



Elizabeth Peterson and Kristy Beers Fägersten (eds.) (2023). *English in the Nordic countries. Connections, Tensions, and Everyday Realities*. New York: Routledge.

The *English in the Nordic Countries* edited volume is a valuable contribution where experts explore the reasons behind high English proficiency in the Nordic region, analyze language usage across various societal and economic domains, and discuss the implications for language attitudes, as well as ideological tensions. The 12-chapter volume is divided into two parts: "Background and critical perspectives", and "English in different settings".

In the introduction, the editors address issues such as defining the Nordic region and its relationship to English. While Nordic countries are culturally closely related in one way, there are differences due to their unique situations, historical heritage, and distinct socio-political processes. The chapter explores how the English language fits into this mosaic.

The first contribution in this part, "The Role of English in the Nordic Language System", by Johan Strang, examines language politics and the usage

of Scandinavian languages (the closely related Swedish-Danish-Norwegian languages), among five Nordic countries and three autonomous regions. The author explores whether English can serve as a *door opener* and create more inclusive communication across Nordic countries.

In Chapter 3, "Shifting connections between English and the languages of the Nordic region", Elizabeth Peterson points out the fact that from a historical perspective, there has always been a contact between the Scandinavian group of languages, as well as Finno-Ugric languages, with English over the centuries. Starting from the Middle Ages, until today, the contact situation has just taken a different form.

In Chapter 4, "Anglicization of the languages of the Nordic countries: Popular culture and everyday discourse", Kristy Beers Fägersten investigates the presence of Anglophone popular culture across the Nordic countries, exploring its connection to attitudes toward English and its impact on everyday discourse. The examples of code-switching and swearing primarily focus on youth language. This serves as a means of expressing identity and style for youngsters, creating a unique category of English influenced by the domestic languages.

In Chapter 5, "Language Contact and Language Change: Impact on the Languages of the Nordic Countries", Helga Hilmisdóttir and Elizabeth Peterson overview the language contact situation in the Nordic region and the evidence of it: through borrowings from English. The authors explore the frequency of lexical borrowings in major domains, such as the technological domain (e.g., *telephone*, *internet*), or recent borrowings which, according to the authors,

often reflect modern living and understanding of popular culture, associated mainly with youth and urban dwellers.

In Chapter 6, "Beyond Threat or Opportunity: English and Language Ideological Tension in the Nordic Countries", Janus Mortensen examines the apparent contradictions in attitudes toward English in the Nordic region and explore the reasons behind them. This includes worries about domestic languages no longer being used in higher education or corporate settings. The author emphasizes that the role of English should not be perceived in binary opposition; its effects are not strictly positive, nor negative.

The second part of the book, "English in different settings," presents diverse case studies collected from various locations across the Nordic countries. This part opens with Chapter 7, "Parallelism, translanguaging, and English-medium instruction in Nordic higher education", by BethAnne Paulsrud and Una Cunningham. Using Sweden as a case study, the authors provide an overview of the use of English in higher education as a result of internationalization efforts at the universities across Nordic countries. The authors point out potential problems for local students as well as international students, whose languages might be excluded.

Similar to universities, English usage in other domains, such as workplaces, can also lead to the marginalization of native language usage, notably Scandinavian as a common language. In Chapter 8, "English in the Nordic workplace: Practices, policies, and ideologies," the author focuses on the use of English as a language of industry and corporate communication, focusing on the Danish branch of international business.

Chapter 9, "English in Norway's multilingual North: A rhizomatic view on encounters with historical and transnational diversity," by Florian Hiss, brings interesting evidence from Northern Norway, the region where Norwegian, Sami, Kven, and English meet. Through three case studies: the linguistic landscape of Tromsø, the workplace in the region, and Sami University of Applied Sciences, the author illustrates the interplay between the languages and language practices, as well as ideologies in a multilingual setting.

In Chapter 10, "Metapragmatics of 'bad' English in Finnish social media", by Samu Kytölä shows the creative use of English in online football forums in Finland. In this case, 'bad' English is seen as a potential source of humor and a resource for identity construction for Finnish speakers.

In addition to English in the workplace and online discourse, the book explores English in Nordic multilingual families. In Chapter 11, "English in Nordic multilingual families," Kaisa S. Pietikäinen and Louisa Gühr, based on linguistic interviews, draw attention to the inclusive versus exclusive function that English might have in multilingual families. Speaking only English might make it difficult for one partner to learn a domestic language.

In the book's final chapter, the editors bring comments from prominent senior scholars, who have worked with English in the Nordics, commenting on the future of English-related research in the Nordic countries, and the most important issues related to English today compared to some decades before.

This anthology, which is openly accessible, will surely appeal to a range of audiences,

from students to experts. In the multilingual Nordic region, English is perceived not only as a language of science but also as a universal means of communication in daily life. This anthology sheds light on the theoretical aspects of the present situation while also presenting empirical evidence from the Nordic countries. The chapters cover the topic from the role of English in the Nordic language system to its role in popular culture and everyday discourse, and the impact it has on the languages of the Nordic countries, which is leading to language change and further ideological tensions. This edited volume could encourage readers to view everyday situations from fresh perspectives.

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