

In different Danishes

An acoustic investigation of vowels in Danish dialects

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This article describes an investigation of modern spoken variants of the Danish language in six regions of Denmark at the beginning of the third millennium. Special attention is given to the acoustic description of vowels. The informants come from six Danish towns which are comparable since they are all centres in six average Danish municipalities. Each region is represented by six to eight informants dividing into at least two men and at the most four women from each region. The informants are from 19 to 45 years of age. The reason behind this survey is the claim that Danish dialects are not only dying, they are actually dead. A claim tested in this investigation by describing vowel systems. More than 45.000 unique vowel manifestations are analysed with respect to F0, F1, F2 and F3. Lots of examples are given to show that the informants in this investigation represent spoken language variants containing vowel sounds that are in agreement with previous descriptions of Danish dialects. According to the very detailed acoustic descriptions of vowel sounds of this investigation, Danish dialects are doing fine and changing - each dialect in its own special way.