

**THE CROCODILE OF LAERISA KAYELI**  
*Buaya Laerisa Kayeli*

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**Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
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# THE CROCODILE OF LAERISA KAYELI

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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

Cerita Rakyat dari Maluku

# Buaya Laerisa Kayeli



Ditulis oleh

**Asrif**

BUAYA LEARISA KAYELI

Penulis : Asrif  
Penyunting : Luh Anik Mayani  
Ilustrator : Maria Martha Parman  
Penata Letak: Papa Yon

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1. KESUSASTRAAN RAKYAT-MALUKU
2. CERITA RAKYAT MALUKU

## 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**

The folklore of Learisa Kayeli Crocodile is very popular in the Moluccan community, especially those who settled on Ambon island and Lease islands. Learisa Kayeli Crocodile was told to live on the river Learisa Kayeli, the island of Haruku. The crocodile behaves kindly towards local residents by making his back as stepping media for people who want to cross the river. Besides that, the crocodile has a high attitude of solidarity against other evil animals (giant snakes).

Kindness, solidarity and courage are shown by Learisa Kayeli Crocodile is what makes this story became very popular with Maluku people. This folktale is also closely related to the myth of lompa fish which breeds in the waters of the island of Haruku. Every year, in certain months, the people of Harukui carry out rituals of lompa fishing in the estuary of Learisa Kayeli river. The lompa fish is said to have originated from the island of Seram brought by Crocodile Learisa Kayeli because of his services that have conquered a disturbing giant snake Seram crocodile.

The amount of educational content puts the story of Learisa Kayeli Crocodile as a folk tale that should be preserved and always bequeathed to the younger generation. The story needs to be arranged in an interesting and necessary way supported by the appropriate images to get the attention from young people to read it.

Ambon, April 2016  
Asrif

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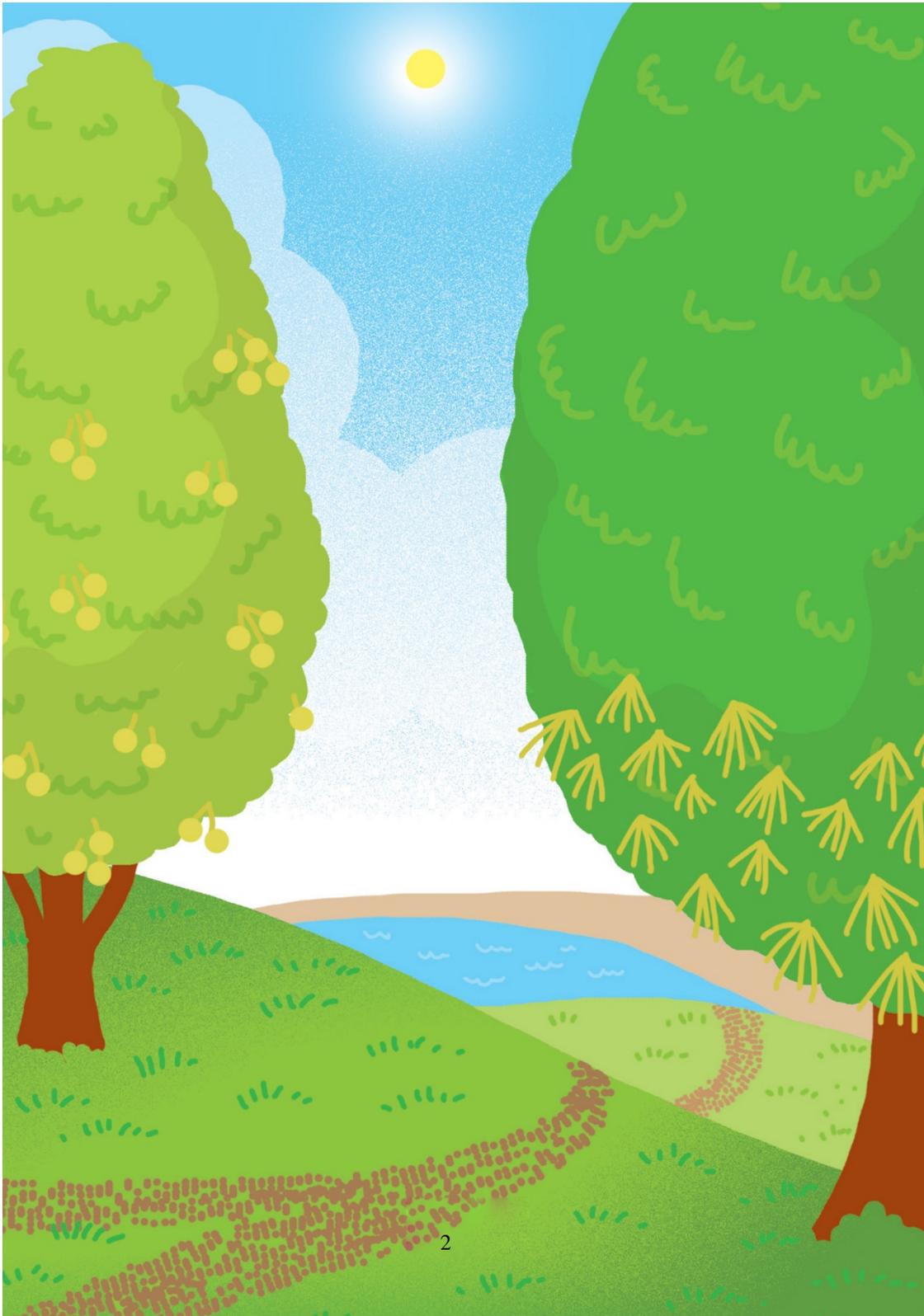
## **THE CROCODILE OF LAERISA KAYELI**

### **The Beautiful Haruku Island**

In the east of Ambon Island, there was a small island called Haruku Island. The island was famous for its fertility. The hills were grown with leafy trees. The plants grew well. Cloves and nutmegs bore abundant fruits at all times. That was why many people of Haruku Island planted cloves and nutmegs. These two plants were the leading plants that gave profits to local people.

