



The Navajo Verb System: An Overview

Robert W. Young

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In this study of the Navajo language, Professor Robert W. Young tackled what strikes both the learner and the native speaker as an insurmountable obstacle--that Navajo appears to be a verb-centered language in which all the verbs are "irregular." In *The Navajo Verb System* Professor Young reveals both its structure and its inflection as entirely "regular" and based on definite rules of order.

A leading authority on Navajo verb morphology, Young brought over sixty years of experience to this study. This volume, which Young called a handbook, not only details the features of verb structure and inflection but also reflects the grammatical processes that generate a wealth of concrete lexical derivatives from a relatively small number of abstract verbal roots.

This volume, together with Professor Young's earlier books, is a basic reference invaluable to advanced students, linguists, and native speakers of Navajo.

"This fine study presents great sweeps of Navajo verbal structure essentially at a glance. . . . The various sets of morphologically homologous verb themes are set out by Mode category and 'conjugation' so that all the elements that go to make up individual forms can be seen at a glance."--Professor Kenneth Hale, MIT

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