

Workshop proposal, ICL21, Poznan, September 8–14, 2024

Title: Historical sociolinguistics: Norwegian and Ukrainian language planning – similarities and differences.

Convenor: Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ernst Håkon Jahr, University of Agder.
Participants: Professor PhD Anna Yunatska, Zaporizhzhya National University, Visiting Scholar, University of Cambridge.
Professor Dr. Atle Grønn, University of Oslo.

Keywords: historical sociolinguistics, language planning, Norwegian, Ukrainian, foreign superstratum

Topic and research questions

Norwegian and Ukrainian have one very important historic feature in common: both languages have a long shared history with another language: Danish (for Norwegian) and Russian (for Ukrainian). Both languages have also been perceived by many (especially Danes and Russians) as merely a dialect (or dialects) of the neighbouring, superstratum language: Spoken Norwegian was seen as varieties of Danish, Ukrainian of Russian.

The proposed workshop thus has a dual purpose: (1) To compare language planning as it has been carried out in Norway and Ukraine with the intension of finding and analysing both similarities and differences, and (2), since language planning has been the cause for political fights in Norway and indeed been a major issue in Norwegian society for more than 200 years (after independence from Denmark 1814), there might possibly be lessons to learn or even copy from the Norwegian case for current and future Ukrainian language planning.

The theory of 'language planning' was developed by the Norwegian-American linguist Einar Haugen (1906–1994). With his seminal 1966 volume *Language Conflict and Language Planning*, as well in other publications of his around that time, he developed his famous four-step language planning model: Selection of norm, Codification of norm, Elaboration of function, Acceptance by the community. Haugen viewed Norway and the way Norwegians had dealt with the language question after 1814 as a "laboratory" for language planning, and his model is especially developed from his study of the work of Ivar Aasen (1813–96), the creator of Norwegian Nynorsk, one of the current written Norwegian standards.

Thus, modern Norwegian has for a long period of time been studied and celebrated as an especially interesting example of language planning.

The nominated convenor of this proposed workshop has worked with Norwegian language planning for half a century, from the early 1970s, also with Einar Haugen. He has published articles and books on the subject, and has also given numerous conference papers and plenaries as well as many guest lectures.

Some main publications on the topic by professor Jahr (workshop convenor):

- "Limits of language planning? Norwegian language planning revisited." In: *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 80 (1989), 33–39.
- "Language planning." In: W. Bright (ed.): *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics* Vol. 4, New York / Oxford 1992: Oxford University Press, 12-15.
- *Language Conflict and Language Planning*. Berlin-New York 1993: Mouton de Gruyter. 320 pp. (Editor.)

- "Parallels and differences in the linguistic development of Modern Greece and Modern Norway." In: E. H. Jahr (ed.): *Language Conflict and Language Planning*, Berlin-New York 1993: Mouton de Gruyter, 83-98. (With Peter Trudgill.)
- "The fate of *Sammorsk*: A social dialect experiment in language planning." In: M. Clyne (ed.): *Undoing and Redoing Corpus Planning*. Berlin–New York 1997: Mouton de Gruyter, 215–248.
- "Language planning and language change." In: L. E. Breivik and E. H. Jahr (eds.): *Language Change. Contributions to the Study of Its Causes*, Berlin-New York: Mouton de Gruyter 1989, 99-113. Reprinted in: Peter Trudgill and Jenny Cheshire (eds.): *The Sociolinguistics Reader* (Vol. 1), London 1998: Arnold, 263–275.
- "The standardization process of Norwegian." In: Ana Deumert & Wim Vandenbussche (eds.): *Germanic standardizations – past and present*. Amsterdam–Philadelphia 2003: John Benjamins, 331–353.
- "On the sociolinguistic and political limits of language planning and language policy – the lessons to be learned from the Norwegian case." In: Lars Gunnar Andersson, Olle Josephson, Inger Lindberg and Mats Thelander (eds.): *Language Planning and Language Policy. Proceedings of the Swedish Language Council Research Conference in Saltsjöbaden 2008*. Stockholm 2009: Norstedts, 141–164.
- " 'High' and 'low' in Norwegian? Dialect and standard in spoken Norwegian a historical account of competition and language status planning." In: Gunvor Mejdell and Edzard Lutz (ed.): *High vs. Low and Mixed Varieties. Domains, Status, and Function across Time and Languages*. Wiesbaden 2012: Harrassowitz, 197–208.
- *Language Planning as a Sociolinguistic Experiment. The Case of Modern Norwegian*. Edinburgh 2014: Edinburgh University Press. 224 pp.

The workshop will begin with two introductions, one by the convenor covering both the general topic of the workshop and the Norwegian case, the other, covering the Ukrainian case, by professor Anna Yunatska, Zaporizhzhia National University. Following these two introductions, professor Atle Grønn, University of Oslo, will comment on the two introductions. Professor Grønn has a chair in Russian, however, after the Russian attack on and invasion of Ukraine, he has been instrumental in Oslo University's new study program in Ukrainian. This program has proven to be very successful and many students now want to study Ukrainian in Oslo.

The obvious similarity between Norwegian and Ukrainian promises well for an interesting and fruitful workshop and we hope many potential contributors will submit abstracts within the framework of the workshop topic.