Apart from the fertile land, Haruku Island also had crystal-clear rivers. The local people around it kept the rivers from being contaminated by garbage. The fish laid eggs and bred splendidly. The crystal-clear rivers became a proper living place for fish and other aquatic creatures.

Haruku Island was fertile island. The plants produced abundant fruits. The rivers produced clean and clear water. The sea produced bountiful supply of fish. The community lived in peace and helped each other. And that was Haruku Island, a fertile, alluring, and peaceful island.



## **The Queen of Laerisa Kayeli River**

Haruku Island was composed of several lands. One of which was called the land of Aman Harukui land. In the land of Aman Harukui, there was a stream that local people called Learisa Kayeli River. The stream water was clear with plenty of fish living in it.

Other than being a living place for many fish, a female crocodile also lived in Learisa Kayeli River. The crocodile was huge. Her teeth seemed sharp; her tail was long and strong; her skin was hard and thick like steel; her eyes sharply watched and oversaw her surroundings. That crocodile was extremely strong and mighty.

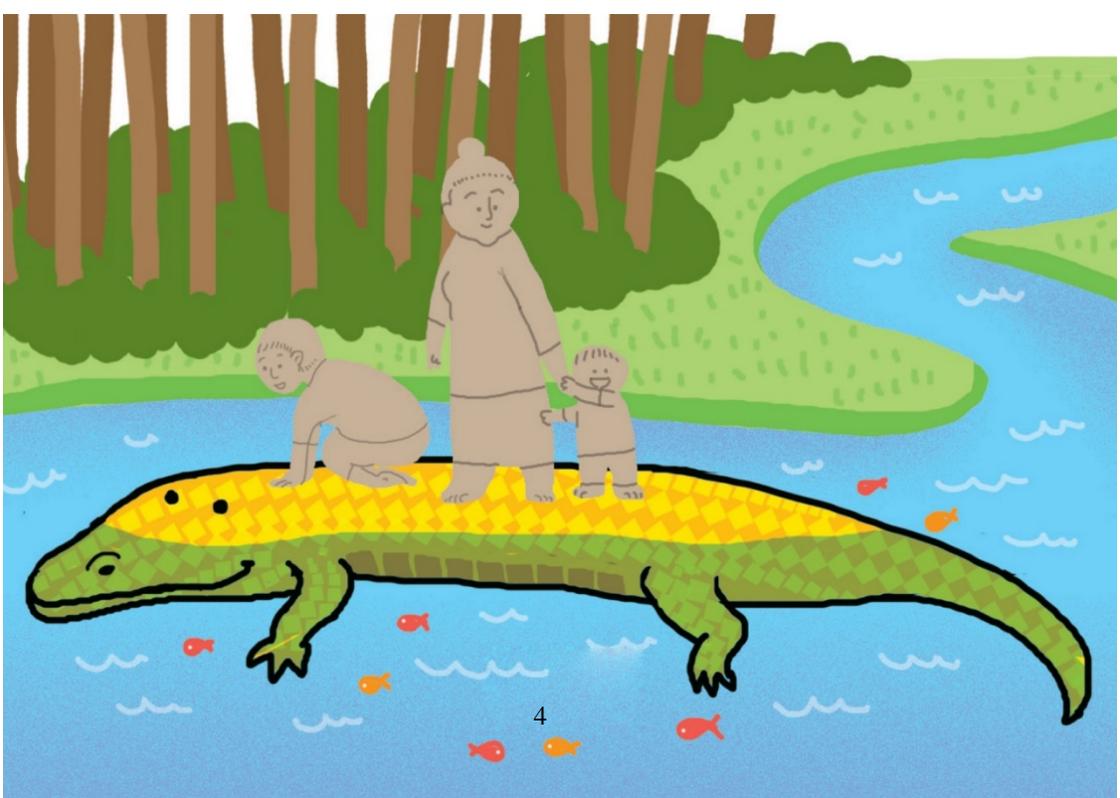
Despite gruesome-looking, the Crocodile of Learisa Kayeli River never attacked the people in the vicinity of the river. On the contrary, the crocodile liked to help the people who would cross the river. When the river overflowed, the people had difficulty to cross the river. At such times, the crocodile came to the riverbank.

She let his back to be stepped on by the people trying to cross the river. Every time someone wanted to cross the river, the crocodile would come help them.

Since the Crocodile of Learisa Kayeli River liked to help the people, the crocodile was dubbed the Queen of Learisa Kayeli

River. She was always watching and exploring every single part of the river. The crocodile became the sole guard and ruler along the river.

The helpful behavior of the crocodile became famous all across the land of Aman Harukui. So, no wonder if she was called the Queen of Learisa Kayeli River. Besides her huge body, the crocodile also liked to help the community. It was done by the crocodile to maintain good relationship with the surrounding communities. Human beings and animals indeed must look after each other to create a harmonious, peaceful, and quiet condition.



The kindness of the crocodile was repaid by the kindness of the people living in Aman Harukui land. After getting a lift on the back of the crocodile, the people would put a ring on the crocodile's toe. The ring was made of such woven fiber that it formed a ring in a size of the crocodile's toe. The people put a ring on the crocodile's toe as a sign of gratitude for her kindness. And that was the way the people of Aman Harukui land to maintain good relationship with the crocodile.

## **The Battle between Seram Island's Crocodiles and the Giant Snake**

Seram Island was located in the north of Haruku Island. In the western part of Seram Island, a number of crocodiles lived in harmony and peace. They looked for food together, shared, helped, and protected each other.

But, on a day, the peace of those crocodiles was disturbed by the presence of a snake with large and long body. It was a giant snake. That giant snake wanted to take over the living place of Seram Island's crocodiles. He wanted that Seram Island's crocodiles would get out of their dwelling place. The crocodiles of Seram Island certainly did not accept the expectation of that giant snake. Ultimately, there a friction happened between Seram Island's crocodiles and the giant snake.

"You all have to leave this area," commanded the giant snake. "Now this area is under my territory," he continued.

"O giant snake, why do you tell us to go away from the place where we were hatched and grew up?" asked one of the crocodiles.

