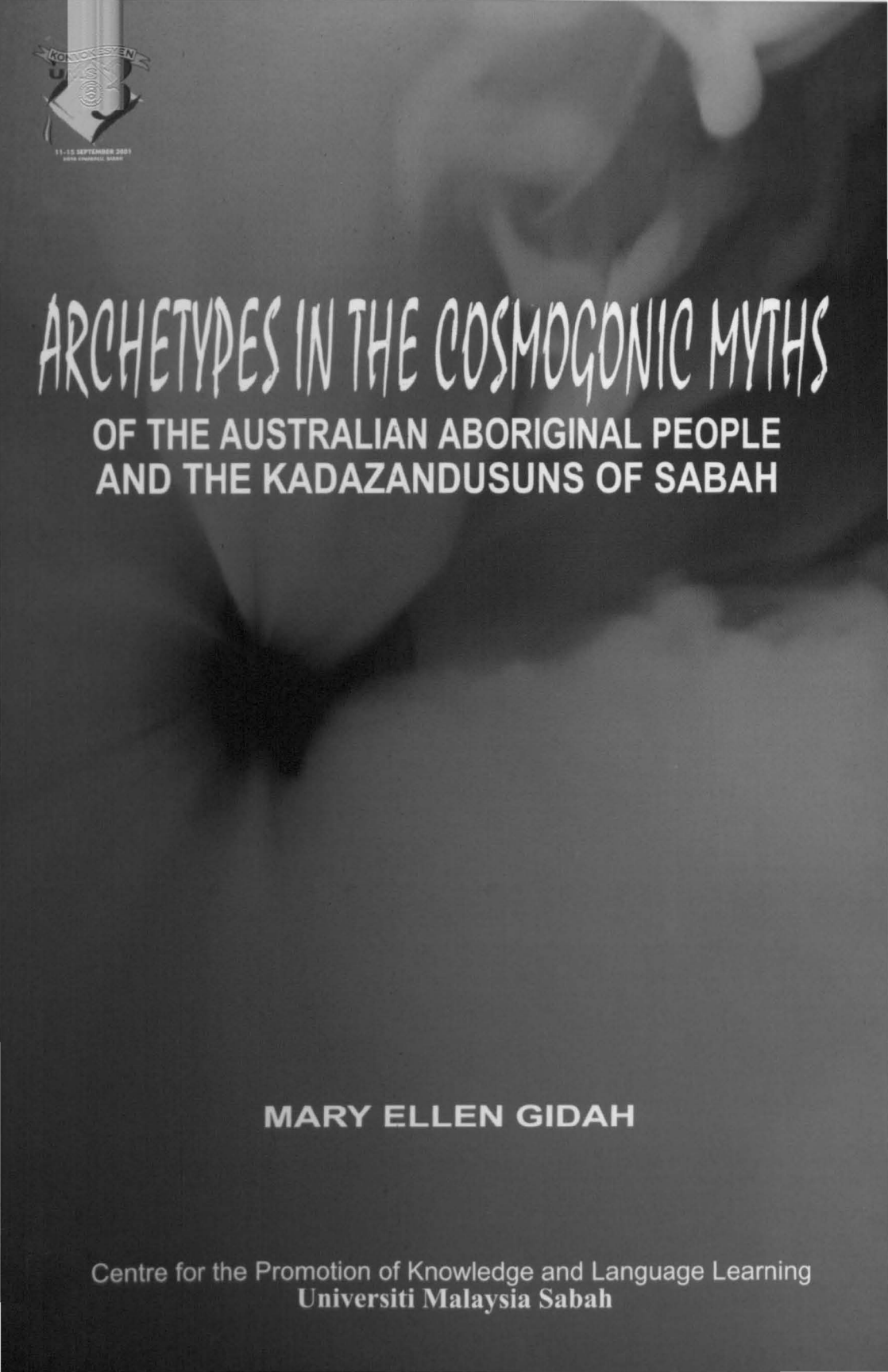

ARCHETYPES IN THE COSMOGONIC MYTHS

OF THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THE KADAZANDUSUNS OF SABAH

MARY ELLEN GIDAH

Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning
Universiti Malaysia Sabah

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PREFACE

I have always been interested in mythology and when the opportunity to conduct research in this particular area presented itself in the early part of 2000, I thought it best to proceed with the project, cheered on by the comforting presence of my supervisor and her team. I am most grateful that this work has allowed me to explore and discover certain areas of Kadazandusun culture personally fascinating and meaningful to me.

The main focus of this study is on the archetypes inherent in the mythologies of two cultures and how as well as why they are similar to each other as explained by Jung's notion of the 'collective unconscious'. The first chapter offers an introduction of the study, locating this particular project within the interdisciplinary area of myth studies, psychology and sociology. This is followed with a discussion of the different directions in myth studies today as well as an overview of the backbone of the theoretical framework used here – Jung's hypothesis of the 'collective unconscious'. The indepth analyses of both bodies of myths are then presented via a drawing out of the more prominent images in the mythologies and their relation to significant archetypes in the human psyche which are then related to the cultural practices and worldviews of the two peoples, the Australian Aboriginals and the Kadazandusuns.

Mary Ellen Gidah
Universiti Malaysia Sabah
Sabah
September 2001

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