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
5. 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^s French, studied in Stockholm (4 theses 1892–1903)

sv^s Swedish, studied in Stockholm (9 theses 1983–1999)

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.
1870–1874  SV 1870  SV SV SV SV SV SV SV SV
1875–1879  SV SV SV SV SV SV SV
1880–1884  SV
1885–1889  SV SV SV SV SV SV SV SV SV
1890–1894  SV SV SV SV SV SV SV
1895–1899  SV SV SV SV SV SV SV
1900–1904  SV SV SV SV SV SV SV SV SV
1905–1909  SV SV 1907
1910–1914
1915–1919  SV 1915  EN 1919
1920–1924
1925–1929
1930–1934
1935–1939
1940–1944  EN 1944
1945–1949  EN
1950–1954  EN EN EN EN EN
1955–1959  EN EN
1960–1964  EN EN EN EN
1965–1969  EN EN EN EN EN EN EN EN
1970–1974  EN EN EN EN EN EN EN EN EN
1975–1979  EN EN EN EN EN EN EN EN EN EN EN
2. The Language Group at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2003–2010

Appointed by the Board of the Faculty for the period 2003 June 10 — 2010 December.
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Status planning, corpus planning.
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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.
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[Transit of Venus 2004 June 08!]
4. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2010–2013

2 pages. Emphasizes internationalization.
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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.)
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This is a development which is a natural consequence of the globalization of all sciences, and is accompanied by an increase in quality.
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A choice any small country has to make . . .
References


References

*Transition German → 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.


Thank you!