"I want to reign over this area because there is plenty of food here," the giant snake answered the question of Seram Island's crocodiles.

The area inhabited by Seram Island's crocodiles was really abundant with food. There were plenty of wild animals, such as deer, boars, dogs, and birds. Similarly, in the river, there were various species of fish which became the food of Seram Island's crocodiles.

"If you do not get out of this area, I will bite you to your death," threatened the giant snake.

"We're not afraid! We shall defend this region. We won't leave this place that easy," replied the crocodile of Seram Island. It was not long before the giant snake attacked Seram Island's crocodiles. Seram Island's crocodiles did just accept it. They retaliated at the attack of the giant snake.

The dispute between Seram Island's crocodiles and the giant snake became a never-ending fight. They fought in a place called Tanjung Sial. They came face to face and attacked each other. The giant snake wanted to defeat Seram Island's crocodiles; and the other way around, Seram Island's crocodiles also wanted to conquer the giant snake. Both sides fought with their might and main. They attacked each other and defended themselves. Day and night, they fought to no end.

After going through the battle for some time, Seram Island's crocodiles, one by one, were left exhausted and wounded. The crocodiles were agitated by their opponent, the giant snake. Some



of the crocodiles were left wounded, some dying, and some were even killed. Others escaped from the battle area. The crocodiles of Seram Island were not capable of defeating the giant snake.

“We have to get help from another land,” yelled one of the crocodiles who looked tired after the fight against the giant snake.

“All right, this giant snake is really powerful. He launched vicious attack on us. Many of our brothers have fallen. We have to go find help immediately,” told the leader of Seram Island’s crocodiles.

Those Seram Island’s crocodiles were afraid of the attack of the giant snake, and then they decided to leave Tanjung Sial to look for help. Those crocodiles needed outsiders to help them repel the giant snake that left a trail of destruction in their territory.

“We should go to Haruku Island to ask help from the Queen of Learisa Kayeli,” said one of the crocodiles. “The Queen is our only hope.”

“They eventually made agreement to ask help from the Queen of Learisa Kayeli River, and then they swam together to Haruku Island to meet the Queen of Learisa Kayeli River, the giant crocodile.

## **Sad News from Seram Island**

After a long journey, Seram Island's crocodiles finally reached the waters of Haruku Island. They directly went to Learisa Kayeli River to meet the Queen. They intended to complain the behavior of giant snake that had disturbed the peace of Seram Island's crocodiles.

Before the Queen of Learisa Kayeli, the crocodiles of Seram Island expressed the suffering they endured. They told her about the sad news, the news on the defeat from the giant snake. Those Seram Island's crocodiles told the story about the root of the problem they dealt with. They also reported that several Seram Island's crocodiles were injured and were even killed in the grasp of giant snake.

“We, the crocodile from Seram Island, would like to ask for your Majesty's help,” told one of Seram Island crocodiles, representing other crocodiles.

At the meeting, Crocodile Island crocodile told the starting point of the conflict with the giant snake. The crocodile of Seram Island stated that the giant snake was very conceited and disturbed the lives of Seram Island's crocodiles. Therefore, they requested the help from the Queen of Learisa Kayeli River to drive the giant snake away from the living place of Seram Island's crocodiles.

When Seram Island’s crocodiles arrived there, the crocodile of Learisa Kayeli was heavily pregnant. The Queen wanted to take rest while waiting to give birth. She did not want to do much activity, let alone to engage in a fight. But, the Crocodile of Learisa Kayeli did not have a heart to either see or hear the news that her brothers from Seram Island were dying or killed by the giant snake. After thought about it for a while, with all his determination, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli declared that she would fight for the crocodiles of Seram Island.

“I will help you all, my brothers from Seram Island,” replied the Queen of Learisa Kayeli River.



“Take me where the giant snake is!” continued the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

After hearing the response of the Queen of Learisa Kayeli, Seram Island’s crocodiles cheered, encouraging the Queen.

“Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli!”

“Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli!”

“Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli!”

The crocodiles of Seram Island swayed their tails, splashing the water of Learisa Kayeli River as a sign of support for the Queen. They expected that the Queen of Learisa Kayeli River was able to repel the giant snake that disturbed the peaceful lives of Seram Island’s crocodiles. They wanted a peaceful life without the disturbance inflicted by the giant snake.

“Show me where that giant snake is!” continued the Queen of Learisa Kayeli River.

## **The Fierce Battle between the Queen of Learisa Kayeli and the Giant Snake**

Along with Seram Island's crocodiles, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli left for Tanjung Sial. For days, they swam through the waves and fought the storm until finally arrived at Tanjung Sial.

In Tanjung Sial, the giant snake was seen hanging up on a large tree branch by the beach. He was overseeing the animals passed beneath him. From the same tree, he saw the appearance of Seram Island's crocodiles, returning to the area of Tanjung Sial. However, this time, those crocodiles came with a huge crocodile who was none other than the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

