

ALS 2006

Name of author: Tania E. Strahan
Institutional Affiliation: Monash University
Email address: tania@strahan.id.au
Title of proposed paper: Norwegian long-distance reflexives: Lectal variation and speaker attitudes
Keywords: dialects, Norwegian, long-distance reflexives, sociolectal variation.

Abstract of proposed paper.

Previous research indicates that variation in Norwegian with respect to the acceptability of long-distance reflexives (LDR) is dependent on the speaker's dialect (Moshagen and Trosterud, 1990). Other factors which are typically associated with linguistic variation include the speaker's sex, age and level of education. In addition to these usual factors, Norwegian has another complicating factor, namely the two official written forms – *Nynorsk* and *Bokmål*. *Nynorsk* is more conservative than *Bokmål*, and is often viewed as an unnecessarily difficult writing standard by speakers whose dialects more closely resemble the 'main' standard *Bokmål*. *Nynorsk* use is closely associated with country dialects and linguistic patriotism; LDR is a feature of Norwegian inherited from Old Norse. Adding these two facts together suggests that a speaker's attitude towards *Nynorsk* and *Bokmål* is probably indicative of their acceptance or rejection of LDR.

However, data from 180 speakers of Norwegian tested against each of these factors reveals some surprises. This paper will show that, while the speaker's dialect is indeed the most significant indicator of a speaker's acceptance of LDR, the dialects of both parents are also highly relevant. This paper will also explore the issue of speaker attitudes to the written languages and the role this plays in acceptance of LDR.

Reference.

Moshagen, Sjur Nørstebø, and Trosterud, Trond. 1990. Non-Clause-Bounded Reflexives in Mainland Scandinavian. *Working Papers in Scandinavian Syntax* 46:47-52.