

# TATANA' PHONEMICS

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Tatana' language is spoken in the Kuala Penyu District of the state of Sabah, Malaysia.<sup>1</sup> The Kuala Penyu district is located on the Klias Peninsula, in the southwestern part of Sabah. The number of Tatana' speakers is estimated to be about 5,500. The Tatana' people are usually referred to as Kadazans (or Dusuns) by people outside this ethnic group. The name **Tatana'** means 'the people of the earth'. According to their legend about their origin, the people dug a hole in the ground and hid there from a belligerent neighbouring tribe, thus acquiring this name.

**PHONOLOGICAL DESCRIPTIONS**  
**of**  
**SABAH LANGUAGES**

**Studies from ten languages:**

Bonggi  
Ida'an  
Kadazan/Dusun  
Kalabuan  
Kimaragang  
Labuk-Kinabatangan Kadazan  
Lotud  
Tagal  
Tatana'  
Tombonuwo

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