

CECILIA HEDLUND &  
LARS-GUNNAR LARSSON,  
*Ii dušše duoddaris! Lärobok i  
nordsamiska* [Not Just on the Fells:  
A Textbook of Northern Saami].  
Finsk-Ugriska Läromedel 24.  
Uppsala: Uppsala Universitet, 2011.  
373 pp.

The textbook on Northern Saami *Ii dušše duoddaris* by Cecilia Hedlund and Lars-Gunnar Larsson consists of twenty chapters, each containing a text, a vocabulary list with equiva-

lents in Swedish, explanatory notes on grammar, and exercises on the corresponding text and grammar. At the end of the textbook is a glossary of grammatical terms. This is a good solution, since Northern Saami has grammatical categories not used or known in the Swedish language. This is followed by Saami–Swedish and Swedish–Saami vocabularies, consisting of all words used in the textbook. The answers to the exercises appear at the end of the book. A CD with the texts and pronunciation exercises, read by John E. Utsi, is attached to the book.

Traditionally, Saami textbooks are based on the Saami way of life. *Ii dušše duoddaris* has a different, fresher approach. All the texts describe modern everyday life. There are two good grounds for this. First of all, Saami is here being taught to Swedes, who probably do not feel it necessary to discuss for example reindeer herding; secondly, even many reindeer herders nowadays live in towns and their everyday life is not very different from that of the Swedish-speaking population. The texts are well structured: they provide a basic vocabulary and reflect the grammatical features presented in each chapter.

The basic grammar of Northern Saami is described in the chapters in a concise manner; yet even word formation through derivation

is touched upon fairly comprehensively, which is somewhat uncommon in textbooks. Furthermore, many explanations are witty: they succeed in describing many of the stumbling blocks in Saami grammar in such a way as to give readers a sense of excitement in facing a challenge. The quest to master the complexities of Saami grammar becomes a thrilling but at the same time rewarding adventure.

*Ii dušše duoddaris!* by Cecilia Hedlund and Lars-Gunnar Larsson is a modern textbook of Saami. In a single volume it presents to the reader the basics of the Northern Saami grammar and lexicon. Pedagogically, the book has been constructed in such a way as to stimulate readers in their learning process.

*Sirkka Saarinen*