

Discussion:
a language perspective on the
Scandinavian context

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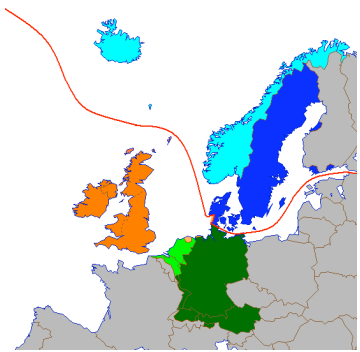
What do you know about the
Nordic linguistic context?



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Scandinavia_location_map_definitions.PNG

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The Germanic languages



What does the red line mean?
What does light blue vs dark blue mean?

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Europe_germanic_languages.PNG

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The family tree

How about other languages in the Nordic region?
What families do they belong to?

GERMANIC

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graph TD
    G[GERMANIC] --> W[West]
    G --> E[East]
    G --> N[North]
    
    W --> W1[Low Franconian / Low Saxon]
    W --> W2[Anglo-Frisian]
    W --> W3[High German]
    
    W1 --> D[Dutch]
    W1 --> LS[Low Saxon]
    
    W2 --> AF[Afrikaans]
    W2 --> EF[English]
    W2 --> S[Scots]
    W2 --> F[Frisian]
    
    W3 --> G1[German]
    W3 --> Y[Yiddish]
    
    E --> AE[All Extinct]
    
    N --> NS[North Scandinavian]
    N --> WS[West Scandinavian]
    
    NS --> ES[East Scandinavian]
    NS --> IS[Icelandic]
    NS --> FN[Faroese]
    NS --> N1[Norwegian]
    
    WS --> SW[Swedish]
    WS --> D1[Danish]
  
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<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Germanictree.PNG>

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Old Norse around 900

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old_norse_ca_900.PNG

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Language periods: Swedish as example

- Rune Swedish / East Scandinavian** (Old Norse split in 3 varieties)
 - Differences start emerging
 - Runic script
 - Like Danish
- Classical Old Swedish** (1225-1375)
 - Latin script introduced, regional laws written down
 - national law
 - thorn, æ, ø used
- Younger Old Swedish** (1376-1525)
 - Hansa/Black Death influence
 - Genders merging 16thC
 - 2 cases gone by 1500
 - person-endings on verbs disappears
 - vowel shift
- Older New Swedish** (1526-1732)
 - Gustav Vasa Bible printed
 - å, ä, ö introduced
 - gender merge completes
 - VO word order more fixed
- Younger New Swedish** (1732-1896/1906)
 - Von Dalin's newspaper (less formal texts)
 - orthographic debates
 - Swedish Academy 1786
 - French influence
- Current Swedish** (August Strindberg)
 - Spelling reform
 - Internet etc

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"A language is a dialect with an army and navy"
(Max Weinreich 1945 – and many others)

Norwegian ———— Swedish
+phonology
-vocabulary

-phonology
+vocabulary

Danish

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NGmc_relations.png

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Some of the official minority languages in Sweden by municipalities

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Officiella_minoritetspr%C3%A5k.svg

What other official minority languages are there?

What other languages are spoken in Sweden (some very frequently)?

Is Swedish sign language an official language?

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Geo-social linguistic trivia for discussion

EACH GROUP SHOULD HAVE 1 SWEDISH SPEAKING STUDENT IN IT FOR FAIRNESS!

- 1 Can Icelanders simply read the sagas written in Medieval times?
 - 2 What languages do people speak in Greenland? In the Faroe Islands?
 - 3 Yiddish and Romani Chib are official minority languages in Sweden. What are the other official minority languages in Sweden?
 - 4 Why did Swedish become official language in 2009?
 - 5 What is *bokmål* and *nynorsk*? Who was Ivar Aasen?
 - 6 Why does southern Swedish have a uvular <r> (instead of a tongue tip <r> or other varieties of the sound)?
 - 7 What does it mean to say that Swedish/Norwegian are *pitch accent* languages?
 - 8 Why does Swedish have just two cases but Icelandic four?
 - 9 What is *miljonsvenska*? ("million Swedish")
 - 10 How large % of Finns are "Swedish Finns"? What were their social role, traditionally?
 - 11 What type of a languages are Finnish and Sami anyway? Greenlandish?
 - 12 How many Swedish Sami dialects are there? Are they all guaranteed to survive?
 - 13 How about the island of Åland, what do people speak there?
 - 14 Where do people speak Danish?
 - 15 Where have Swedish speaking communities kept Swedish as a native language?
 - 16 What do we know about intra-Scandinavian mutual intelligibility?
 - 17 If you study Swedish at CU, when do you start reading Norwegian/Danish texts?
 - 18 What languages in Scandinavia have official EU-language status?
 - 19 In what language do Swedes usually write their theses and dissertations?
- Which Scandinavian languages use the letters **ä å æ ö ø þ ð**, respectively?