

SCOTS AND NYNORSK: A COMPARISON OF TWO LANGUAGE MOVEMENTS' STRUGGLE FOR RECOGNITION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

As demands for independence continue to be made in Scotland, a growing Scots language movement attempts to gain recognition for Scots as an independent language as opposed to a variety of English (Unger 2013). These attempts include calls for recognition in the higher education sector. Although not formally linked to the independence movement, the Scots language movement has interesting parallels in the Nynorsk movement which emerged as Norway gained independence in the years preceding and following 1905 (Almenningen et al. 2003, Linn 2014, Hyvik, Millar and Newby 2016). This paper explores the early phases of the struggle to have Scots recognised as suitable for use in schools and higher education in Scotland and draws parallels to the similar struggles faced by the Nynorsk movement c. 1884-1939. The paper will show how language rights in schools and higher education are linked and interdependent, how the early phase of bringing Scots and Nynorsk into universities in both cases was driven by pioneers, and explore the shared ideologies of the Scots and Nynorsk movements.

References

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