This is a joint review of the two first books of the series *Ute grammar, texts and dictionary*. The texts were published two years after the grammar, but the dictionary has not yet appeared. The grammar is based on the author’s 35 years of fieldwork on the language.

The first of the two books is a comprehensive reference grammar of Ute, the first grammar of its kind. As is typical of reference grammars written in a typological-functional framework, the grammar proceeds from phonology to morphology and ends with a discussion of syntax and discourse. The style of presentation is very reader-friendly and lots of properly glossed examples are examined. The book thus provides linguists with a wealth of interesting data. The grammar consists of 20 chapters that discuss many different aspects of the language including the sound system, word classes, noun phrases, passives, relative and adverbial clauses and interjections. All in all, the grammar gives a
very good overview of the grammar of Ute. The texts part is not very usable without the grammar, so anyone interested in the texts should also purchase the grammar and start with that.

In the beginning, the author discusses the differences between different kinds of grammar, including, for example, reference and pedagogical grammars. This may seem a bit odd at first, since this kind of discussion is usually not found in reference grammars. However, the author also states at the very beginning that the grammar is not only, or even primarily, aimed at linguists working on Ute, or doing larger comparison of languages, but the grammar is also intended for Ute interested in their own language. The grammar is a nice combination of hard core linguistics and a description of language for language teaching. All chapters begin with a brief description of the discussed topic meant also for laypersons, and the grammar includes many comparisons with English, and also Spanish, which makes it easier to adopt the employed terminology if the reader is not familiar with that. Some of the clarifications are also helpful for linguists. This has the fortunate consequence that the grammar does not require a thorough training in linguistics, but basically anyone can plough through it and learn about Ute without having to spend hours and hours learning linguistics. This is not to say that the grammar would be a pure textbook for teaching Ute, but its approach differs from that of most typical reference grammars. This somewhat more pedagogical approach does not, however, affect the scientific value of the book in any way. The texts include a collection of traditional Ute texts, all of which are properly glossed for those who do not know the language. The book is a valuable ‘appendix’ to the grammar.

The ‘something for everyone’ approach of the book is one of the clear merits of the book. In addition to the somewhat more pedagogical touch, the grammar also includes lots of diachronic discussions and speculations, which can also be seen as a plus. The author’s expertise and decades of experience in working with different languages is very visible. The many well-glossed examples are very helpful for anyone wanting to find data on Ute for any purpose, for example, for a broad cross-linguistic study of any of the topics scrutinized. On the other hand, one could criticize the use of terminology in places, because it does not always conform to the terminology typically used in linguistics. For example, ‘dative’ is used as a term for a semantic role, and the definition of ‘indirect’ object is too broad for enabling a meaningful distinction between different non-core constituents of the language. The older term ‘bi-transitive’ is used instead of the established and more commonly used term ‘ditransitive’, and the definition of bi-transitives also deviates from how ditransitives are understood today. These are, however, only very small minuses and do not affect the overall merits of the book in any way.