Language Group Specific Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. in TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Language Group: Norwegian
Author: Danielle Lussier

Program Contact Person: Nancy Cloud (ncloud@ric.edu)
Norwegian Language

Danielle Lussier
TESL 539
Spring 2010
Two distinct dialects
- Bokmal (literally meaning “book language”)
  - Closely related to Danish and Sweedish
  - Used primarily in the cities
  - Also used by most newspapers, television and radio broadcasts.
- Nynorsk (“new Norwegian”)
  - Dialect formed in the mid-1800s from rural dialects of Norwegian
  - Created as a conscious effort to separate from the Danish language

Both dialects have equal status in Norway
Schools can choose to teach either Nynorsk or Bokmal
Two ways to address others, depending on your relationship:

- **du** (never capitalized) is used when addressing people you know
  - family members
  - good friends
- **De** (always capitalized) used when speaking with people of high status, elders, and people you meet for the first time
Grammar

- Much easier grammar than other Germanic languages
- Definite Article
  - Expressed with a suffix
  - Sprak (language)---spraket (the language)
- Verbs
  - not marked by person or number
  - Suffix is added to mark tense or mood
  - Reise (to travel)--- reiser (I/you/he/she/it/we/they travel)
- Nouns
  - Categorized by gender
    - Masculine, feminine and neuter
    - gutt (boy: masculine), jente (girl: feminine), barn (child: neuter)
Norwegian Alphabet
Norsk Alfabet
(www.omniglot.com)

Aa  Bb  Cc  Dd  Ee  Ff  Gg  Hh  Ii  Jj
a  be  se  de  e  eff  ge  hå  i  je/jådd

Kk  Ll  Mm  Nn  Oo  Pp  Qq  Rr  Ss  Tt
kå  ell  em  enn  o  pe  ku  ærr  ess  te

Uu  Vv  Ww  Xx  Yy  Zz Ææ  Øø  Åå
u  ve  dåbbelt  eks  y  sett  æ  ø  å
–ve
Interesting Facts

The following English words are of Norwegian origin:

- Fjord
- Nook
- Krill
- Scrawny
- Trash
- Slump
- Dollop
- Rig
Difficulties When Learning English

- English is relatively easy for Norwegian Speakers to learn.

- Most features of English pronunciation do not present difficulties for Norwegian speakers.

- Some vowel and consonant sounds may cause difficulties when learning English.
As far as spelling, Norwegian speakers tend to replace v’s with w’s and the letter k is used much more than the letter c.

Hyphens, commas, semi colon, and apostrophes are confusing when learning to write in English.
Norwegian nouns are categorized by gender which can cause difficulty when learning English because gender is not part of our grammar.

- This can be tricky because some objects have a different gender than what may be assumed, such as:
  - Some flowers and plants are masculine
  - Body parts are feminine
  - Names of materials and substances are neuter
Forming proper (who, what, when, where, why) questions can also be an issue due to the following:

- “Verb second” rule in the Norwegian language
- Subject–auxiliary inversion in English
- Even though Norwegian word order is closer to English than other Germanic languages.

Norwegian speakers place mid–sentence adverbs after the “finite verb” and place the adverb before the “finite verb” in subordinate clauses which can cause problems in English.
A large amount of English vocabulary is fairly simple for Norwegian speakers to learn and because of the similarity of some words pronunciation of these words is somewhat easy as well.

However, there are some words, called “false friends” that are spelled like a Norwegian word but their meaning is not the same.
Norwegian Communication

- There is no ritual to follow when you greet a Norwegian businessman.
  - A handshake, eye contact and a smile are enough when doing business in Norway.
- The Norwegian communication style is informal and direct.
- When presenting yourself, try not to be too over confident.
- It is important to be polite and respectful regardless of how informal their style is.
Norwegians are very honest and expect the same honesty in return.

Their body language and tone of voice is often less expressive than in North America and southern European countries.

Norwegians are punctual in both business and social situations.
- Delays more than 10–15 minutes give the impression of being unprofessional and even rude.
Work Cited

Books


Internet Sites & Images


The End

( google image )
M.Ed. in TESL Program
Nancy Cloud, Director
Educational Studies Department
Rhode Island College, HBS 206 #5
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Phone (401) 456-8789
Fax (401) 456-8284
ncloud@ric.edu

The M.Ed. in TESL Program at Rhode Island College
is Nationally Recognized by TESOL and NCATE