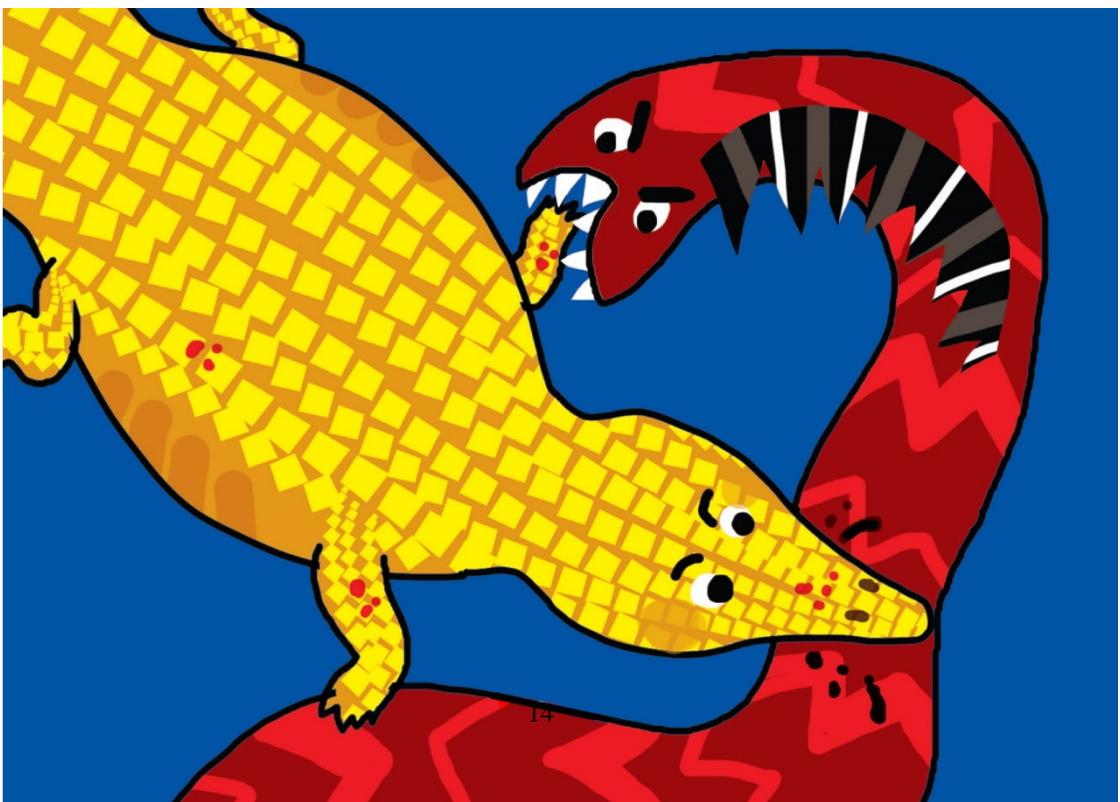
When he saw the arrival of Seram Island's crocodiles with the Queen of Learisa Kayeli, the giant snake's vanity grew even bolder. The giant snake rattled to intimidate the crocodiles of Seram Island and the Queen. It moved from one branch to another. The giant snake purely intended to attack the Seram Island's crocodiles and the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

Once noticing the giant snake's gesture that was about to attack, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli did not dither for one bit. The Queen kept swimming. She approached the tree where the giant snake perched.

Beneath the tree, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli suddenly came under attack by the giant snake, making a clash was inevitable. A

fierce battle ensued between the giant snake and the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

The giant snake incessantly launched attacks against the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. His long body was wrapped around the body of the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. The giant snake tried to break her bones with a vengeance. Her neck did not escape the attack of the giant snake. The giant snake repeatedly bit her neck. However, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli would not give up so easily. Despite the exhaustion after a long journey from Haruku Island to Seram Island, she fiercely fought against the giant snake because she did not wish to disappoint her kind. She didn't want all crocodiles to



subdue to the giant snake that disturbed the peace of Seram Island's crocodiles; therefore, she fought her might to conquer the giant snake.

In the middle of the battle, the giant snake threatened the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

“I will defeat you, just like I did to Seram Island's crocodiles,” shouted the giant snake with a swagger. “You will suffer the same fate as the crocodiles of Seram Island,” he went on.

The Queen of Learisa Kayeli was not afraid. She remained calm, defending herself from the attacks from giant snake. Every time a chance came, she retaliated to the attacks of the giant snake. She did not want to recklessly encounter the attacks and intimidation from her opponent. She was always on alert and tried to avoid the deadly attack of the giant snake.

The battle between the Queen of Learisa Kayeli and the giant snake was witnessed by crocodiles of Seram Island. The crocodiles of Seram Island were worrying that the Queen of Learisa Kayeli would lose since the giant snake was extremely strong. Not to mention, she was pregnant and exhausted after a long journey. The crocodiles of Seram Island were very anxious. They prayed that she would be granted with strength to defeat the giant snake.

After a long time attacking each other, it seemed that Queen Learisa Kayeli was wounded from the giant snake's bite and twist. She was dying. The giant snake who thought that he was about to win the battle began to gloat. As the giant snake was gloating about it, she saw an opportunity to attack.

With all power, the long tail of the Queen of Learisa Kayeli was struck against the body of the giant snake. She repeatedly launched attacks. The giant snake was in agony and ultimately dead.

## **The Victory of the Queen of Learisa Kayeli**

After seeing that the giant snake was dead, the crocodiles of Seram Island cheered happily, supporting the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

“Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli! Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli!” shouted the crocodiles of Seram Island.

The crocodiles of Seram Island wished their gratitude to the Queen of Learisa Kayeli who had conquered the giant snake. They rejoiced over the death of the giant snake which had killed many Seram Island’s crocodiles. Some of the crocodiles also suffered injuries from the violent giant snake’s bite.

“Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli!”

“Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli!”

The crocodiles of Seram Island endlessly yelled the name of the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. The screams of Seram Island’s crocodiles rumbled throughout Tanjung Sial. They wanted to announce to all the creatures nearby Tanjung Sial that the giant snake had been conquered by the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. The

screams of crocodiles were their support, encouragement, and gratitude to the Queen of Learisa Kayeli who had fought to the limit to defeat the giant snake.

The crocodiles of Seram Island once again fancied a tranquil life without any intrusion from the giant snake. The death of giant snake meant that a safe and serene life would come to reality. Those crocodiles would get back searching for food without fear of getting disturbed by the giant snake. Little crocodiles could get back to play in the waters of Tanjung Sial as they pleased. They would be free from the disturbance inflicted by the giant snake. In short, they would feel safe, calm, and serene from then on.



## **The Price of Victory**

The defeat of the giant snake must be paid in high price by the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. The whole body of the Queen was wounded with the giant snake's bites. Blood dripped from few parts of her body. Besides, her energy was completely drained; and as a result, her condition weakened.

Despite this, the crocodile of Learisa Kayeli kept showing her rigidity. She did not want to sadden Seram Island's crocodiles if they saw her weakened physical condition. She had to appear strong in the presence of Seram Island's crocodiles; she must be hard as nails.

"I'm fine," the Queen of Learisa Kayeli told Seram Island's crocodiles.

