# Language choice at Uppsala University, 1477–2013

Christer Kiselman

At the Nitobe Symposium on

Languages and Internationalization

in Higher Education:

Ideologies, Practices, Alternatives

in

Reykjavík, 2013 July 18–20



- 1. Language choice at Uppsala University during 537 years
- 2. The Language Group at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2003–2010
- 3. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2008–2010
- 4. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2010–2013
- Some facts of life References





## 1. Language choice at Uppsala University during 537 years

1477–1852	376 years	Latin
1852–1870	19 years	Master Theses in Latin or Swedish
1870–2013	144 years	Doctoral Degrees (Theology, Law, Medicine, Philosophy; later Engineering)
1870–1907	38 years	50 PhD Theses in Swedish (Mathematics)
1892–1936	45 years	14 PhD Theses in French (Mathematics)
1909–1953	43 years	22 PhD Theses in German (Mathematics)
1944–2013	70 years	PhD Theses in English (Mathematics)

#### Abbreviations (ISO 639-1):

de German en English fr French sv Swedish

**fr**<sup>s</sup> French, studied in Stockholm (4 theses 1892–1903)

sv<sup>s</sup> Swedish, studied in Stockholm (9 theses 1983–1899)

Swedish and English are in the same column. They collide only in the interval 1915–1919, when the last thesis in Swedish (1915) and the first one in English (1919) were published.

During the period 1980–2012 all theses have been written in English except for one in 1980, which was partly written in French, partly in English.

4



1870–1874 1875–1879	SV 1870 SV		
1880–1884	SV SV SV SV SV SV SV		
1885–1889	sv sv sv sv <sup>s</sup> sv sv <sup>s</sup> sv <sup>s</sup>		
1890–1894	sv sv sv sv sv sv sv s	<b>fr</b> <sup>S</sup> 1892	
1895-1899	sv <sup>s</sup> sv sv sv sv <sup>s</sup> sv	fr <sup>s</sup> fr <sup>s</sup>	
1900-1904	SVSVSVSVSVSVSVSV	fr <sup>s</sup>	
1905-1909	<b>SV SV</b> 1907	fr 1905 fr	<b>de</b> 1909 <b>de</b>
1910–1914		frfr	de
1915–1919	<b>SV</b> 1915 <b>en</b> 1919	fr	de de de
1920-1924		fr	de de
1925-1929			de de de de de
1930-1934		frfr	de
1935-1939		<b>fr fr</b> 1936	de de de
1940-1944	<b>en</b> 1944		de de
1945-1949	enen		de
1950-1954	en en en en en		<b>de de</b> 1953
1955–1959	enenen		
1960-1964	enenenen		
1965-1969	en en en en en en en en en		
1970-1974	en		
1975–1979	en  en  en  en  en  en  en  en		

Appointed by the Board of the Faculty for the period 2003 June 10 — 2010 December.

Appointed by the Board of the Faculty for the period 2003 June 10 — 2010 December.

(I was a member until 2006 April 30).

Appointed by the Board of the Faculty for the period 2003 June 10 — 2010 December.

(I was a member until 2006 April 30).

Informally it started even earlier ...

Appointed by the Board of the Faculty for the period 2003 June 10 — 2010 December.

(I was a member until 2006 April 30).

Informally it started even earlier ...

Status planning, corpus planning.



## 3. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2008–2010

18 pages. Emphasizes high quality with regard to language. All teachers shall be able to communicate orally and in writing both in Swedish and English.

## 3. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2008–2010

18 pages. Emphasizes high quality with regard to language. All teachers shall be able to communicate orally and in writing both in Swedish and English.

The plan was presented on 2004 June 07 at a conference on Parallel language proficiency organized at Voksenåsen, Oslo. Invitation by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

## 3. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2008–2010

18 pages. Emphasizes high quality with regard to language. All teachers shall be able to communicate orally and in writing both in Swedish and English.

The plan was presented on 2004 June 07 at a conference on Parallel language proficiency organized at Voksenåsen, Oslo. Invitation by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

[Transit of Venus 2004 June 08!]

## 4. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2010–2013

2 pages. Emphasizes internationalization.

## 4. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2010–2013

2 pages. Emphasizes internationalization.

Karin Carlson, 2013 June 18: "[...] there is a risk that we arrive at the situation which we feared: not enough of Swedish-speaking personnel at the university to pursue a meaningful activity [teaching in Swedish]." (Applies to her field, microbiology, as well as to other fields.)

A majority of PhD students in mathematics and other sciences cannot speak Swedish.

A majority of PhD students in mathematics and other sciences cannot speak Swedish.

There are many professors who cannot speak Swedish.

A majority of PhD students in mathematics and other sciences cannot speak Swedish.

There are many professors who cannot speak Swedish.

This is a development which is a natural consequence of the globalization of all sciences, and is accompanied by an increase in quality.

A majority of PhD students in mathematics and other sciences cannot speak Swedish.

There are many professors who cannot speak Swedish.

This is a development which is a natural consequence of the globalization of all sciences, and is accompanied by an increase in quality.

A choice any small country has to make ...

#### References

Domar, Yngve. 1982. Doktorsdisputationer under perioden 1870–1982 [Defense of PhD theses during the period 1870–1982.] Manuscript, Uppsala University, Department of Mathematics.

Kiselman, Christer. 2001a. La sveda faklingvo en tekniko, matematiko kaj natursciencoj. **In:** Fiedler, Sabine; Liu Haitao (Eds.), *Studoj pri interlingvistiko. Festlibro omaĝe al la 60-jariĝo de Detlev Blanke. Studien zur Interlingvistik. Festschrift für Detlev Blanke zum 60. Geburtstag*, pp. 40–56. Dobřichovice (Prague): Kava-Pech, 2001. ISBN 80-85853-53-1.

Kiselman, Christer. 2001b. Svenskt fackspråk inom teknik, matematik och naturvetenskap [The situation of Swedish in the fields of technology, mathematics, and the natural sciences]. **In:** *Libens Merito. Festskrift till Stig Strömholm*, pp. 225–243. Acta Academiæ Regiæ Scientiarum Upsaliensis **21** (2001).

#### References

*Transition German*  $\rightarrow$  *English.* 

A dramatic decline in mathematics in Germany during the period 1933–1939: The number of mathematics students down by 82 % in Germany; by 91 % in Göttingen.

Mehrtens, Herbert. 1985. Die "Gleichschaltung" der mathematischen Gesellschaften im national-sozialistischen Deutschland. *Jahrbuch Überblicke Mathematik 1985*, vol. 18, 83–103. Bibliographisches Institut Mannheim/Wien/Zürich.

Reid, Constance. 1970. Hilbert. Springer-Verlag.

Schwartz, Laurent. 1997. *Un mathématicien aux prises avec le siècle*. Éditions Odile Jacob, Paris.

## Thank you!

21