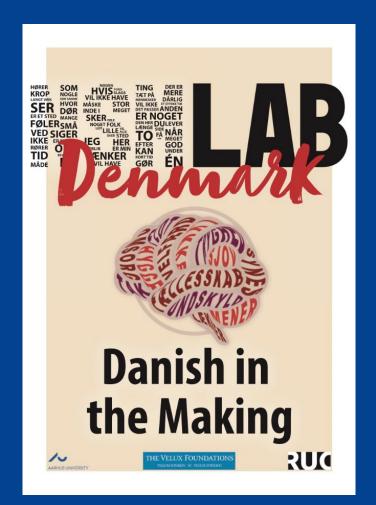




THE MINIMAL LANGUAGES APPROACH FOR INTERCULTURAL LEARNING. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOW PROFICIENCYLEARNERS

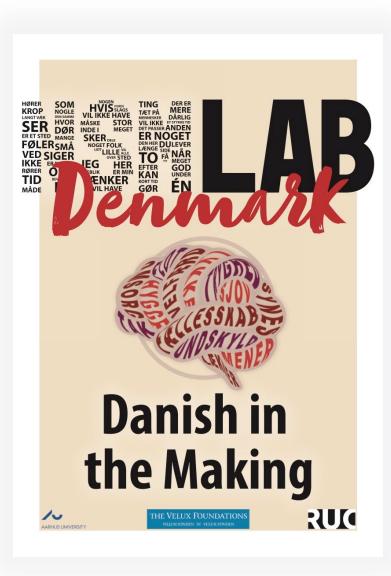
SANDEFJORD, 24TH OF APRIL 2025

SUSANA S. FERNÁNDEZ & ASTRID MUS RASMUSSEN









DANISH IN THE MAKING: INTERCULTURAL PRAGMATICS FOR LEARNERS AND TEACHERS OF DANISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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Zhengdao Ye (Australian National U.),

Ulla Vanhatalo (Helsinki U.) and

Sven Tarp (Aarhus U.)

> Consultants: Clavis - sprog og kompetence 2023-2024.

AOF Job og Dansk as of January 1st, 2025





DANISH L2 EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

- > Danish Education 1 (DU1): for those who cannot read and write the Latin alphabet
- > Danish Education 2 (DU2): for those who have a short school and educational background from home
- Danish Education 3 (DU3): for those who have a medium or long school and education background

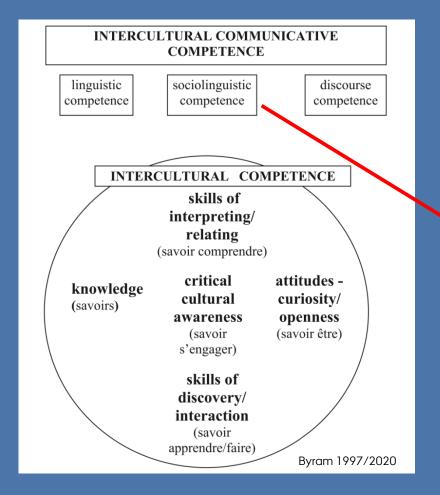


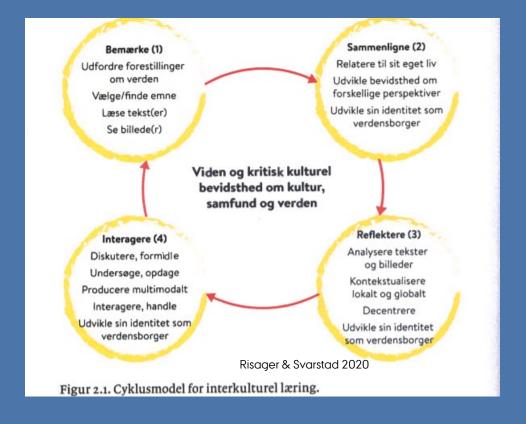


> What aspects of Danish communicative culture do learners and teachers of L2 Danish need, and how can they be described and introduced in the L2 Danish classroom to promote intercultural communicative competence through a minimal languages approach?



