

Internal and external factors in Faroese syntactic variation and change

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Focus in this talk is on the influence from Danish, DA, on (1) the Faroese, FA, tense system, in particular the perfect and pluperfect; (2) case assignment and finally (3) the increasing role of English in Faroese language change.

In FA and DA the perfect and pluperfect can be expressed with the auxiliary BE + an un-accusative verb. The use of BE in this context is a clear example of language contact.

The dative case is slowly disappearing from Faroese, for both internal (verb-semantics) and external reasons (language contact). Regarding the lexical semantics, prototypical dative verbs like *at hjálpa* 'to help' still govern the dative, while non-prototypical dative verbs like the motion verb *at lyfta* 'to lift' now govern the accusative. Relevant external factors include loan verbs, for example *at dirigera* 'to direct' that is synonymous with a native verb *at stjórna* 'to direct'.

Language contact between English, EN, and FA is currently increasing; this is seen in the use of the non-canonical imperative *ikki kom* lit.: not come-IMP. (or *ikki koma* not come-INF.), which is a calque of English *don't come*.

Data from both grammaticality judgment tests and corpus searches are presented.

References: Barðdal, J. (2001). Case in Icelandic – A Synchronic, Diachronic and Comparative Approach. Doctoral dissertation, Department of Scandinavian Languages. Lund University, Lund. Heycock C. & H.P Petersen (2017). The HAVE/BE alternation in contemporary Faroese. *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* 49, 143–158. Thráinsson H. et al. (2012). Faroese. An Overview and Reference Grammar. Faroe University Press / Linguistic Institute, UoI. Petersen. H. P. Dynamics of Faroese-Danish language contact. Universitätsverlag Winter. Larsson, I. (2009) Participles in time. Göteborgs Universitet.