untukun bi ne!

1. Bang iluka tambel  
bang tinambel luka.
2. Ngalabas kekkohapan  
ga' niya' bakasne.
3. Tunglut duwe bola  
ta'abut ne langitin.
4. Nakanak pote'-pote'  
inambanan si bohe'.



1. Tu'ut
2. Engko kabew
3. Mata
4. Bukal sabon

5. Duwa'i kok  
mana'ik kok.
6. Kenna dengkehet-kehet  
latag a'ahin ngehet.
7. Bohe' deli'ung-li'ung  
pagpansakan lima'ung.
8. Bang sangem kulepera'  
bang ellew tembilang.

5. Meyong
6. Asa'an
7. Panyam
8. Tapo

9. Nakanak peyat-peyat  
inambanan si lan.
10. Binugbud kuwe' tapung  
buwa'nen kuwe' ba'ung.
11. Pelele pe sa'inen  
ningko' ne anaknen.
12. A'a dembuwa' luma'  
ga'i magurung bohe'.



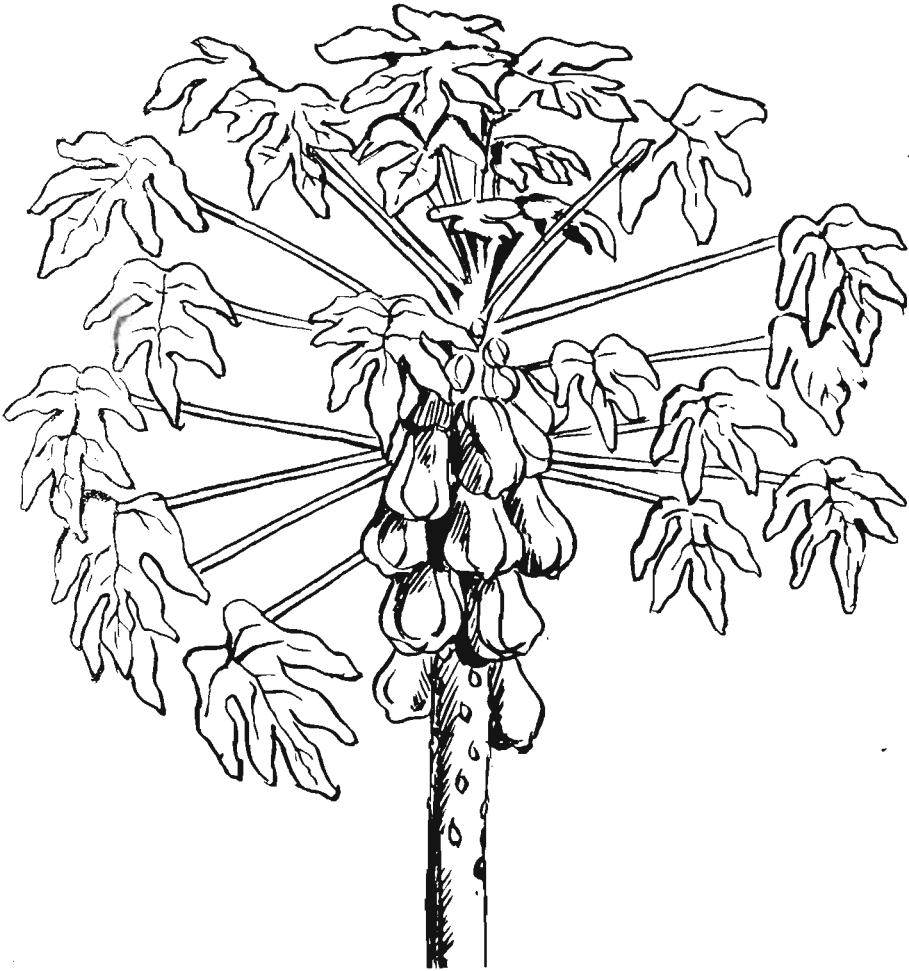
9. Gimas
10. Putu
11. Kabasa'
12. Lahing