FRAMEWORKS





+ pragmalinguistics

- -> provision of varied vocabulary for the same purpose
 - -> spread of speech acts
- + sociopragmatics
 - -> politeness strategies
 - -> social norms and expectations
 - -> contextual factors

UNSYSTEMATIC FOCUS ON ICC

Most often we formulate the linguistic goals. I don't think we have been good at being completely clear about **the cultural aspect**. (...) You may not take public transport. But you have to learn about it in Denmark – Not new but more systematic!

These kinds of discussions ... come into play when students ask questions or share their experiences. I don't need to open these comparative discussions because they happen very naturally.

The teachers

UNSYSTEMATIC FOCUS ON ICC

That would be interesting [learning about taking off your shoes in someone's house and not starting eating before the host says "please"]. I wouldn't care about that in my country, but I know that, I've learned from reading, that Danes do care about this. And you should know that, otherwise you can do something wrong. So, I would like to know that. (...) Sometimes you pick up something about Danish culture, because it happens, but it's not because it's part of the program.

I think if students brought topics to the class, it would be too easy to go off on tangents and go off topic, and I would say there'd be a lot of content loss, but I do think it would be beneficial if a teacher is describing different words or different scenarios

The learners





COMMUNICATIVE CULTURE

- The universe of meaning that is associated with Danish words and ways of speaking.
 - > the semantics of Danish *cultural keywords* (i.e., culturally loaded words that have a particular relevance for Danish society) and other types of culturally defined vocabulary,
 - > the pragmatics of *cultural scripts* (i.e., descriptions of central cultural values and social/linguistic behaviors)





What are cultural keywords?

- > Certain words are central to a group and filled with cultural meaning.
- > They are very frequent.
- > They are often at the center of a large set of fixed phrases, they appear in proverbs, in song, book and film titles, etc.













What are cultural scripts?

- > Cultural norms of communication
- > In different societies, people not only speak different languages, but also use them differently, following different cultural norms.
- > Although not everyone in a social group follows the rules, they at least know them and can rely on them to interpret the actions of their interlocutors.







THE MINIMAL LANGUAGES **APPROACH**

> Based on the NSM approach to semantic and pragmatic description (Wierzbicka & Goddard)

> A limited vocabulary of ca. 300 simple words used to explain complex concepts.

> Designed for **practical applications** such as health communication or language learning

nogen noget~ting mennesker~folk krop

alle

lidt~få

 (\blacktriangleright)

stå

sidde

meget~mange

vil~vil have vil ikke~vil ikke have ved tænker sker siger bevæger sig føler ser lever hører dør

er (et sted) der er er (nogen/noget) (er) min

slags ord dele



når~tid efter længe

kort tid

to

nogle

Danish | Levisen (2012, 2015)

et stykke tid øjeblik

dårlia meget

den her

anden

god

den samme

det passer



side inde i rører

stor

som~måde ikke måske kan

Semantic primes

fordi

hvis

tæt på



fingre

knogle bryster



om natten



på toppen på bunder rundt om



mænd kvinder blive født træk veiret mand dræbe



flad hårdt skarp tung



sten



græs

(##)

hvede



numme

skrive















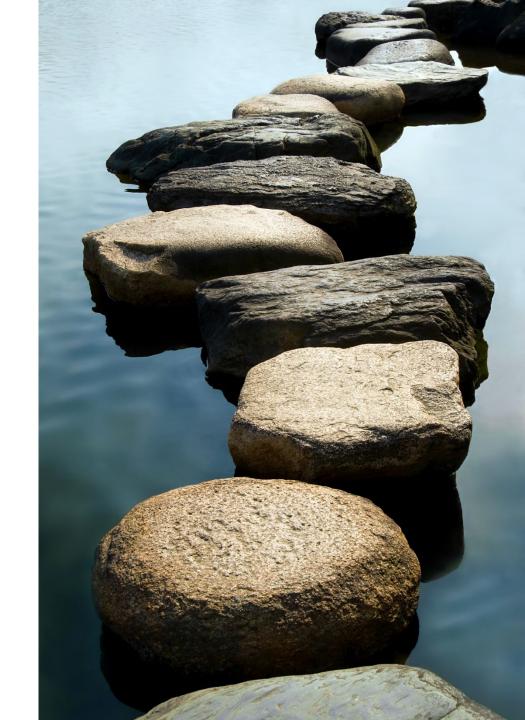


ledning

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Minimal language * Stepping stone Danish

