



Nordplus and teaching, learning and researching Nordic languages in the West-Nordic Region

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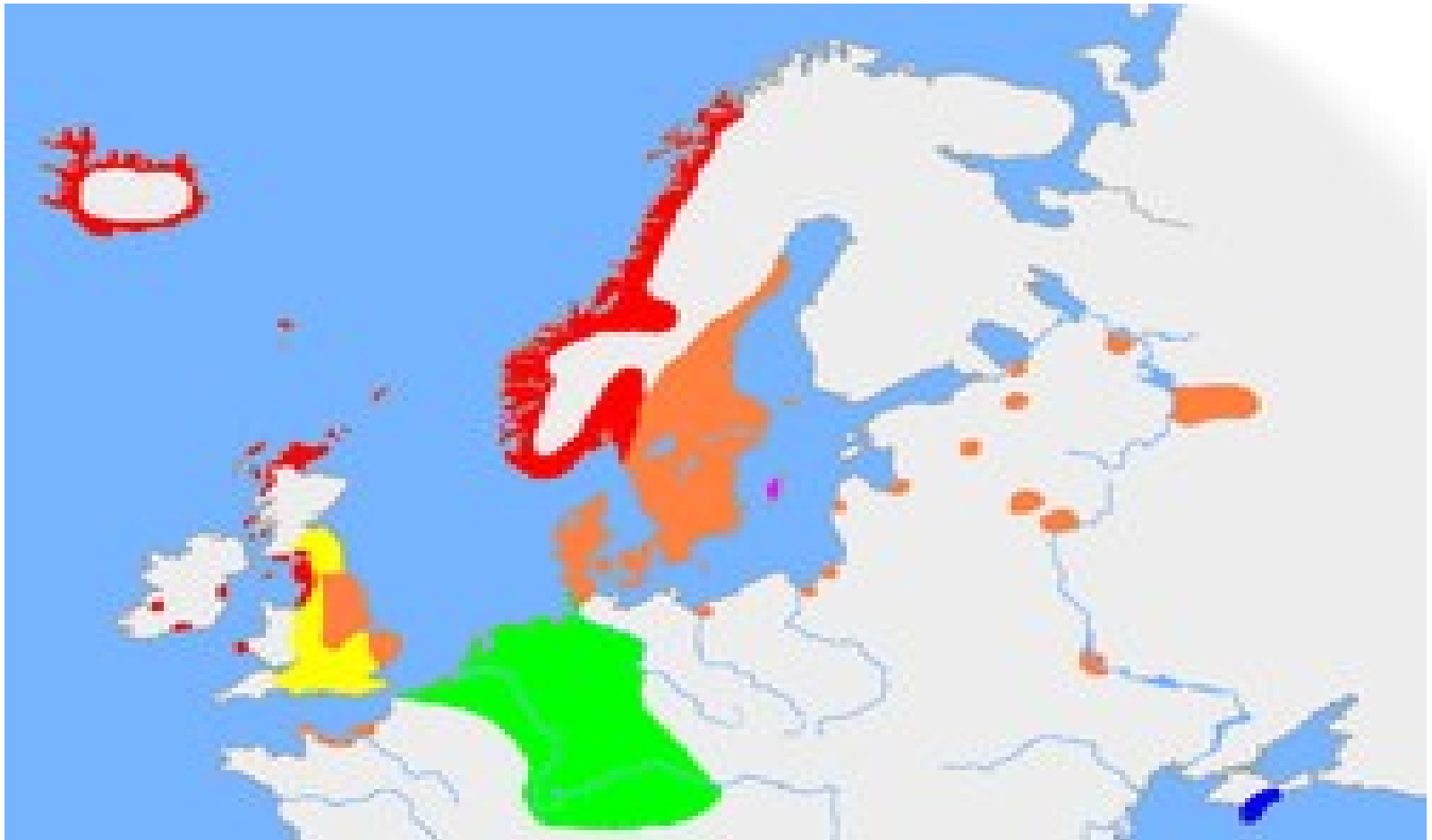
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West Germanic languages in early 10th century:

red: western group, **orange:** eastern group, **green:** mutually intelligible to some extent





West-Nordic region Population

- Iceland: 330 inhabitants
- Greenland: 56.500
- Faroe Islands: 49.500

- Danish instruction – different situation in society, both the same and different needs in the instruction of Danish





Danish Proficiency a Key to Norwegian and Swedish (the Nordic language Community)

Lingua Nordica: Skandinaviska“ /
„Blandinaviska“

Danish vocabulary with Icelandic-Danish
pronunciation

„Printing house Danish“



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Danish instruction in compulsory and secondary school in Iceland

- Compulsory school: 4-year mandatory instruction from grades 7 to 10 inclusive: Competence level A1, A2 and partly B1
- Secondary school: generally one year: Competence level – minimum C1
- cf. Common European Framework of Reference for Languages





The Faroe Islands

- Danish instruction mandatory in compulsory schools, grade 3-9
- Optional in secondary schools





Greenland

- Danish instruction mandatory both in compulsory (1-10) and secondary schools





Objectives of Danish instruction in Iceland

- All-round communicative competence in Danish (cf. Canale and Swain (1980) and Canale(1983) comprised of linguistic competence, sociolinguistic competence/pragmatic competence, discourse/text competence and strategic competence
- Command of the four language skills: reading, listening, writing and speaking





Differences

- *Greenland*: Danish plays an important role in everyday life
- *The Faroe Islands*: Danish important in schools, TV, many young people go to Denmark for studying or working
- *Iceland*: Danish language not a part of everyday life, the spoken language, esp. the productive use of Danish problematic, teaching tradition focused on written language





Cooperation

- Icelandic, Faroese, Greenlandic and Danish scholars, teachers and learners of Danish
- Enhance knowledge about the learning situation and share knowledge and new tools for language learning





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MØD ANDRE ELEVER I VEST-NORDEN, SOM OGSÅ LÆRER DANSK

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- www.frasar.net
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Projects in progress

- App for www.frasar.net and for www.taleboblen
- Talerum
- Ego





How do we benefit from the projects?

- We develop new tools/applications for learning and using the target languages
- We establish human relations/make new friends
- We know more about each other, both about teachers and learners' needs
- We have influence on teaching/learning practice
- We cooperate on research in the field of language learning and teaching
- Are able to take the needs of individuals and groups (fx immigrants) into consideration





New project on Language Contact

- A general outline of Danish in the West-Nordic countries in a linguistic perspective
- Comparative perspective – past and present
- The contact with Danish in Iceland is very different from the situation on the Faroe Islands and in Norway and Greenland – both past and present





New research - network: Language and Culture Contact In the West-Nordic region



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Possible perspectives for projects

- A comparative analysis of Danish in Greenland, Iceland and the Faroes
 - status and function of indigenous language and Danish
 - attitudes towards Danish/Scandinavian: motivations for learning and use?
 - > didactic traditions, teaching materials
 - Scandinavian or English as a lingua franca?
 - differences in productive Danish competence on the Faroes and in Iceland > contact domains?
 - characteristics of the local variety of Danish (if there is)
 - **Vocabulary – loan words (also idioms, proverbs, chunks etc.)**