13. A'a dembuwa' luma'  
ga'i magkite luwe.

14. I' ne - tiya' ne.

15. Bang ileppi' ngaladjab  
bang binellat nembehine ngediki'.

16. Leppo'-leppo' binowet  
isihan teyi' mellek.



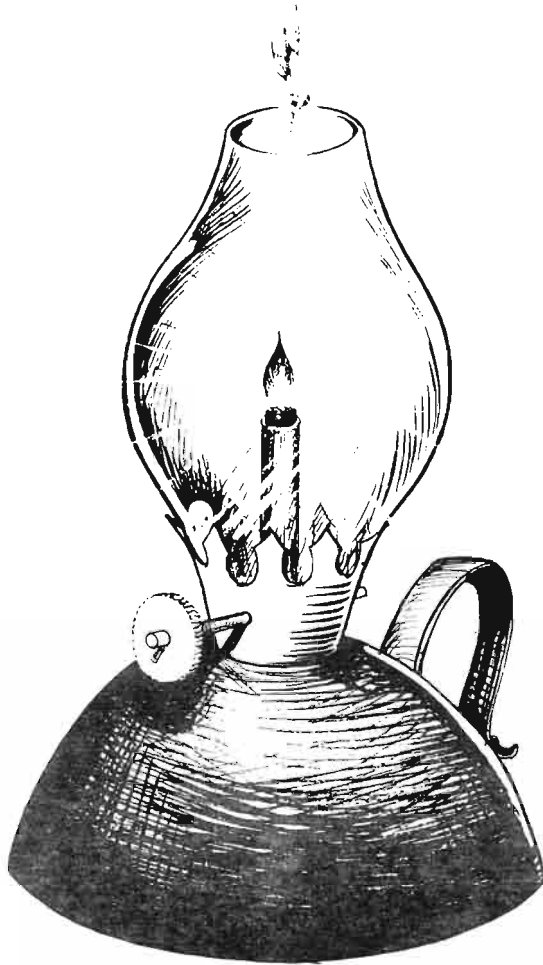
- 13. Teyinge
- 14. Goyak
- 15. Tu'ut
- 16. Kapaya

17. Kanas depunuhan  
ga' niya' bukune.
18. Lan duwe sehepang  
gey magsumbaya' tinuhut.
19. Anak datu' maghadji'  
magkupiya kemon.
20. Anak datu' maglalin  
magsa'il nuhut lan.



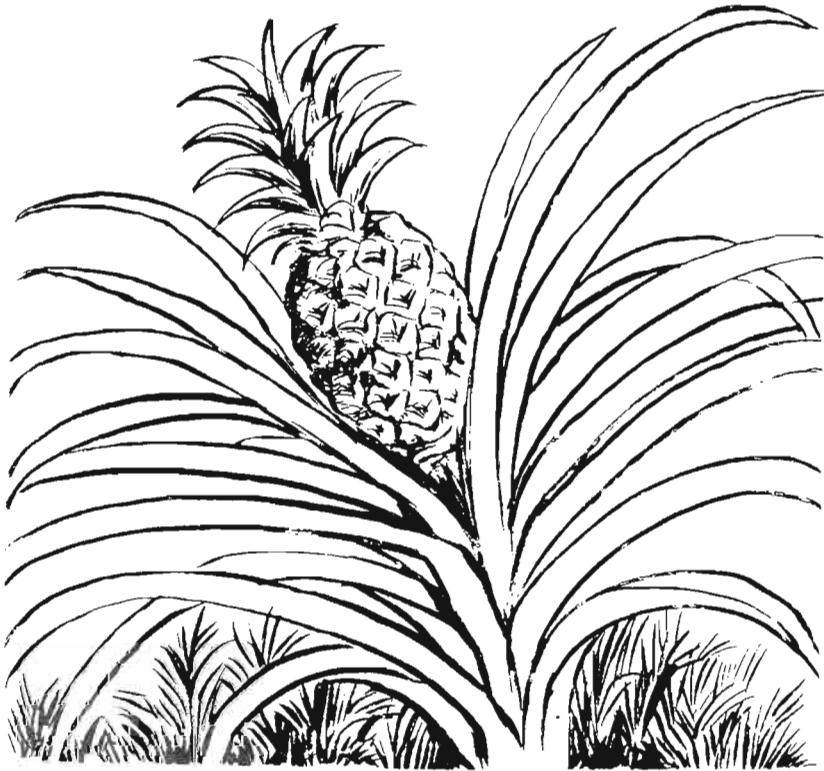
- 17. Kok
- 18. Sawal
- 19. Lugus
- 20. Buwani

21. Buwibud punuhin  
pabeddu bahanin.
22. Bahan dem lugluban  
maglambuhan bulawan.
23. Besse'-besse' po'onnen  
peyat tuggunen.
24. Tinanem kuwe' impen  
buwa'nen kuwe' lengngen.



21. Gilingan
22. Peyta'an
23. Sigupan
24. Batad

25. Tinanem duma'in jambangan  
pinutus duma'in dagangan.
26. Butitik butitikan  
magdahut sempilan  
magbuwa' inukilan.
27. Dawen tebbu luwanes  
pinagti' ga'i lanes.
28. Buku tebbu beliyan  
pangalingan-ngalingan.



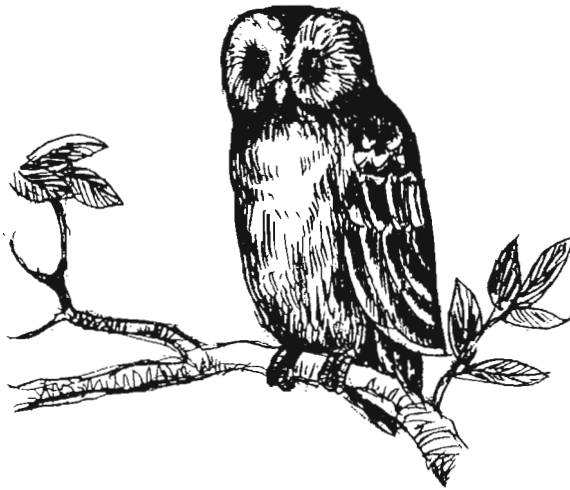
25. A'a matey

26. Pisang

27. Bu manuk

28. Agung

29. Manuk si Manila' ley  
umabut pitu ngehe.
30. Kesi kuwe' timbo'  
ateynen kuwe' ligu.
31. Bang magkuwak kuwe' babal  
bang ellew kuwe' ngammal.
32. Belimbing du buwa'nen  
belimbing du batangnen  
ineddo' du kinakan  
ineddo' pagpakayan.



