

Features of the Lower Tanana Dene Dictionary

James Kari
Alaska Native Language Center
December 5, 2024, 6 p.m.
Lomonosov Moscow State University

Lower Tanana Dene Dictionary is a mid-sized Lexware dictionary that consolidates nearly all primary data for this language of Alaska's middle Tanana River Valley from the years 1903 to 2023. The LTDD presents the words, skills, and ideas of more than 40 expert LT speakers. New features increase the book's accessibility for a range of users, from members of the Lower Tanana community, to specialists in Dene linguistics or ethnology, or to those in allied fields of interdisciplinary prehistory.

The Lower Tanana Table of Headwords (pp. 1-11) has 1149 consolidated headwords or separate entries. These assembled headwords plus tag definitions are an outline of the cosmographic breadth of the Lower Tanana language. The material and natural world, the conscious and the subconscious, the lexical and the grammatical are displayed as an alphabetized outline that reflects the long-term Dene ecological, cognitive and linguistic adaptations to Interior Alaska.

The book is arranged as a multi-disciplinary resource that invites browsing and study. Appen. B has an editable LT Verb Complex and Kari's current model of Dene word formation. Other appendices summarize LT numerals, classificatory verbs, kinship, loan words, anatomy, fish and fishing, and shelter. Local place names and Dene Generative Geography are presented in many figures and in Append D. Chena dialect speakers Helen David Charlie and Laura David Anderson are featured with colorful quotes and drawings from the classic booklet, *According to Mama* (1956).

This is an invaluable work, truly amazing in breadth and detail! Loaded with rich language, ethnographic and contextual data, it will capture the attention of any reader interested in Indigenous languages and lifeways. Abundant photographs, drawings & maps with captions as well as nine appendices supplement the dictionary entries. Kenneth Pratt, Director BIA-ANCSA office

The LTDD is an extremely valuable addition to the compendium of previous Alaska Dene/ Athabaskan dictionaries produced by Professor James Kari. This new dictionary is marked by an updated conceptual system taking into account recent developments in Dene linguistics. Andrej A. Kibrik, Director, Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

This book is beautiful both visually and intellectually. Edward J. Vajda, Western Washington University

https://epay.alaska.edu/C21563_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=7261&SINGLESTORE=true