

Ute dictionary
**Talmy Givón (with Pear Casias,
Vida Peabody and Mary Inez Cloud) (2016)**

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This is a review of the third book of the series on Ute grammar, texts and dictionary. The two first volumes appeared in 2011 and 2013, and the book under review here in 2016. As with the other two volumes in the series, the present book is based on the primary author's extensive fieldwork on the language, which is very visible in the analyses given in the book. Differently from the other two books, this book has been jointly written with three speakers of the language.

The present book is clearly divided into two large parts, a brief grammatical sketch of the language and the dictionary. The structure of the book serves the overall goals of the book very well, i.e. the book is a very helpful tool for anyone interested in the Ute language and its lexicon. The first part of the book also includes information that can be of interest to those who have a professional interest in the language, even though those readers are also referred to the grammar published earlier. In what follows, I will discuss the main points of the book in the order they appear in the book itself.

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The first part of the book, i.e. the grammar, can be seen as a kind of summary of the grammar that appeared as an independent book in 2011. Naturally, many points are discussed in less detail than in the grammar itself, but the 75-page grammar serves as a good introduction to the structure of the Ute language. As is typical of basically any grammatical description of any language, the part starts with sound structure (including the writing system). The reader is also taught how to pronounce the language, with (the closest) English equivalents of each Ute sound given. This is followed by a longer discussion of word classes and word structure. This part also includes references to syntax, and for example the main verb (and clause) types, i.e. intransitive, transitive and ditransitive verbs and clauses are discussed. The second part of the grammar description is followed by a rather detailed discussion of lexical properties and lexical derivation, which is naturally rather convenient and helpful for a dictionary meant not only for professional linguists, but for anyone interested in the language. Many different derivation processes are discussed, which gives a very good overview of how words are formed in Ute. Finally, chapter 4 includes instructions on how to use the dictionary. For example, different abbreviations used along with how the word classes are distinguished and all given proper treatment. I find chapter 4 highly important for those readers whose training in linguistics is rather limited, but who nevertheless want to learn more about the Ute language.

The second part of the book, i.e. the dictionary itself, consists of three parts: Ute–English dictionary, English–Ute dictionary and special semantic fields. It is not an easy task to review a dictionary, for one reason because it is practically impossible to disagree with the author on his/her choices, if the language in question is not at all known to you. Nevertheless, there are things that can be said. First of all, it is perhaps in order to say that the dictionary cannot, and perhaps should not, be compared to ‘normal’ dictionaries of languages, such as English, French or German. However, this should not be seen as a flaw, because this is probably not the intention of the author. The entries in the dictionary are listed in alphabetical order in Part 2 and Part 3, and all entries are given proper treatment by, e.g., giving word class information and specifying the transitivity of verbs. Part 4, special semantic fields, is a welcome addition to the rather typical part of the dictionary. This part discusses, for example, body parts and traditional hand-held tools. The part is relevant to anyone interested in learning more about certain lexical fields, and it may also help scholars working on lexical typology to collect data for their research.

The style of presentation in the first part of the book is reader-friendly. It does not necessarily require a previous background in linguistics, but the book does also give professional linguists new insights and provide them with interesting

information on a lesser studied language. One, perhaps minor, point that can also be made is that the book appears in paperback, which makes it more widely accessible due to its lower price.

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