- 29. Sugley
- 30. Payung
- 31. Kumut / A'a binalew
- 32. Lenga

33. Tagna' dunyahin niya'  
dalil pugad ngalinga'  
tinggal dembuwa'-buwa'.
34. Dawennen kuwe' dawen uyat  
po'onnen kuwe' bulawan.
35. Dawennen dawen tebbu  
batangnen batang lahing.
36. Magkuwantang sa'inen  
mag'os anaknen.



33. Mata ellew

34. Dulew

35. Batad

36. Batakan

37. Laga'-laga' si apu'  
gey talutu.
38. Dahag lambu bulakan  
ta'u maghelling sina'.
39. Tabayag kunning-kunning  
isihan buwas binaning.
40. Mageddo' amban punu  
sangka a'a lime.



37. Duwi'an

38. Kabeg

39. Pugad

40. Neppun

37. Laga'-laga' si apu'  
gey talutu.
38. Dahag lambu bulakan  
ta'u maghelling sina'.
39. Tabayag kunning-kunning  
isihan buwas binaning.
40. Mageddo' amban punu  
sangka a'a lime.



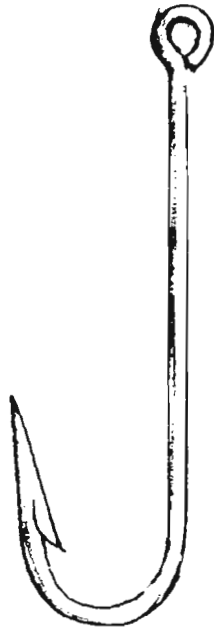
- 37. Duwi'an
- 38. Kabeg
- 39. Pugad
- 40. Neppun

41. Dahatus a'a magtuhut  
magpis peyat,
42. Bang ningko' langkew  
bang nengge pandak.
43. Niya' a'a dahatus magtuhut  
magpis pote'.
44. Bang ilunan hitad  
bang binellat magkotot.



- 41. Sembulatuk
- 42. Asu
- 43. Pi'il
- 44. Tu'ut

45. Ine maniyanga' buli'nen?
46. Kemon dem dunya  
ine mahapin?
47. Batangnen batang lindang  
pengenen seputan  
bu ne dawennen pundang.
48. Leppas si ubey kongkong  
magsumbaya' tabekkas.



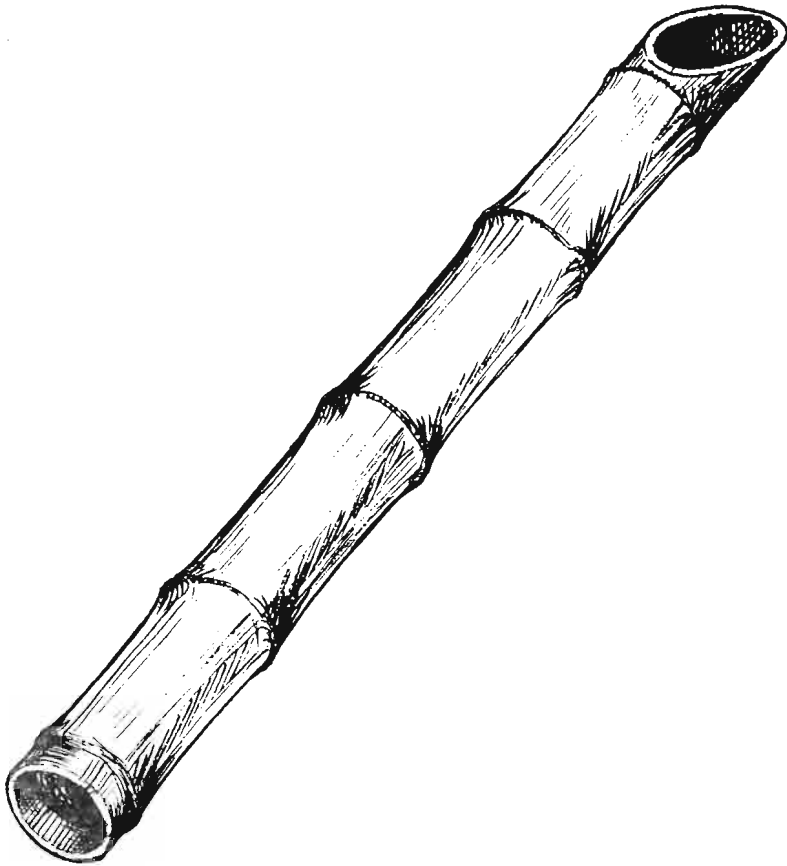
- 45. Pessi
- 46. Bohe'
- 47. Kapaya
- 48. Mata

