

Dig og mig og vi to

Views on case in modern Danish

JØRGEN SCHACK

Grammatik over det Danske Sprog (GDS) presents a wide range of new analyses of various grammatical phenomena. One of the more noteworthy innovations in GDS is the analysis of the use of case in modern Danish. According to this analysis, the case of the subject pronoun is determined by its function as either anaphoric or non-anaphoric: anaphoric pronouns are in the subjective case, non-anaphoric pronouns are in the objective case. In the present paper I discuss GDS's account of case and compare it with previous accounts: Diderichsen 1962, Aage Hansen 1965 and 1967, Erik Hansen 1972, and Brink & Lund 1975. It is demonstrated that variation in pronoun case correlates with syntactic transparency: variation only occurs when the syntactic function of the pronoun is opaque. Finally, it is suggested that the distribution of pronoun case forms is determined by the following rule: an obvious subject pronoun is in the (marked) subjective case. As a rule, any other personal pronoun is in the (unmarked) objective case.