- A metalanguage with limited vocabulary and simple grammar that we use to describe key elements of Danish communicative culture
- A metalanguage that helps learners on their way to Danish





VELUX FONDEN



Input from L2 Danish teachers

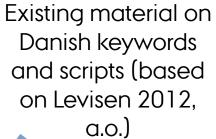
Textbook analyses



"missing" cultural keywords and scripts



Input from L2 learners







New works building on existing material ("filling the gap")



Quality assessment, updates, improvements





An extensive online L2 Danish learning resource











Classroom activities that promote a focus on intercultural competence based on the different domains of meaning including in Danskib.



Workshops for L2 Danish teachers, which shares and demonstrates the use of these teaching materials and the Minimal Danish approach.



A development framework for teaching materials using minimal languages, so that further paraphrases in minimal language can also be developed into teaching materials.







TYPES OF ENTRIES IN DANSKIB

Danish cultural keywords:

Big words Everyday words

ytringsfrihed madpakke

fællesskab hygge

trivsel ildsjæl

ligestilling udeliv

... ...

Cultural scripts:

In interaction:

'tak for mad' (scripts for thanking)

Expressing opinions

Values:

It's important to play

Taking initiative at work

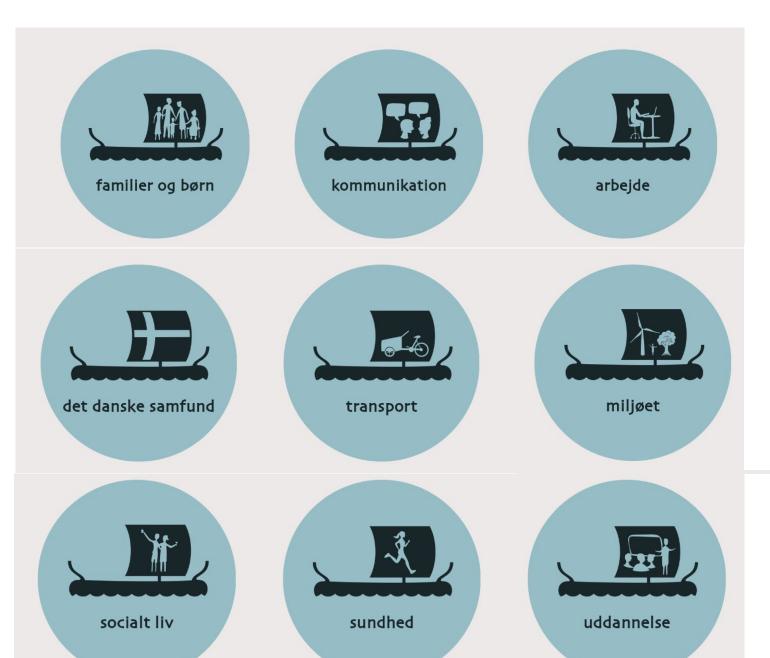
ATTRIVES

Den Danske Ordbog	Nudansk Ordbog	DanSKiB
være i sund og god fysisk vækst; udvikle sig godt	udvikle sig godt og være veltilpas	At føle noget godt meget ofte, i mange timer et sted (fx i skolen, på arbejde, hjemme). Når en person er et sted ofte, i mange timer, er det godt, hvis den her person trives, når personen er på det her sted. Folk trives ofte, når de ved, at der kan ske mange gode ting for dem på det her sted. Folk trives ofte, hvis de føler noget godt, når de er sammen med andre på det her sted. Folk trives ofte, hvis de kan gøre ting, som de gerne vil på det her sted. Folk i Danmark tænker, det er godt, hvis en person trives alle steder, hvor de ofte er i mange timer.