49. Keyitan binono'in  
matewua'in teggi.

50. Bang ine gey pinagniyatanten?

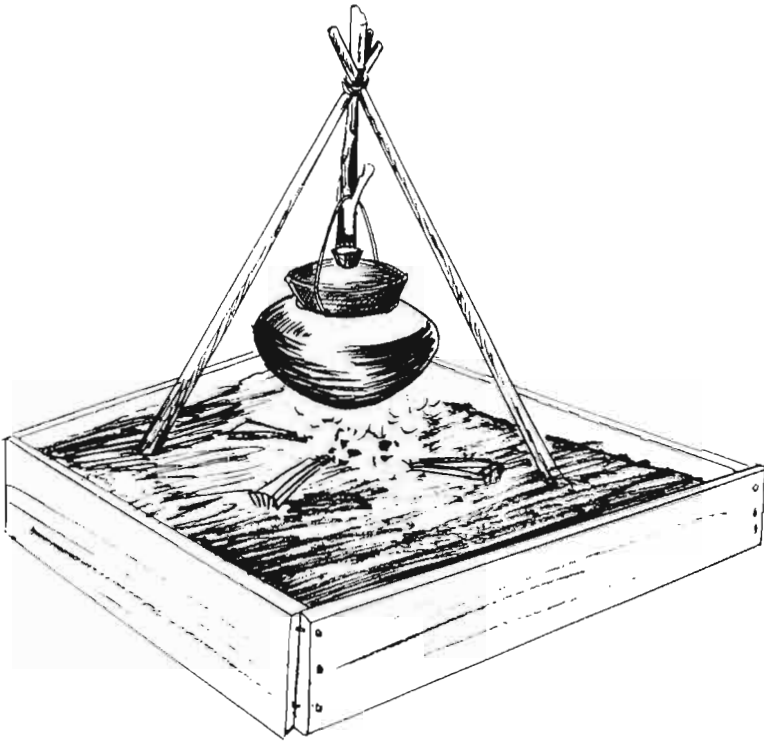
51. Bang duwa'i inusan  
bang mana'ik esso.

52. Besse'-besse' po'onnen  
peyat-peyat tongnen  
peguwa'-peguwa' pote'.



- 49. Magbayu
- 50. Pakilep
- 51. Bolo'
- 52. Sigupan

53. Ta'abutnu du ngo'ot  
eddo'annu kasorok.
54. A'a tellumpu'  
magbono' kemon  
dembuwa' du mangga'i tabono'nen.
55. Kayu dempo'on  
tellu pengenen  
dembuwa' du buwa'nen.
56. Kenna si sumek ley  
nis-nis lemmeknen.



