

# Language choice at Uppsala University, 1477–2013

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At the Nitobe Symposium on  
*Languages and Internationalization*  
*in Higher Education:*  
*Ideologies, Practices, Alternatives*

in

Reykjavík, 2013 July 18–20

nitobe2013

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## 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<sup>s</sup>** French, studied in Stockholm (4 theses 1892–1903)

**sv<sup>s</sup>** Swedish, studied in Stockholm (9 theses 1883–1899)

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.

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1870–1874 **sv<sup>1870</sup>svsvsvsvsvsvsvsv**  
 1875–1879 **svsvsvsvsvsvsvsv**  
 1880–1884 **svsv<sup>s</sup>**  
 1885–1889 **svsvsvsv<sup>s</sup>svsv<sup>s</sup>sv<sup>s</sup>sv<sup>s</sup>**  
 1890–1894 **svsvsv<sup>s</sup>svsvsv<sup>s</sup>**  
 1895–1899 **sv<sup>s</sup>svsvsvsv<sup>s</sup>sv**  
 1900–1904 **svsvsvsvsvsvsvsvsvsvsv**  
 1905–1909 **svsv<sup>1907</sup>**  
 1910–1914  
 1915–1919 **sv<sup>1915</sup>en<sup>1919</sup>**  
 1920–1924  
 1925–1929  
 1930–1934  
 1935–1939  
 1940–1944 **en<sup>1944</sup>**  
 1945–1949 **enen**  
 1950–1954 **enenenenen**  
 1955–1959 **enenen**  
 1960–1964 **enenenenen**  
 1965–1969 **enenenenenenenenen**  
 1970–1974 **enenenenenenenenenenen**  
 1975–1979 **enenenenenenenenenenenen**

**fr<sup>s</sup>**<sub>1892</sub>  
**fr<sup>s</sup>fr<sup>s</sup>**  
**fr<sup>s</sup>**  
**fr<sup>1905</sup>fr**      **de<sup>1909</sup>de**  
**frfr**              **de**  
**fr**                  **dedede**  
**fr**                  **dede**  
**dedede**  
**frfr**              **de**  
**frfr<sup>1936</sup>**        **dedede**  
**dede**  
**de**  
**dede<sup>1953</sup>**

## 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. |

(I was a member until 2006 April 30). |

Informally it started even earlier . . . |

Status planning, corpus planning.

## 3. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2008–2010

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. |

The plan was presented on 2004 June 07 at a conference on Parallel language proficiency organized at Voksenåsen, Oslo. Invitation by the Nordic Council of Ministers. |

[Transit of Venus 2004 June 08!]

## 4. Language plan for the Faculty of Science and Technology, Uppsala University, 2010–2013

2 pages. Emphasizes internationalization. |

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.)

## 5. Some facts of life

A majority of PhD students in mathematics and other sciences cannot speak Swedish. |

There are many professors who cannot speak Swedish. |

This is a development which is a natural consequence of the globalization of all sciences, and is accompanied by an increase in quality. |

A choice any small country has to make . . .

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*Transition German* → *English*.

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Thank you!

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