

Reading and writing Idu

A book of letters

Idu Azobra

Roger Mite Linggi
Blench Hindu Meme
Apomo Linggi

Idu Language Development Committee

Roing

February, 2017

Idu reading and writing book

Introduction

This book is to help speakers of the Idu language write it down so that others can read it. Idu is a difficult language with many sounds that are not in English or Hindi. So we have tried to develop a practical system, that can be used by anyone familiar with the Roman alphabet.

Each sound has its own page, and we have given examples of words including that sound. The linguistic version of the word is given in column 2 and the practical writing in column 1. There are a few letters where the way of writing a sound is not decided. We recommend the way of writing in column 1 but alternatives are given in column 4.

To help people familiar with Devanagri, Hindi letters are given where there is an exact equivalent. However, many Idu letters

Idu reading and writing book

are not found in the Hindi alphabet. Idu is a language with many tones, and we will need to write some, so that people do not make mistakes in reading. However, we do not want to have so many tone-marks that reading is confusing. The illustrations try to help you visualise the items you are spelling.

This is a trial version, and readers who find mistakes or words they are puzzled as to the spelling should contact the Idu Language Development Committee, Roing, with their queries.

Idu reading and writing book

p=ᵕ

paku	pàkū	field
pə	pə̃	to reach
pi	pí	to hit with axe
pon	pó	snow
pu	pū	to pound with fist

p^h=ᵕ

phala	phālā	tea
phela	phélā	pull out
iphilo	íphílō	butterfly
epholo	èphōlō	owl
phu	phù	cooking pot

pr

Idu reading and writing book

pra	prà	bird
pren	prĕ	strength
pri	prī	to plait
pro	prò	to lean
pru	prù	to spread

p^{hr}

phrə	phrē	set fire to
iphirihu	īphīrītù	type of creeper
phren	phré	to pluck

p^w

pwen	pwè	raft
pweko	pwékò	pigeon

p^{hw}

Idu reading and writing book

phwə	phwē	to sharpen a blade
phwəri	phwəri	kitchen
phwiando	phwiāndò	full grown male mithun, bull

b=ब

ba	bà	to whisper
be	bē	to slip
bi	bì	fast
bo	bò	to burst
bu	bū	to carry on shoulder

Idu reading and writing book

b^w

mbwelon	mbwēlò	main transverse beam
bwe a	bwē.ā	transverse beam
bwipa	bwīpá	together

b^r

bra	b ^r à	to grow
mabre	màb ^r ē	goat
bri	b ^r í	to marry
bro	b ^r ò	chickenpox
mbru	mb ^r ū	Full

Idu reading and writing book

t=त

ta	tā	handle of tool
temama	tèmàmà	nothing remains
ti	tī	hot
ton	tó	to drink
tu	tū	touch with a point

t^h=थ

tha	thā	bamboo made fish trap
theci	thēcī	urine
thi	thí	full grown male animal
thəya	thəyà	saliva
tho	thò	speak
thu	thū	bite

d=द

Idu reading and writing book

da dā borrow
de dè stand
də dē move aside
də dè pure
do dō to suck
du dù crowd

ɸ=c=च

can ɸā to bail
ce ɸē to cut
ci ɸi soup
cəkə ɸəkə to show finger
indicating negative
message
cəkə ɸəkə diminished
con ɸō to hit with fist
cu ɸū to weigh

Idu reading and writing book

ʃ^h=ch=ḥ

chan	ʃ ^h ǎ	without any difficulty, at one go
chi	ʃ ^h ĩ	walk
chenda	ʃ ^h ēndā	mishmi monal
chu	ʃ ^h ù	to paint
chon	ʃ ^h õ	light

dʒ=j=ǰ

ja	dʒà	come
je	dʒē	nahar tree
ji	dʒĩ	sit
jə	dʒè	broad
njo	ndʒó	body
ju	dʒú	to pick up with a pointed instrument

Idu reading and writing book

ts

tsin	tsí	rotten
tsu tsu	tsù tsù	boiling in anger
tsu	tsù	
tsula	tsùlà	throw grain to the deity

dz

dzami	dzámí	yak
dzi	dzi	smart
dzə bru	dzē brū	quick flow of fluid
ndzololo	ndzólólō	owl like look

Idu reading and writing book

s=ṣṭ

sa	sà	net
se	sē	murder
si	sí	death
so	sō	to boil
su	sú	climb

s^h

shi	s ^h ì	to slice
-----	------------------	----------

ʃ=sh

sha	shā	mithun
shee	shēē	quick
shobru	shòbrū	to trip s.o.
shu	shù	red colour

Idu reading and writing book

ʃʳ=shr

shren	ʃʳé	whistle
shrə	ʃʳə	dismantle house
shru	ʃʳū	sour

z

zapa	zāpā	together
zelon	zēlō	spade
anzi	ànzi	things
anzə	ānzə	to erect bamboo wall
azu	ázú	gorge
zo	zò	design