53. Binella

54. Alip (sulat arab)

55. Bangawen

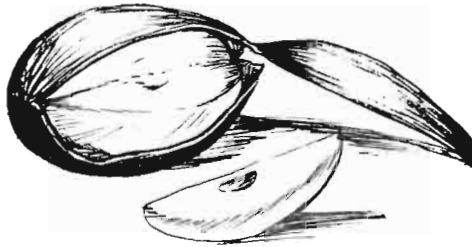
56. Ung sapew

57. Pinippi sa'inen  
magubas anaknen.

58. Bang ilabo' kuwe' tapung  
bang ineddo' kuwe' ba'ung.

59. Duwa'i tukang  
mana'ik tukang.

60. Sappa' bibita  
penno' we' ipa.



- 57. Sinapang duk punglu'nen
- 58. Putu
- 59. Tiked
- 60. Buwahan

61. Pote'nen kuwe' kakana'  
ittemnen kuwe' buling  
sawe'nen magharap magbissa  
bu gey ta'u missa.

62. Niya' ampat a'a  
dembuwa' du saruknen.

63. Niya' dembuwa' biyabas  
pitu' lowangnen.

64. Ampat magpungtina'i  
seddi-seddi bantuknen  
bang pinagdembuwa' luma'  
sali'-sali' ne.



61. Sulat

62. Luma'

63. Kok

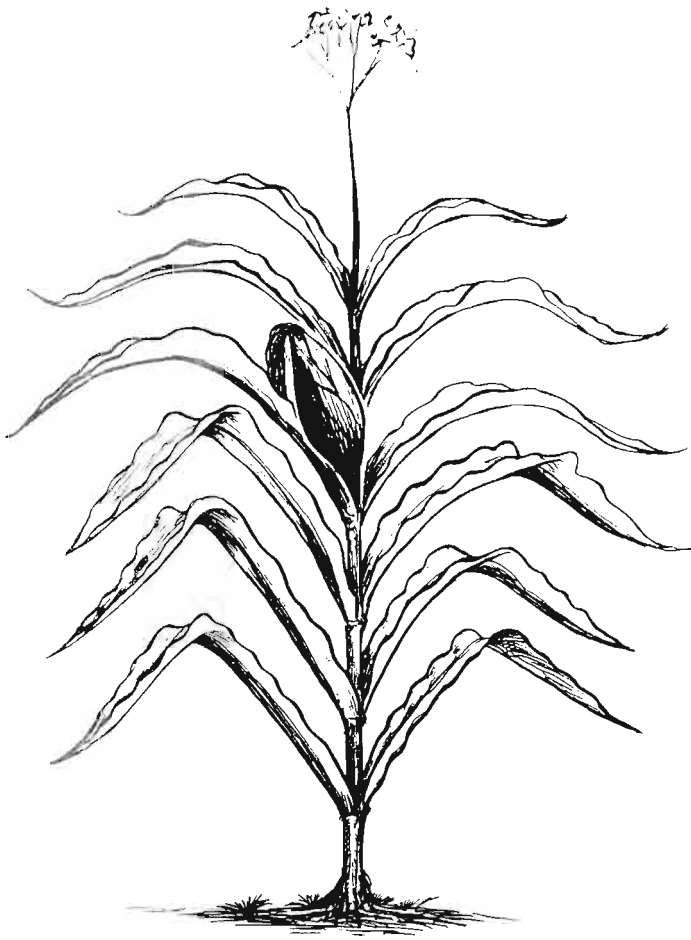
64. Upa'

65. Paley-paley si apu'  
tomo' diyata' punu.
66. A'a bahi' makanak  
iye iye.
67. Bero bero  
Tahak mata' takakan.
68. Binasse' bu ga'i basse'.



- 65. Kutu
- 66. Owak
- 67. Sili
- 68. Dawen ureng

69. Oro'-oro' si apu'  
ga'i tapagoro'te.
70. Kandit-kandit si apu'  
ga'i kapagkanditte.
71. Leppo'-leppo' si apu'  
ga'i kapagleppo'te.
72. Batangnen kuwe' pira  
dawennen kuwe' kenna  
buwa' nakanak.



