

Apostrophe in the dialect literature

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This article examines the use of the apostrophe in the respective novels *Vredens Børn* (1904) and *Den røde hane* (2024) by Jeppe Aakjær (1866–1930) and Ingrid Nymo (1992–). Adopting a comparative and diachronic approach, the study shows that both authors frequently use the apostrophe to mark prosodic phenomena such as enclisis, or phenomena with prosodic implications such as apocope, but that their practices differ. The authors' dialect writings do not fully correspond to the underlying dialects, *fjandbomål* and *thybomål*, respectively, nor is this the intention. Rather, their alternative orthographic practices, and in particular their use of the apostrophe, are used to mark non-standardness and to index social meanings both within and beyond the narrative. The two texts have been selected because they represent two different time periods in the history of the Danish speech community, namely the beginning of the dialect levelling in Denmark around 1900 and its contemporary endpoint. It is therefore of particular interest that the authors' differing practices in using the apostrophe can be interpreted in relation to the status of the dialect levelling at the time of publication of the two novels. The study thus also contributes to contemporary readers' understanding of the social, societal and spoken language history of two different time periods.

KEYWORDS: dialect writing; apostrophe; prosody; literary dialect; indexicality