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CALL FOR PAPERS: *NJL* SPECIAL ISSUE

Language diversification in the Nordic languages

Marjatta Palander, Maria Kok, Helka Riionheimo and Milla Uusitupa

University of Eastern Finland

The second issue of Volume 46 (Autumn 2023) of the *Nordic Journal of Linguistics* will be a special issue devoted to language diversification in the Nordic languages within the broad frameworks of contact linguistics and language typology. The issue will be edited by Marjatta Palander, Maria Kok, Helka Riionheimo and Milla Uusitupa of the School of Humanities, Finnish Language and Cultural Research, University of Eastern Finland. The aim of this *NJL* special issue will be to analyse empirically how migration, living in isolation and encounters with other languages affect the structure of a language variety and ultimately give rise to the emergence of new varieties. By LANGUAGE DIVERSIFICATION, we refer here to complex, long-lasting processes which arise in situations where a part of a speech community is isolated from the other parts due to, for example, migration or a shift in the administrative borders. In addition to isolation and separation, these processes are often characterised by cross-linguistic influences from various sources. A further aspect in language diversification is the way in which it is reflected in speakers' linguistic awareness and their conceptions of its linguistic features.

Language diversification stands at the intersection of several fields of linguistic research, conjoined by language contact and multilingualism. Consequently, this call for papers covers a range of timely topics. For example, the effects of isolation versus language contact on language structure have been a recurrent theme in recent typological research related to linguistic complexity (see e.g. Baechler & Seiler 2016, Miestamo 2017). In the field of dialectology and sociolinguistics, a theoretical approach directly linked to this call is new-dialect formation, defined as 'a linguistic situation which arises when there is a mixture of dialects leading to a single new dialect which is different from all inputs' (Hickey 2003:214). The theory has mainly been elaborated in colonial settings (e.g. Trudgill 2006, Siegel 2010, Mooney 2011) and in what are referred to as the new town settings (e.g. Kerswill & Trudgill 2005, Al-Wer 2020), and it would be interesting to extend it to other linguistic environments and power relations. The viewpoints provided by perceptual dialectology and studies of language awareness are also relevant: language users' perceptions and awareness serve as another fruitful viewpoint for looking at language diversification (e.g. Eppler & Benedikt 2017, Lasagabaster 2017).

Language diversification is also a prominent phenomenon in the context of endangered languages, especially in the case of transnational minority languages spoken under the pressure of different dominant languages (for North Saami, spoken in Finland, Sweden and Norway, see Aikio, Arola & Kunnas 2015).

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Revitalisation of endangered varieties offers yet another perspective on language diversification: the emancipatory efforts often involve the need to emphasise the independent nature of the variety and to distinguish it from other varieties or from the dominant language (an example of this is the way Meänkieli has been developed in Sweden from a local Finnish dialect into an official, recognised minority language – see e.g. Lainio & Wande 2015). This kind of conscious aim at achieving linguistic differentiation is related to the recent notion of language making, referring to (among other things) processes in which the speakers or other language users distinguish their variety from other varieties (for the broad use of this notion, see Krämer, Vogl & Kolehmainen forthcoming).

In sum, for this forthcoming special issue of *NJL* we invite articles that will examine linguistic diversification in its various forms, such as dialectal evolution and new-dialect formation, and other relevant phenomena. In particular, we hope to receive contributions focusing on minority languages and other less studied varieties. According to the policy of *NJL*, a special focus is expected to be placed on the widest range of Nordic languages, including Greenlandic and also the Saami and Finnic languages.

The deadline for the submission of articles will be 1 November 2022. The reviewing process will take place during winter 2022 and spring 2023. Submissions should be sent via the *NJL* ScholarOne/Manuscript Central site at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/njl. Please consult the Journal's Instructions for Contributors at https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/nordic-journal-of-linguistics/information/instructions-contributors and adhere as closely as possible to the guidelines for manuscript formatting.

If you have questions about the special issue, please contact Marjatta Palander (marjatta.palander@uef.fi) or Maria Kok (maria.kok@uef.fi).

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