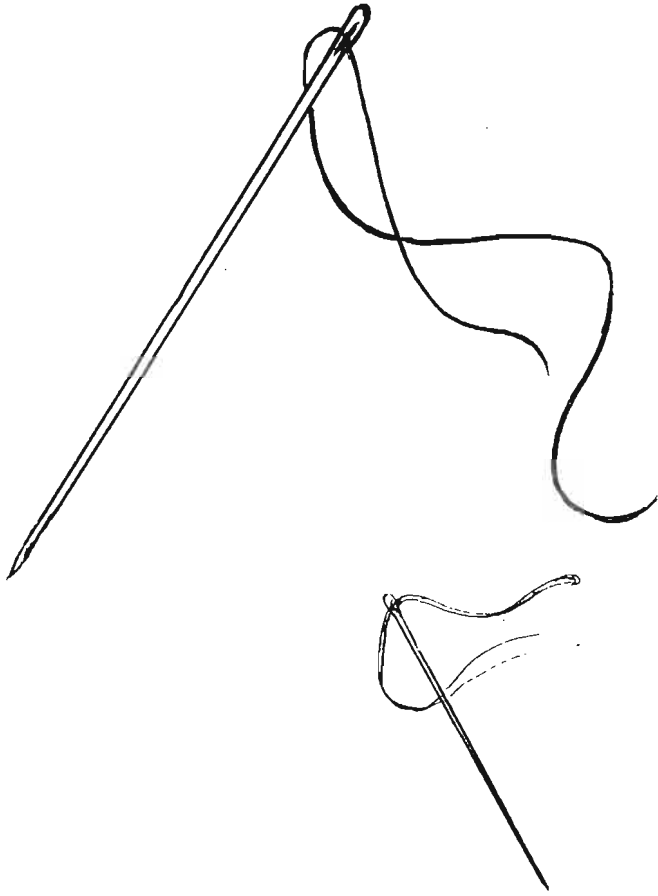
69. Lelipan

70. Sawe

71. Duwi'an

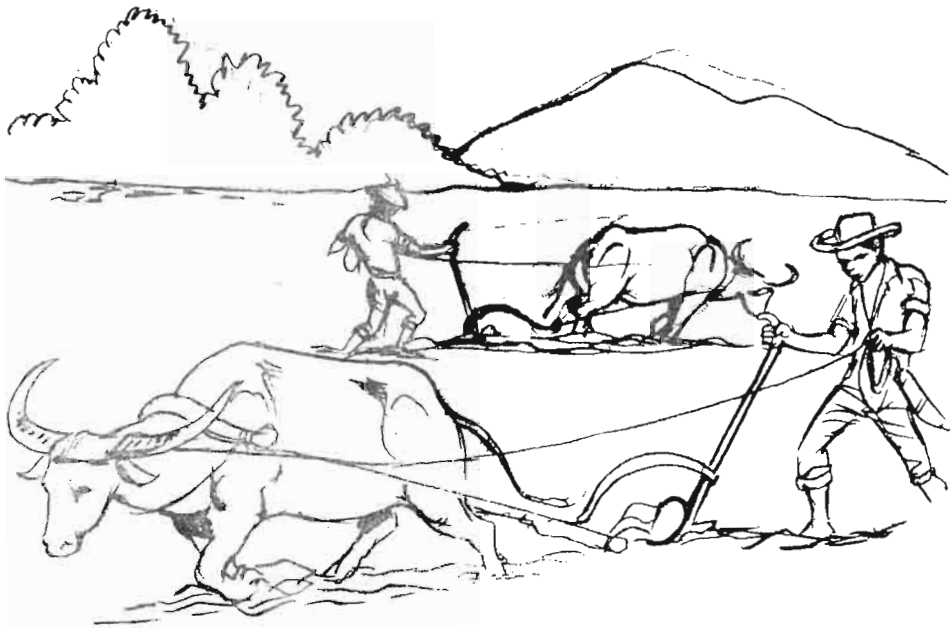
72. Batad

73. Nakanak pote'-pote'  
magkanat duk tina'ine.
74. Niya' dembuwa' a'a  
tungan-tungan gey palekkat si kite.
75. Niya' dembuwa' hinayep  
ellew sangem magjaga si luma'te.
76. Bang takeyipat tabo'o  
bang ta'esseb gey tabo'o.



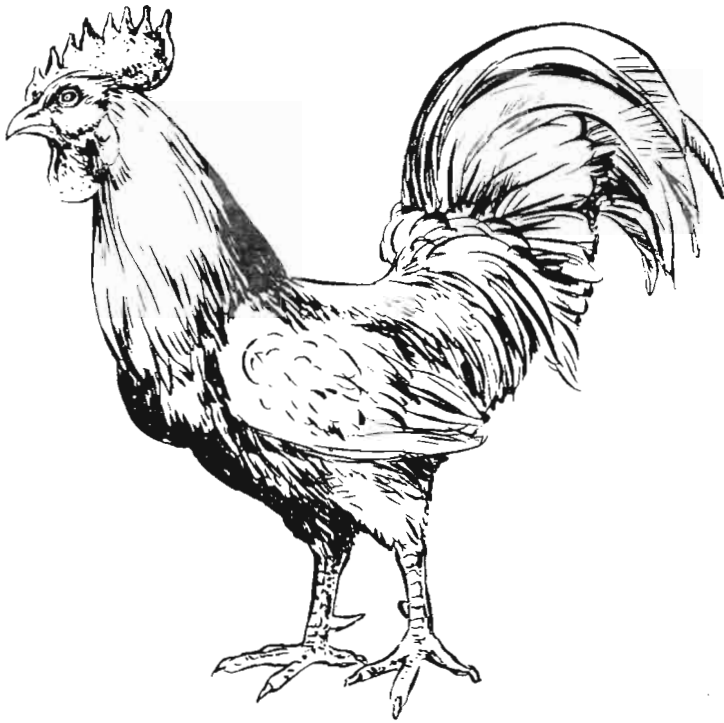
- 73. Dalam
- 74. Lingew
- 75. Asu
- 76. Lukut lapis

77. Niya' dembuwa' settuwa  
koknen hayep  
barannen basi'  
engkonen a'a.
78. Niya' dembuwa' settuwa  
bang lumengngan subey iningketan  
bang pareheng ilekkahan.
79. Niya' dembuwa' panyapte  
gey tagunate  
subey a'a nganggunane.
80. Niya' tamanan essebte tu'u dem dunya  
tala tapit lengngante  
masi-masi kimmatante.



- 77. A'a madja'
- 78. Teompa'
- 79. Alente (Ente)
- 80. Lepohan

81. Bang pakapang pahaya'  
bang pahaya' pakapang.
82. Bang ine sempuk ennem si barante?
83. Tinanemin gey takakan  
patanemanin takakan.
84. Dempo'on du kayuhin  
pitu' lamba dawennen.



81. Lekko'an

82. Gelangan bettis duk tangan

83. Manuk

84. Ellew

85. Atag tinampat baya'ten?
86. Magasek kekkohapan kellowan  
gey magdeggil kuwit.
87. Niya' dembuwa' a'a  
magsaruk pinahaya'.
88. Siguwe kinengkeman  
gey siguwe dem ba'ul.



- 85. Si matate
- 86. Esusen duk deddug
- 87. Putuhan
- 88. Pandan budjak

89. Palangi kekkohapan  
gey basse' koknen.
90. Peliyatut tamanan  
gey basse' bisan ulanan.
91. Barannen kuwe' kingking  
ateynen kuwe' taming.
92. Bang ngettup lette'in  
peguwa' umus pote'in.



- 89. Busey
- 90. Lipettey
- 91. Payung
- 92. Lahing pinompong

93. Magduwa' kekkohapan  
gey ngatu tumandan.
94. Anaknen si narka'  
sa'inen si dunya  
gey halin nusu-nusu.
95. Makut dembuwa' ba'ul  
Tatukidte ngitung.
96. Si narka' koknen  
si dunya bettisnen.



- 93. Paha
- 94. Kemunti'
- 95. Kula'an
- 96. Kuha

97. Isinen si bukut  
kuwitnen diyalem.
98. Kayunen bohe'  
binellahin ebbut.
99. Bang solon nengge  
bang tebba hebba'.
100. Niya' duwem po'on kayu  
tege gamut tege dalid  
iye iye hadjenen  
iye iye langkewnen  
pitu' lamba dawennen  
lime buwa'nen  
tellu kelindeman  
duwe ke'ellewan.