"Now, I'm going to get back home to Haruku Island," continued the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

The Queen of Learisa Kayeli began preparing for a long journey to Haruku Island. Her remaining energy would be used to swim across the ocean of Seram Island to Lawaisa Kayeli River on Haruku Island. She also hoped that the baby in her womb would be fine until the time to give birth.

After hearing the words of the Queen of Learisa Kayeli, those Seram Island's crocodiles were sad. They did not know how to

repay her good deed. The Queen suffered from injuries and became tired for helping them beat the giant snake. She had recreated peaceful situation in the area of Tanjung Sial. She had helped them, rescuing their lives from disturbance caused by the giant snake.

“O Queen, please take a rest for a few days here. Your Majesty needed to take a rest to restore your energy. Also, your Majesty’s wounds need some treatment,” pleaded the crocodiles of Seram Island.

“Thank you, my brothers. These wounds don’t mean a thing; they will recover soon,” replied the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

“I must get back to Haruku Island; besides, I’ve left Learisa Kayeli River for a long time,” the Queen added.

The crocodiles of Seram Island felt very sad, particularly because the Queen of Learisa Kayeli was heavily pregnant at that moment. The Queen was going to take a long journey while pregnant with wounds all over her body. The crocodiles of Seram Island wished that the Queen would stay with them at Tanjung Sial. But, it was impossible since the Queen defended her decision to return to her wonderful and peaceful homeland, Learisa Kayeli River in Aman Harukui, Haruku Island.

“O Queen, we are very happy with your Majesty’s help in beating the giant snake. But, we are heartbroken as your Majesty suffer

the wounds from the bite of that evil snake,” said one of Seram Island’s crocodiles.

“My brothers, these wounds are nothing,” replied Queen Learisa Kayeli.

“The most important thing is to recreate peace in this region,” continued the Queen. After listening to the Queen’s answer, Seram Island’s crocodiles were deeply moved. They admired the sensible and wise figure of the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. The wounded Queen did not complain and ask for empathy in return for her service in beating the giant snake. And that is the character of a true leader. The leader will always work without expecting any reward from the people whom they help.

## **A Sign of Friendship from Seram Island**

Before leaving Tanjung Sial, Seram Island's crocodiles gave souvenir to Queen of Learisa Kayeli. The souvenirs were in the form of three species of fish, many of which lived in the waters of Tanjung Sial. The fishes were *Lompa*, *Make*, and *Parang-parang* (wolf herrings). Those fishes will be food supply for the Queen of Learisa Kayeli during her trip to Haruku Island. Moreover, she was at late stage of her pregnancy and waiting for labor. Seram Island's crocodiles did not want her to make every effort to find food for her baby, as she still sustained injuries from the fight against the giant snake.

Queen of Learisa Kayeli who was about to bid farewell to return to Haruku Island was surprised to be given with *Lompa* fish, *Make* fish, and wolf herrings. The Queen did not expect any reward from Seram Island's crocodiles at all. She wholeheartedly helped the crocodiles of Seram Island who were put under pressure by the giant snake.

"O my brothers, I'm still strong enough to find myself food," said the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. "Please, take these fishes for the crocodiles here to eat. You really need food after being disturbed by the presence of that giant snake for so long," continued the Queen wisely.

She politely refused the gift from the crocodiles of Seram Island. She did not want to bother other crocodiles. In her homeland, Haruku Island, there was plenty of food for her. Thereby, she rejected the fishes given by Seram Island's crocodiles. Despite the Queen's refusal, Seram Island's crocodiles still begged her to accept their gift. They did not find difficulties in finding these fishes for the Queen. *Lompa* fish, *Make* fish, and wolf herrings were very much available at Tanjung Sial. They gave the fishes as a tribute to the Queen who had sacrificed her energy and time to beat the giant snake. Thanks to the help of Queen Learisa Kayeli, now Seram Island's crocodiles could live peacefully again.

"O Queen, please bring these fishes to Haruku Land," told one of the Seram Island's crocodiles who kept on hoping that the Queen of Learisa Kayeli would receive their fishes gift. "These fishes will not only be your food during the trip, but an evidence of good relationship between us in Tanjung Sial and the Queen of Learisa River Kayeli," Seram Island's crocodile went on. Seram Island's crocodiles really hoped that the Queen of Learisa Kayeli would accept the fishes given by them.

Although the Queen of Learisa Kayeli had refused for a few times, Seram Island's crocodiles kept asking her to accept their gift. She finally gave up and accepted the gift. She did wish to let them down.

"Okay! I'm accepting these fishes."

“Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli! Long live the Queen of Learisa Kayeli!”

