

Podcastserie: *Sprogbrug på KU / Language Use at the University of Copenhagen (UCPH)*

Short summary of episode 2: *Said and unsaid about language use at meetings*

Recorded 26th of October 2023

This episode is about language choice and language use at meetings at the University of Copenhagen. We all attend meetings, but who decides which language to use when? And how does language choice affect meetings and those who attend them? How can we make sure that language choice at meetings leads to inclusion rather than exclusion? These are some of the questions we address. We also discuss the recommendations for meetings included in the UCPH language policy, and we hear accounts of how meetings are held in different parts of the university and what it is like to attend meetings in Danish if Danish is not your first language.

Everyone should be able to take part in meetings at the university without feeling excluded due to language, but this is not always easy to achieve in a multilingual organisation. To work towards a solution, a first important step is to initiate and carefully frame a conversation on language choice where different voices and perspectives can be heard. The next steps will be to design local principles for language choice and devise a clear plan for how to implement and evaluate them. There is not a single solution that will fit everyone in every situation, but to find the best compromise, we need to talk to each other about language and dare to say the unsaid out loud.

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Guests: Christine Gulstad, academic officer at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences (SUND), UCPH

Lisbeth Verstraete-Hansen, head of department at the Department of English, Germanic, and Romance Studies (ENGEROM), UCPH

Janus Mortensen, professor of multilingualism and language policy, CIP, UCPH