97. Tekulen manuk  
98. Peyta'an  
99. Lusey  
100. Batangnen - ellew duk sangem  
gamutnen - bukag  
dalid - langit  
hadjenen duk langkewnen - sangem duk  
ellew  
dawennen pitu' - ellew pitu'  
buwa'nen lime - waktu lime  
tellu dem kelindeman - magrib, eisa,  
subu  
duwe dem ke'ellewan - luhul duk asal

English translation of the riddles  
and the answers,

1. When it is opened it is closed  
when closed it is open.

The knee.

2. It cuts the grass (slashing motion)  
all day long  
but never finishes with it.

Tail of the water buffalo.

3. Two balls of thread  
reach up to the sky.

The eyes.

4. A white child is left behind  
in the water.

Soapsuds.

5. Going upstairs head first,  
going downstairs head first.

The cat.

6. It is one cut of fish  
and all people cut it.  
Sharpening stone.
7. A small pool with water,  
it is for the lion to dance in.  
Panyam, a rice cake  
cooked in deep oil.
8. When it is night it is a kulempara;  
(a wide flat fish)  
in daytime it is a tembilawang  
(a thin long fish).  
A sleeping mat.
9. A red child  
left behind on the trail.  
The finished betel chew,  
spat out.
10. It crumbles like flour;  
its fruit is like (the shape of)  
a coconut shell.  
Putu, a steamed cassava cake.

11. The mother is still crawling  
the child is sitting.  
A squash.
12. They are people of the same house  
but they don't give water to each other.  
Coconuts.
13. They are people of the same house  
and never see their face.  
The ears.
14. There it goes - here it comes.  
Waves of the sea.
15. When folded it is wide  
when opened up it becomes much smaller.  
The knee.
16. It is a (earthen ware) pot hung up  
its contents are rat droppings.  
A papaya fruit.

17. A hill full of bamboo  
but there are no knots/joints.  
Hair on the head.
18. There is a fork in the road;  
one can't follow both at the same time.  
Trousers.
19. The children of a datu on pilgrimage;  
all of them wear little caps.  
Betel nuts.
20. The children of the datu go out;  
they all sing while they are  
on their way.  
Bees.
21. A mountain turns  
pulled by a vine.  
Corn mill.
22. A vine in a carabao wallow;  
its sprout is golden.  
Wick in kerosene lamp.

23. Its base is wet;  
its end is red.  
A cigarette.
24. What one plants is like teeth;  
its fruit is like an arm.  
Maize/corn.
25. It is planted but it's not a plant;  
it is wrapped but it is not for trade.  
A dead person. (They are  
buried in a shroud without  
a coffin.)
26. It is patterned;  
it is small like the strap of a sheath;  
the fruit is decorated.  
Pineapple.
27. Leaves of the sugar cane called 'luang'  
when they are broken, they don't wither.  
Feathers of a chicken.

28. The knot of the sugar cane  
called belian  
it is used for calling.  
Big brass gong, especially  
the knob in the middle.
29. A chicken there in Manila  
it reaches here to scratch.  
A comb.
30. A kesu' (fresh water fish) like  
an index finger  
its heart is like a winnowing basket.  
An umbrella.
31. When it croaks it's like a ghost  
In daytime it (stops and) thinks deeply.  
An owl or a crazy person.

32. Its fruit is like a belimbing  
its stem is like a belimbing  
one fetches it to eat it  
one fetches it to store it.

Sesame seed.

33. In the beginning of the world it was.  
It can be compared to an egg after  
the chick has hatched.  
There is only one of its kind.

The sun.

34. Its leaves are like banana leaves,  
its base is like gold.

Turmeric.

35. Its leaves are like sugar cane leaves  
its stem like the stem of a  
coconut palm.

Maize/corn.

36. The mother is naked;  
the child is wrapped in a skirt.

Bamboo and its new shoot.

37. Grandfather's basket  
one can't carry it on the head.  
Durian fruit.
38. Withered ends of the bulahan tree;  
they can make sounds like Chinese.  
Fruit bats.
39. A tiny little jar  
inside is yellow rice.  
An egg.
40. One fetches it from a mountain,  
five people take it.  
Mucous from the nose.
41. One hundred people go together;  
all have a red turban.  
Sembulatuk (a bird).
42. When it sits it is tall  
when it stands it is short.  
A dog.

43. A hundred people go together  
they have white turbans.  
Fence posts.
44. When it is folded it is blown up  
when it is unfolded it is wrinkled.  
The knee.
45. What has its bottom on top?  
A fishhook.
46. What is the best in all the world?  
Water.
47. Its stem is like the lindang-tree  
its branches like a blowgun  
and its leaves are like a  
dried fish.  
Papaya tree.
48. Traps at the edge of a ditch  
they snap shut at the same time.  
Eyelids.