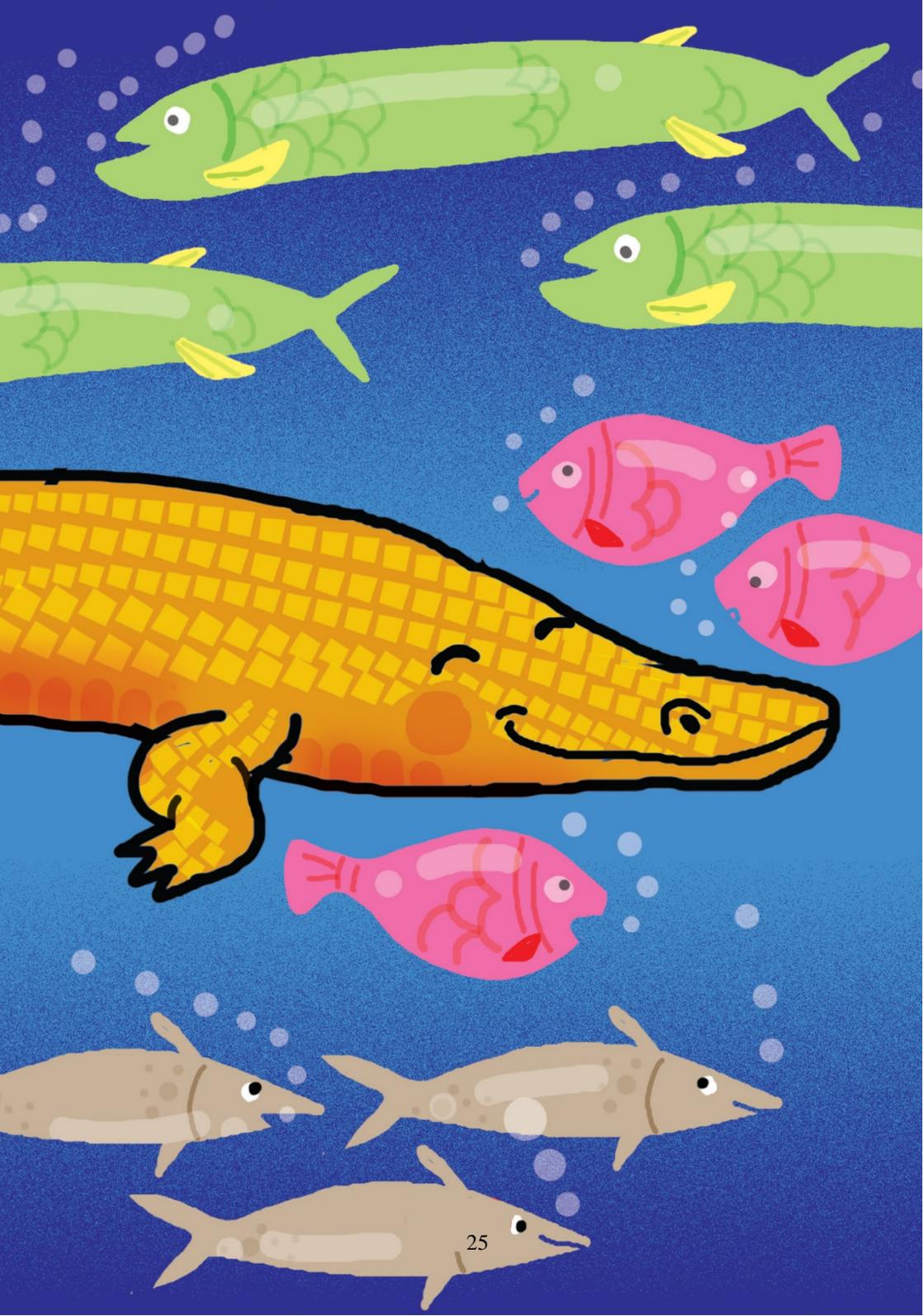
Seram Island’s crocodiles yelled the name of Queen Laerisa Kayeli. They were very happy as the fishes they gave were finally accepted by the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. Those fishes could be a sign of their fraternal bond.

After accepting the fishes given by the Seram Island’s crocodiles, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli asked permission to leave the area of Tanjung Sial. She would return home to Haruku Island. She could not wait to soak up in Kayeli Learisa River. She also wanted to meet the people who always needed her help to get them across Learisa Kayeli River.

She wanted to feel the feet of the people who made her back as a foothold while crossing the river. The Queen missed everything about Kayeli Learisa River.

The Queen was the leaving Tanjung Sial, together with *Lompa* fish, *Make* fish, and wolf herrings. The Queen swam towards Haruku Island. They slowly got further away from Tanjung Sial. In the long journey across the waters of Tanjung Sial to Haruku Island, wide open sea was seen before them.

After swimming for a moment, the Queen stopped and turned her head towards Tanjung Sial. She once again looked back on the events during her stay in Tanjung Sial. She recalled Seram



Island's crocodiles which lived in that area. She once again had flashbacks to her battle against the giant snake. The Queen was nearly killed by the attacks of that evil snake. Again, all of those events sprung to her mind.

The Queen did not want to look back on everything occurred at Tanjung Sial for too long. She carried on her the journey to Haruku Island. Haruku Island was still far away. Together with the *lompa* fish, *make* fish, and wolf herring loyal fish, the Queen swam through the heavy currents of the ocean. She ignored the storm, rain, and lightning. The Queen kept swimming towards Haruku Island. *Lompa* fish, *Make* fish, and wolf herrings swam together in unity on either side of her body, crossing the sea between Tanjung Sial and Haruku Island.

## **The Death and Birth**

Little by little, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli and a school of *Lompa* fish, *Make* fish, and wolf herrings began to swim away from the coast of Tanjung Sial. The Queen was leaving the cape that once became the battle arena between her and the giant snake. She hoped the lives of Tanjung Sial's crocodiles would return to harmony as it was before the arrival of the giant snake.

After many days of swimming, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli, along with the fishes gifted by Seram Island's crocodiles, ultimately arrived on the coast of Liang Beach, Ambon Island. On that white sandy beach, the Queen did not stop for a rest. She chose to continue the journey to Haruku Island. She wanted to arrive soon in Haruku Island, in Learisa Kayeli River; it was the river where she lived her life. She wanted to treat her wounds in Kayeli Learisa River. She wanted to take rest in the river while waiting for giving birth.

From Liang Beach, the Queen continued her journey. He crept along Liang Beach until she finally arrived at Waai Beach. The Queen then swam along that beach; and just as she did on Liang Beach, she did not want to take a rest on Waai Beach. She wanted to get herself to Haruku Island soon.

Apparently, while swimming across Waai Beach, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli became extremely tired. Blood continued to drip

from her wounds. Bruises on her body due to that giant snake coil were still felt painful. The long journey across the ocean from Tanjung Sial was highly tiresome for her. The Queen was terribly exhausted, her body weakened, she was dying.

The Queen couldn't continue the journey. She decided to take a break at Waai Beach. Her weakening body needed time to take a rest in order to get fit. She was also very worried about the baby she carried. She didn't want something unwanted happen to her baby. For this, the Queen chose to stop over at Waai Beach for a rest. She lied down on the white-sanded Waai Beach.

As the people of Waai headed for the beach, they were shocked to see a huge, dying crocodile. The crocodile was the Queen of Learisa Kayeli. They were very saddened to see the crocodile. But, they did not know how to help the Crocodile. Seeing many people surrounded him, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli said, "Get a stick, and poke it into my navel!"

The Queen of Learisa Kayeli seemed to feel that she wouldn't survive for long. He had told the secret to kill her to the people of Waai Beach. She had never revealed her secret to anyone. For all this time, she had been keeping that secret under wraps.

