

## Ideophones in Yucatec Maya

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This paper considers a new word class in Yucatec Maya, the ideophones. Although this class of words shares a number of features with other ideophones described in the literature (Doke 1935; Voeltz & Kilian-Hatz 2001a): syntactic isolation, specific phonological and morphological profile and onomatopoeic iconicity (i.e. form is semantically motivated), ideophones in Yucatec Maya are special in being derivations from various types of roots (verbo-nominal, adjectival, positional, noun and onomatopoeic). Hence, their meaning can be partly retrieved from the root they are derived from. As it is the case with many ideophones in various languages (Dingemanse 2011), Yucatec Maya ideophones are semantically complex with a multimodal character describing an event in mixing its auditory and visual features. For this reason, an analysis of the multimodal production is often necessary to understand the full meaning of ideophones.

Digemanse, Mark. 2011. *The meaning and use of ideophones in Siwu*. Vol. 64. (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics). Nijmegen, The Netherlands: Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics.

Doke, C. M. 1935. *Bantu Linguistic Terminology*. London: Longmans Green.

Voeltz, F.K. Erhard & Christa Kilian-Hatz. 2001. *Ideophones*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.