

# Local Regional Danish or Regional Standard Danish?

An investigation into the language spoken in Aarhus

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This article investigates the development of the language spoken in Denmark's second-largest city, Aarhus. In order to decide whether the variety spoken in Aarhus should be defined as Local Regional Danish or as Regional Standard Danish, the distribution of 14 typical local features is examined among nine informants born between 1943 and 1983, representing three generations. Since the existence of a language or a language variety normally combines with a specific language awareness (Kristiansen 1992), the nine informants were asked to place their own way of speaking on a scale ranging from Local to Standard Danish. In agreement with the ongoing dialect levelling in Denmark, the study shows that the use of local features is less frequent among the younger informants. However, despite generational differences in usage, all three generations define their language as very local. Based on these findings the article argues that the ongoing language change in Aarhus can be seen as a development from Local Regional Danish to Regional Standard Danish.