The people of Waai Beach who felt sorry to see the condition of the Queen of Learisa Kayeli finally did the suggestion of the Queen. They picked up a stick and poked it into her navel. A

moment later, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli was dead. On Waai Beach, the Queen Learisa Kayeli took her last breath. The Queen who was famous for her generosity died on the way home from Seram Island. The Queen died from the giant snake's coil and bite wounds at Tanjung Sial.

Before taking her last breath, the Queen Learisa Kayeli had time to give birth to her baby on Waai Beach. Her baby was born safely. The body of her baby looked fit and healthy. From then on, she would be the Queen's successor in Harukui Land.

For several days, that young crocodile learned to swim on Waai Beach. Despite only beginning to learn, she was able to swim quickly. The young crocodile learned to dive and float. She taught herself to do that as her mother, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli, had passed away on that beach.

Besides learning how to swim, the young crocodile also learned the way of finding food. She had to learn to survive without the help of others. She had to be strong and independent for living alone. That young crocodile should not be weak; she must be a strong, tough, and wise young crocodile. She had to carry on her mother's legacy who liked to help the weak.

Once she found her confidence to travel to Haruku Island, the young crocodile continued her journey to Haruku Island. She did not forget to bring along the fishes given by the crocodiles of

Seram Island. *Lompa* fish, *Make* fish, and wolf herrings accompanied the journey of that young crocodile. They swam together and appeared as one big group. She would like to bring the fishes to Learisa Kayeli River in Haruku Island.

The young crocodile left Waai Beach for Haruku Island. She left the beach where her mother, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli, was buried. With a heavy heart, she continued her mother's journey to Lelias Kayeli River, the place where her mother grew up. The young crocodile was determined to take care of Learisa Kayeli River and help the local people.

## **Lost in Passo Beach**

The young Crocodile actively moved her legs and swayed her tail. She swam to Haruku Island. She already found her courage to cross the open ocean, getting through the waves and the heavy currents of the ocean. After swimming for a long time along the coast of Ambon Island, the young crocodile finally arrived at Tulehu Beach. Tulehu Beach was not her destination. She continued her journey to Haruku Island. She constantly moved her legs and tail. She could not wait to reach Learisa Kayeli River, Haruku Island.

However, it turned out that the young crocodile took a wrong turn. From Tulehu Beach, instead of swimming towards Haruku Island, she apparently swam to different direction. The young crocodile found herself in Passo Beach instead, still on Ambon Island.

The young crocodile remained firm on one goal, heading to Learisa Kayeli River in Haruku Island. She wanted to settle in a river where her mother once lived.

She wanted to maintain her mother's presence in Kayeli Learisa River, by helping the people who needed help to cross the river.

The young crocodile was trying her hardest to find her way to Haruku Island, but she did not ask *Lompa* fish, *Make* fish, and wolf herrings to participate in finding information about the

direction to Haruku Island. She let those three fishes played in the waters of Passo Beach.

The child of the Queen Learisa Kayeli asked whomever she met. He swam northward, southward, eastward, and westward. To every one she saw on the way, she asked the direction to Haruku Island. The young crocodile tirelessly asked others until she obtained a clue about the direction to reach Haruku Island. She was excited that her effort yielded results.

The young crocodile enthusiastically returned to meet the fish which accompanied her mother's journey from Seram Island. She was going to tell them about the direction to reach Haruku Island. They would swim together towards Haruku Island, to a river called Learisa Kayeli. The young crocodile returned to the place where Seram Island's fish awaited. Shortly afterwards, the young crocodile and the fish left Passo Beach. They swam across the waters of Passo to Haruku Island. The child of Queen Learisa Kayeli was extremely eager as they would soon arrive in the land of her mother's ancestors, Haruku Island.

Between the waters of Ambon Island and Haruku Island, that young crocodile felt something unsettling during the trip. She felt upset, but couldn't tell why. She was worrying about misfortune or anything else that might come to their way, thus hampering her journey with the fishes from Seram Island.

The young crocodile decided to stop for a moment. She wanted to know what was really going on. She looked around her surroundings. Her eyes sharply observed anything or any object around her. The fishes accompanied her trip to Haruku Island did not escape her attention as well.

“Goodness!” the young crocodile cried.

The young crocodile just realized the cause of her anxiety during her entire trip from Passo Beach to Haruku Island. Apparently, the wolf herrings weren't with her all time.

“Where are the wolf herrings?”

“Where are the wolf herrings?”

The young crocodile called wolf herrings name out loud. There were only *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish by her side. She didn't even see a glimpse of wolf herrings for a bit.

“Wolf herrings!”

“Wolf herrings!”

“Wolf herrings!”

The young crocodile relentlessly called out the wolf herrings to join her. She dove to the depths of the sea, who knows wolf herrings were in the deep sea, but her effort ended up in vain.

Despite searching and calling, the wolf herrings did not show up at all.

“Didn’t you see wolf herrings?” asked the young crocodile to *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish.

“The wolf herrings went to look for food somewhere,” replied *Lompa* fish. “When you asked us to carry on the journey, wolf herrings had not returned yet.”

The young crocodiles finally realized if the wolf herrings did not join the journey from Passo Beach to Haruku Island. It turned out the wolf herrings were left behind in Passo Beach, miles away behind them. When they were in Passo Beach, the wolf herrings got separated from *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish. When the young crocodile got back after asking the way to Haruku Island, the wolf herrings hadn’t return to the place where they should have gathered. That was why when the young crocodile took the fish to swim to Haruku Island, the wolf herrings did not join them. On the other hand, the young crocodile also forgot to check the presence of her group’s members.

Passo Beach was located a few miles away behind them. Had the young crocodile returned to Passo Beach, it would have taken few days to get there. At the end, the young crocodile decided to continue the journey to Haruku Island without the wolf herrings.

Perhaps, wolf herrings were destined to settle in Passo Beach, instead of the coast of Haruku Island.