Idu reading and writing book

k=ቸ

ka	kā	bitter
kesa	kèsà	beauty
kə	kə	paddy
kədr̥idri	kəd̥r̥id̥r̥i	black and shiny
kikiri	kīkírí	something secret
ko	kò	animal hide
ku	kū	smoke dry

kr

krəla	krəlā	unlock
kri	kṛī	jealousy
kru	kṛú	mother animal
krontate	krōtātē	stiff harden due to cold

Idu reading and writing book

k^h=ख

kha	khā	lay down
kebakhe	kebakhē	each and everybody
khən	khẽ	fitting
khinyu	khīnyū	spirit
khumbu	khúmbū	to pat
kho	khō	angry

k^{hr}

khra	khrà	voice
khre	khre	to lock
asokhrə	àsòkhrè	scabies ridden
hakhri	hākhri	leftover food particles
khronte	khṛōtè	gain in the growth of body of the baby
khru	khṛu	to step

Idu reading and writing book

g=ṽ

ga	gà	break
khege	khègè	one
gədu	gə̀dū	tapioca
gə	gə̀	to carry
gunlupu	gū̀lūpū	plateau
ngo	ŋó	to last

gr

gran	grà	gap
gren	grè	stick on to the body
grə grə	grə̀-grə̀-	describes pursuing
grə	grə̀	aggressively
agripra	āgríprā	flying squirrel
ngro	ŋrò	hard
gruu	grū̀	fees

Idu reading and writing book

Nasals

n=न

na	nā	pain
ne	nè	tired
nṵtosi	nṵtósí	powdered
ni	nī	to plaster with hand
no	nò	to smell
inu	ìnú	year

m=म

ma	mà	black
meka	mēkà	to split
mṵ	mṵ	to rear
mṵta	mṵtá	be quick
mi	mì	yellow
mo	mò	hide
mu	mū	to roast

Idu reading and writing book

ɲ

nanyi	nājī	mother
nya	ɲā	blowing
nyopu	ɲōpū	breast
nyuta	ɲūtá	last room

ŋ=ḙ

nga	ŋá	me
ngə	ŋè	to saw
ngi	ŋī	sickness
ngob ₂	ŋōb ₂	eel

Idu reading and writing book

Resonants

l=ल

la	lá	say
le	lè	roll yarn with hand
li	lí	earthquake
lo	lò	white
lu	lú	surplus

l

lhe	lḥà	wear loincloth
lhə	lḥè	migrate
lhi	lḥī	fly
lho	lḥò	excavate

Idu reading and writing book

r=र

ra	rá	sharp
ren	ré	invite
rə	rē	to fear
riin	riĩ	to grind rice on stone
ron	ró	roast
ru	rù	snatch

ɽ = rh

rhi	ɽí	boil esp. rice
rho	ɽò	arrest
rhun	ɽũ	sound of dog

Idu reading and writing book

Semi-vowels

w=ᵛ

wa	wà	cancer	
we	wè	hook	
wən	wě	time taking	wě
wuji	wúḏḗ	similar	

y=ɣ

ya	yà	foxtail millet	
yiha	yihā	turn face sideways	
yo	yò	slide	
yu	yū	rice beer	

Idu reading and writing book

Glottals

h=ḥ

han	há	node of bamboo
heta	hētā	owner
həgə	həgə̀	plot of land
hə	hə̀	honey
hi	hì	sleep
ho	hò	itch
hu	hū	beat with stick

Idu reading and writing book

Vowels

a

a	ā	child
aama	ààmā	indicating down/southwards
ekala	èkàlà	gourd for carrying water
ecalo	èǰǎlō	above
maalo	mààlò	hundred

ǎ = ah

ahye	āyē	be irritating
ahye	āyē	strip maize kernels
ahye	ǎyē	poison
ahya	ǎyà	daughter
ahyebǎ	ǎyèbǎ	ritual
maahy	māǎy	serow

Idu reading and writing book

e

eba	ēbá	clan
eca	ēḟā	this
egoka	ègōkà	plank supporting hearth
ekobə	ēkóbə	mouth

ə

gədu	gədū	tapioca
ngə	ŋə	to saw
kə	kə	paddy
brə	brə	to swallow

Idu reading and writing book

ə

ngə	ŋə̄	sickness
gə	gə̄	to carry
hə	hə̄	honey
ilikhe	ilikhè	soil, earth

i

i	ī	to live
iin	īī	to shove
inyi	īnyī	sun
irhinggo	ìṙīṙgō	weasel

Idu reading and writing book

o

on	ó	house
oo	ōō	shoot
orina	ōrīná	coriander
Nggolo	Ŋgōlō	deity of the snowline

A very rare sound

o

<u>o</u> rh	ōṛ	sound of a pig
-------------	----	----------------

u

u	ú	pluck
imudu	ímúdū	sky
un	ũ	rotten
truun	trũũ	lice

Idu reading and writing book

A very rare sound

u

uurh ūùr pour liquid
uurh úūr lever