

Lule Saami dialects
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The received view of how many – and which – main dialects there are of Lule Saami and where they are spoken (Wiklund 1901: 2–3; 1915: 4; Sammallahti 1998: 21–22; Ylikoski 2022: [130]–131) is in some regards out of date, and in other regards even misleading. In my talk I will present my current dissertation project where I am pursuing a basic synchronic survey of the current Lule Saami dialects. I have conducted extensive, structured interviews with about 15 Lule Saami L1-speakers representative of different areas in Sweden and Norway. Varieties only sometimes considered Lule Saami are also included: Pite Saami (e.g. Korhonen 1979: 541; Angéus Kuoljok 1997: 19; 2003: 5–8) and Northern Gällivare (e.g. Wiklund 1890: [iii]; Grundström 1946–1954; Korhonen 1981: 15). In this way, measurement points are produced that are interesting compared with idiolects of Lule Saami proper, since one would expect Pite Saami and Northern Gällivare to be the most divergent. The survey consists of three sub-surveys: a phonetical one of 12 variables, a morphological one of 12 variables, and a lexical one of 45 variables. In each sub-survey, the outcome of every variable is turned into binary data (or sometimes ternary, quaternary etc.) that is distributed over the measurement points (representing the idiolects of the interviewees) that are plotted on a geographical map for each variable. From the data of all variables within each sub-survey, an overall analysis is produced by plotting the individual data sets of my interviewees on a PCA (principal component analysis) diagram in order to illustrate how the idiolects group themselves. Last, an attempt to synthesis of the three sub-surveys will be pursued, and the result will be presented in both PCA diagrams and a geographic map.

Intriguingly, Lule Saami exhibits a couple of dialects in Norway that are spoken only there and that until now have not been scientifically described at all (cf though Qvigstad 1925: 19; Qvigstad's unpublished notebooks; Lagercrantz 1939: *passim*). Contrary to the received view, no dialect seems to be spoken in both Norway and Sweden. Furthermore, it turns out that the Lule Saami language in Sweden differs considerably from that in Norway, especially when it comes to lexicon and phonetics. This is contrary to what is said in most of the central works (Wiklund 1891: [i] f.; Qvigstad 1925 *ibid.*; Sammallahti 1998: 21; cf however Rydving 1986: 200 f.). Another finding is that many of the traditional Lule Saami dialects are still spoken in Sweden, albeit in slightly altered versions; dialect levelling seems to be working very slowly. Differences between the language of older sources and that of my recordings have emerged though. The project is to be concluded in 2025.

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