The young crocodile was touched. She relentlessly remembered the memories about faithful wolf herrings that were on her side for so long. Even before being with her, the wolf herrings were with his mother, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli, for a long time.

Just like *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish, the wolf herrings showed loyalty to both Queen Learisa Kayeli and the young crocodile. Young crocodile became very sad. That was why she felt restless when the wolf herrings were not with her during the journey from Passo Beach to Haruku Island.

Then, the young crocodile only took *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish to Learisa Kayeli River in Haruku Island. They swam all their might to reach their destination. They went through the waves, swam into the storm, and ocean currents between Ambon Island and Haruku Island. The blazing sun did not discourage them. The young crocodile together with *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish swam together towards Haruku Island.

After a long swim, the young crocodile and *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish arrived on the shores of Haruku Island. They quickly headed for Haru Ukui Land and looked for the estuary of Learisa Kayeli River.

## **Finally Arriving at Learisa Kayeli River**

Little by little, the young crocodile swam into the estuary of Learisa Kayeli River. She observed every inch of Learisa Kayeli River. She saw rocks, trees, and many underwater creatures living in Learisa Kayeli River. She occasionally dove to see the underwater condition of the crystal-clear river. The Learisa Kayeli River, which flew quietly, warmly welcomed the emergence of the young crocodile in her mother's land, Learisa Kayeli River.

The young crocodile sensed the traces of her mother. He breathed the air of Learisa Kayeli River; as if she had desire to totally unite herself with nature along Learisa Kayeli River, where her mother lived her days with the local people.

The young crocodile quickly soaked herself in the clear waters of Learisa Kayeli River. She enjoyed the natural beauty of the river, where his mother grew up.

The young crocodile greeted anyone around Kayeli Learisa River. She swam slowly as if she wanted to measure every inch of Learisa Kayeli River's water.

In Learisa Kayeli River, that little crocodile lived with the fishes gifted by Seram Island's crocodiles. She kept *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish away from the intrusion of other creatures.

*Lompa* fish and *Make* fish had become her best friends since her journey from Waai Beach to Haruku Island. These two fishes didn't only become the best friends of young crocodile, but also the best friends to her mother, the Queen of Learisa Kayeli.

The friendship between the fishes; the young crocodile, *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish had brought mutual concern and protection. The young crocodile that had larger body size and power chose to become the protector of *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish. Both fishes grew and prospered in the waters of Haruku Island up to Learisa Kayeli River. Both of fishes could freely search for food, play, and enjoy each part of the river.

Few years later on, the little crocodile grew into a strong adult crocodile. She had a bulky body, powerful tail, and sharp teeth. Just like her mother, the child of Queen Learisa Kayeli eagerly helped the people who were about to cross the river, making the child of Queen Learisa Kayeli became familiar with them.

Apart from the little crocodile that grew into adult crocodile, *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish also bred well in Learisa Kayeli River. Day after day, the quantity of *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish grew larger. In Learisa Kayeli River, they lived comfortably, without any intrusion from other animals. The crocodile took a good care of *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish, allowing the fish to search for food freely. They lived happily in that river. Learisa Kayeli River was then filled with *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish.

Due to their increasingly abundant quantity, *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish became the prime fish for the community of Haruku Island; and so did the wolf herrings which were widely found in Passo waters.

The abundant *Lompa* fish and *Make* fish in Haruku Island, and wolf herrings in Passo waters became a special boon for the local people. The residents caught the fish to fulfill their needs for food. Despite the abundant quantity, the local people only caught the fish according to their needs. It was done to maintain the sustainability of these fishes in the waters of Haruku Island and Passo Beach.

Plenty of *Lompa* fish, *Make* fish, and wolf herrings found in the waters of Maluku were the fruit of the kindness of Queen Learisa Kayeli. The crocodile and the people could enjoy the abundant fish there. The crocodile took care of the people, and the people took care of the crocodile. They took care of each other to create a serene and prosperous life.

## **The Author**

Nama : Dr. Asrif, S.Pd., M.Hum.  
Pos-el : as.lamadira@gmail.com  
Bidang Keahlian : Tradisi Lisan

### **Riwayat Pekerjaan/Profesi (10 Tahun Terakhir):**

1. 2016–sekarang: Kepala Kantor Bahasa Maluku
2. 2006–2016: Staf Teknis Kantor Bahasa Sulawesi Tenggara
3. 2005–2006: Dosen Tetap Universitas Muhammadiyah Buton

### **Riwayat Pendidikan dan Tahun Belajar:**

1. S-3: Susastra (2009—2015)
2. S-2: Bahasa Indonesia (2002—2004)
3. S-1: Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia dan Daerah (1996—2001)

### **Judul Buku dan Tahun Terbit (10 tahun terakhir):**

Gau Satoto: Kearifan Lokal Orang Wakatobi (Editor, 2015)

**Informasi Lain:**

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## **The Editor**

Nama : Luh Anik Mayani  
Pos-el : annie\_mayani@yahoo.com  
Bidang Keahlian : Linguistik, dokumentasi Bahasa,  
Penyuluhan, dan Penyuntingan

### **Riwayat Pekerjaan:**

Pegawai Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa (2001—  
sekarang)

### **Riwayat Pendidikan:**

1. S-1 Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Udayana, Denpasar (1996—2001)
2. S-2 Linguistik, Program Pasca sarjana Universitas Udayana, Denpasar (2001—2004)
3. S-3 Linguistik, Institute für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Universität zu Köln, Jerman (2010—2014)

**Informasi Lain:**

Lahir di Denpasar pada tanggal 3 Oktober 1978. Selain dalam penyuluhan bahasa Indonesia, ia juga terlibat dalam kegiatan penyuntingan naskah di beberapa lembaga, seperti di Mahkamah Konstitusi dan Bapennas, serta menjadi ahli bahasa di DPR. Dengan ilmu linguistik yang dimilikinya, saat ini ia menjadi mitra bestari jurnal kebahasaan dan kesastraan, penelaah modul bahasa Indonesia, tetap aktif meneliti dan menulis tentang bahasa daerah di Indonesia, dan mengajar dalam pelatihan dokumentasi bahasa.