

L3 dialect use as marker of social mobility: Case of Polish migrant communities living in Tromsø

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Dialect acquisition in a foreign language is not often discussed in publications on L2/Ln acquisition, possibly due to the expectation that a language learner will acquire a standard variety of a target language. Investigating the use of an additional dialect or dialect features in both one's first and second languages is, however, vitally important for understanding both how language is influenced by the social environment, and how social factors can map onto language use. So far, it has been mostly shown that first-generation migrants do not fully engage in the pragmatics of dialect use and, rather, their language use is often governed by idiolectal features (Labov 2014). The problem of the standard vs. the dialect is even more complex in the discussion on L2/Ln Norwegian, especially from the sociolinguistic perspective.

The acquisition of sociolinguistic variation has been described for L1, L2 and later languages, however. Indeed, sociolinguistic variation is acquired relatively early in language development in children (Labov 1964, Labov 2013), along with dialect perception in the L1 and understanding the social norms this variation communicates (Okumura et al. 2014). Whilst research into L2 D2 (Language 2, dialect 2) is sparse, it does exist. Drummond (2013) investigated L2 D2 acquisition of the Manchester dialect in terms of the STRUT vowel, finding that length of residence, having a native speaker partner, and attitudes towards Manchester affect the degree of vowel change to the local variant. Gnevsheva et al (2022) show that L2 speakers of English are more likely to shift their American English dialects to Australian English than L1 speakers of American English, finding that length of residence and positive attitudes towards Australia predicted greater selection of Australian words.

We are investigating dialect production and dialect perception in L3 Norwegian, as spoken by speakers born in Poland, residing in Norway for a longer period of time, and speaking Norwegian to an advanced level of proficiency. We map the rates of dialect use with socio-cultural factors such as having Norwegian friends in their inner circles, sense of belonging within the Norwegian society, profession, level of Norwegian proficiency of their partner's etc. Participants engaged in several tasks, including reading tasks, unscripted speech, wordlist reading, translation tasks, an acceptability judgement task, and an extended demographic questionnaire. Based on the literature, we predict that at least the length of residency and attitudes toward Norway will have an effect on dialect use. We also predict that participants will use dialect more in unscripted speech, and that use will be more frequent for more salient features (e.g., phonological and lexical features).

The initial results, based on 30 participants recorded in Tromsø, show several clear-cut patterns, namely: 1) frequent dialect users all speak Norwegian to a very proficient, native-like level, 2) speakers with many Norwegian friends and Norwegian partners use the dialect more frequently, 3) the dialect is used much more in unscripted speech, as opposed to reading tasks, wordlist reading tasks and translation tasks. These findings suggest that the higher use of the dialect, or the vernacular, in one's foreign language may be an index of how much the speakers engage in social interactions with L1 speakers, but also that Ln speakers may be

sensitive to style-shifting and the contextual use of the standard and the dialect similarly to L1 users of the language.

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