KEY AREAS



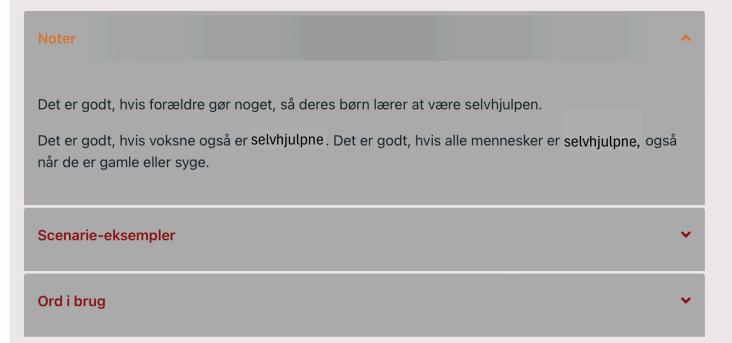
at være selvhjulpen - at gøre ting selv



Et barn kan gøre mange ting selv.

Et barn kan lære at gøre mange ting selv (fx tage sko på, spise med en ske, vaske hænder), hvis de voksne ikke gør alle ting for barnet. Det tager tid for barnet at lære det. Voksne skal give barnet tid og gør det ikke for barnet.

Mange mennesker i Danmark tænker, at det er godt for barnet at være selvhjulpen. Forældre vil gerne have, at deres børn er selvhjulpne. Det er godt for barnet, og det er godt for alle, fordi barnet kan gøre flere gode ting for sig selv og andre.



Tilbage til børn

Relaterede Opslag

selvstændighed

frihed

curling forældre



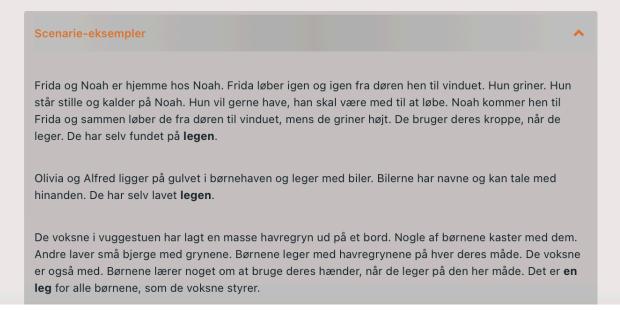
det er vigtigt at lege



Mange mennesker i Danmark tænker, at det er godt, at børn leger. Det er dårligt, hvis børn ikke har tid til at lege.

Det er godt, hvis børn leger på mange måder. Børn kan for eksempel lege med andre børn, med voksne, uden andre mennesker. De kan lege ude i naturen. De kan lege med legetøj. Det er godt, hvis de bruger deres krop, når de leger.

Børnføler noget godt, når de leger. De lærer mange ting, når de leger. Når de leger på mange måder, lærer de forskellige ting.



Tilbage til børn

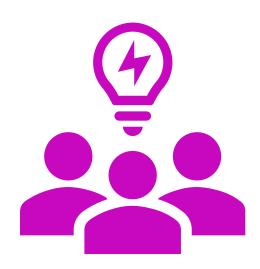
Relaterede Opslag

pædagogisk at børn går i dagtilbud de voksne, der arbejder i dagtilbud



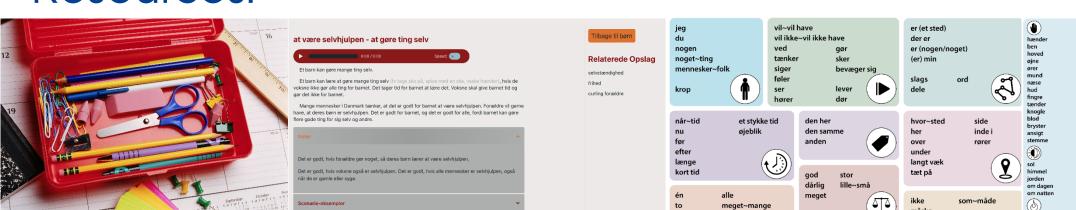






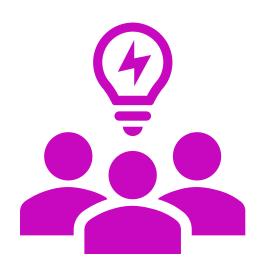
- 1) Brainstorm cultural keywords and cultural scripts that newcomers to your country could benefit from knowing.
- 2) Choose one (or two) of them and try writing a description in as simple terms as possible.
- 3) Discuss with your group mates your thoughts about this approach.

Resources:









Time for sharing...

Have you found aspects of your language's communicative culture that might be interesting to describe to your learners?

Would you like to share a description you have made?

Do you have any questions or comments?

