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# Furor Teutonicus vs. Swedish Laissez-faire?

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## Preliminaries

Language purity and loan words in the international context

Using popular linguistic approaches for teaching?!

## The predicament

Speaking about the American variety of English (AmE) Prince Charles in 1995 remarked:  
*"People tend to invent all sorts of nouns and verbs, and make words that shouldn't be."*

He went on to accuse AmE of being: "corrupting"

Illustrating the alleged vileness of AmE he ticked off examples, often grimacing in distaste:

*"lengthy", "influential", "census", "mileage", "reliable" and "presidential"*

## The predicament

Language purism, change, and development

Loan words

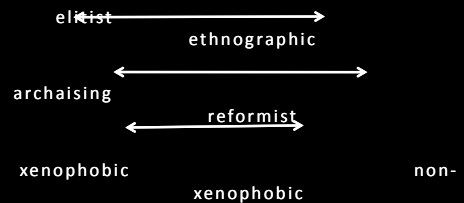
The role of English

Public attitudes towards linguistics

National differences

## The predicament

Thomas (1991) typology of language purism



## The starting point

Fredrik Lindström

Världens dåligaste språk  
(2000)



Bastian Sick

Der Dativ ist dem Genitiv  
sein Tod  
(2004)



## The protagonists

Fredrik Lindström

"Många tror att vi har ett ansvar att bevara språket, men det vore riktigare att säga att vi har en skyldighet att förändra det."  
"Many believe we have an responsibility to safeguard language, but it would be more accurate to say we have an obligation to change it."

Bastian Sick

"Dass die Orthografie nicht jedermanns Sache ist, ist bekannt. Noch weniger Freunde aber hat die Zeichensetzung."  
"It's common knowledge that orthography is not everyone's cup of tea. But punctuation has even fewer friends."

Der Dativ ist dem Genitiv sein Tod, Folge 2 (p. 19)

Världens dåligaste språk (p. 33)

## More merchandise

Fredrik Lindström

Värsta språket  
Världens smartaste ord  
Svenska dialektmysterier



Bastian Sick

Happy Aua



## Some examples

Word order after "aber" (but) in German

Double marking of comparative and superlative in British English

## The teaching context

Should we address contemporary issues of language change and/or purism in our teaching?

If so, how?

Can popular linguistic really be a source for the FL classroom?

What is paramount in the considerations of language teaching professionals?

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Thank you very much!  
*For thoughts, ideas,  
comments, criticisms,  
etc.:*

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