49. The shark is fighting  
the ones that are hit are small fish.  
Pounding rice with  
a pestle.
50. What is it that one does not need  
to think about?  
Blinking with the eyes.
51. When it goes down from the house  
it is hungry,  
when it goes up it is full.  
A waterpole.
52. It is a bit wet at the base  
its beak is red  
what comes out is white.  
Cigarette.
53. You can reach it with your hand  
but you get/fetch it with a long  
instrument.  
Cooked food out of a pot.

54. There are 30 people  
they all "bono'"  
only one isn't able to "bono'".  
(There are two homonyms of bono'  
1. to fight  
2. the sign 'sukun' in the  
Arabic alphabet.)  
The letter Alif.

55. A tree-  
one trunk, three branches,  
one fruit.  
Tripod on stove.

56. There is a fish in Sumeek over there  
(a place name)  
its fat is dripping.  
Gutter on a roof.

57. The mother is held in the arms  
the child is running.  
Gun and bullet.

58. When one puts it in, it is like flour,  
when one fetches it, it is like a  
coconut shell.

Putu, steamed cassava.

59. Going down it is bald  
going up it is bald.

The heel.

60. An oval-round betelbox  
it is full of betelnut sections.

Lansones (a fruit).

61. Its whiteness is like a gravecloth  
its blackness is like soot  
its companions turn to each other  
talking

but they don't know how to speak.

Writing/written things.

62. There are four people  
but they have only one hat.

A house.

63. There is a certain watermelon  
it has seven holes.  
The head.
64. There are four brothers,  
they all look different;  
if they are put into one house  
they are all the same.  
Betelchew.
65. Grandfather's rice  
it grows on the mountain.  
Lice.
66. Old people and children  
they are all the same.  
Crows.
67. It can be eaten  
cooked or uncooked  
ripe or unripe.  
Sili (little red peppers).

68. It makes wet but it isn't wet.

The gabi-leaf.

69. Grandfather's little knife

one cannot cut with it.

Centipede.

70. Grandfather's belt

one cannot put it on.

A snake.

71. Grandfather's earthen ware pot

one cannot use it as a pot.

Durian fruit.

72. Its stem is like a pira-knife

its leaves are like fish

the fruit is a child.

Maize/corn.

73. There is a white child (silvery)

its intestines are trailing after him.

Needle and thread.

74. There is a certain person  
wherever we go we never get  
rid of him.

The shadow.

75. There is a certain animal  
day and night it is active  
in the house.

The dog.

76. If one doesn't think of it  
one takes it along;  
if one remembers  
one doesn't take it.

Stickers, seed of grass.

77. There is a certain creature  
its head is an animal  
its body is iron  
its tail is a person.

Somebody plowing.

78. There is a certain creature  
when it walks it should be tied  
when it stops it should be loosened.

The shoe.

79. One has a certain possession,  
oneself doesn't have use for it  
other people use it.  
One's name.
80. There is one thing that one  
remembers most here in this world  
if one goes far or near  
one thinks of it all the more.  
The cooking place.
81. If one lies on one's stomach  
it looks up;  
if one looks up it lies flat  
on the floor.  
Hollow of the knee.
82. What is it that one has sixteen  
of on one's body?  
The spaces between  
fingers and toes.
83. The thing that's planted  
one cannot eat  
where it is planted one eats.  
A chicken and its feathers.

84. It is one tree trunk  
it has seven leaves.  
The day.
85. Where is the grave of one's  
wishes made?  
In one's eyes.
86. They are clothed in the same  
garment all day and night  
but never touch their skin.  
Two beams in weaving.
87. There is a person that wears  
his hat the wrong side up.  
The vessel for making  
putu (steamed cassava)  
(half a coconutshell is placed  
on it to make a bowl).
88. One can hold it in one's fist  
but it doesn't fit in a wooden  
chest,  
A spear.

89. It swims all day long  
but its head doesn't get wet.  
A paddle.
90. The very best torch;  
it doesn't get wet even if  
rained on.  
A firefly.
91. Its body is like the little finger  
its heart like a shield.  
An umbrella.
92. When the lightning strikes  
white sand comes out.  
A coconut cut in half.
93. It carries a load all day long  
and can never arrive.  
A shelf.

94. The child is in hell  
the mother is in the world  
she/it never stops nursing.  
Camote, sweet potato.
95. A wooden chest full of black ants  
but we are willing to count them.  
The Koran.
96. The head is in hell  
the feet in the world.  
A ladle.
97. The muscles are on the outside  
the skin inside.  
A chicken's gizzard.
98. The wood is water  
what is cooked is fire.  
Kerosene lamp.
99. At high tide it stands  
at low tide it falls over.  
Sea weed.

100. There are two trees  
they have roots  
they have buttress roots  
their size is the same  
they have seven leaves  
five pieces of fruit  
three are in darkness  
two are in the light.

The trees - day and night  
roots - under ground (darkness)  
buttress roots -  
    can be seen (light)  
size and length are the same -  
    day and night are of the  
    same length  
seven leaves - seven days  
five fruits - five prayertimes  
three in darkness - magrib  
                    eisa  
                    subu  
two in daytime - luhul  
                    asal