

University of Iceland
Vigdís International Centre

International advisory board & Westnordic Research Network

Meetings April 21.-22, 2017

Chair: Sebastian Drude, Director of Vigdís Internationale Centre of Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding – UNESCO Cat. 2 Centre.

Members of the UNESCO Cat. 2 Vigdís Internationale Centre Advisory Board: Jens Allwood, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Gothenburg; Peter Austin, Professor of Linguistics at SOAS University of London; Lars Borin, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Gothenburg and Director of Språkbanken; Bernard Comrie, Professor of Linguistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Anju Saxena, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Uppsala.

University of Iceland - Members of the Vigdís International Centre Board: Auður Hauksdóttir, Professor of Danish and Director of Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute; Ásdís R. Magnúsdóttir, Professor of French; Eiríkur Smári Sigurðarson, Director of Research at the School of Humanities; Þórhallur Eypórsson, Professor of Linguistics.

University of Iceland – Members of the Vigdís Institute Board: Oddný Sverrisdóttir, Professor of German; Geir Þórarinn Þórarinsson, Adjunct Lecturer of Greek and Latin; Guðmundur S. Brynjólfsson, representing doctoral students.

Members of the West-Nordic network:

Denmark

- Nina Møller Andersen, Lecturer on Danish as a foreign language, University of Copenhagen
- Karoline Kühl, Associate Professor of Danish, University of Copenhagen
- Peter Juel Henriksen, Associate Professor of Corpus?-linguistics, Handelshøjskolen, Copenhagen.

Faroe Islands

- Malan Marnersdóttir, Professor of Faroese Literature, Fróðskaparsetur
- Bergur D. Hansen, Assistant Professor of Faroese Literature, Fróðskaparsetur

Greenland

- Per Langgård, Special Advisor for the Greenland's Language committee
- Katti Frederiksen, Head, Greenland's Language committee
- Karen Langgård, Assistant Professor of Greenlandic Literature, University of Greenland

Norway

- Gunnstein Akselberg, Professor of Social linguistics, University of Bergen

Sweden

- Ulla Börestam, Professor of Linguistics, University of Uppsala

Iceland

- Auður Hauksdóttir, Professor of Danish, University of Iceland
- Gísli Magnússon, Assistant Professor of Danish literature, University of Iceland
- Pernille Folkmann, Assistant Professor of Danish, University of Iceland
- Þórhallur Eypórsson, Professor of Linguistics, University of Iceland
- Þórhildur Oddsdóttir, Adjunct in Danish, University of Iceland

Other participants:

Special invitees: Kristján Árnason, Professor of Icelandic, University of Iceland.

Agenda

A) IAB and boards meeting, Friday 21 April 10:00–12:00

Chair: SD; minutes: BB

Each agenda point can be followed by a discussion as needed.

- 1) Welcome (SD and AH)
- 2) Sharing of impressions of the opening event on 20 April (all)
- 3) Report on activities related to VIC (AH and boards)
- 4) Sebastian Drude presents himself
- 5) The name and profile of VIC (SD)
- 6) Overview of financial and staffing situation and perspectives for 2017 and 2018 (SD & AH)
- 7) Summary of plans for activities (AH, boards and SD)
- 8) The local, regional and international network, and UNESCO (all)
- 9) Open discussion focussing on activities, priorities and networking opportunities, in particular with WNN (all)

B) Internal WNN meeting, Friday 21 April 10:00–12:00

Chair: Auður Haukasdóttir; minutes?

- 1) Recapitulation: where does the WNN stand?
- 2) Preparation of the afternoon meeting, in particular for getting input from the IAB

C) Joint IAB, boards and WNN meeting, Friday 21 April 13:15–14:45

Chair: AH; minutes: BB

- 1) Welcome (AH)
- 2) Brief introduction of SD
- 3) Where do we stand: Résumé of previous activities, identified research project opportunities and recent developments (AH)
- 4) Open discussion (all), focussing on concrete proposals for research project proposals:
 - a. Topics for research projects
 - b. Whom to involve / include in the network
 - c. Where to apply

D) WNN meeting, Friday 21 April 15:15–17:30

Chair: AH; minutes: BB

Discussion focussing on:

- a) Planning the finalizing the current research project proposal to be submitted in June
- b) Concrete opportunities for other project proposals; identifying groups of collaborators

E) Joint IAB and WNN meeting, Saturday 22 April 10:00–17:30 (with lunch and coffee breaks)

Chair: AH; minutes (of plenary parts): BB

1) Plenum session ca. 10:00–10:30: Presentation of WNN meeting results, feedback from IAB, definition of working groups

2) Work in groups, ca. 10:30–12:00, 13:15–14:45: Planning of project proposals, with input from IAB members If needed, in the morning the IAB can gather separately to formulate feedback to the VIC

3) Plenum session ca. 15:15–17:30: Final discussion, summing up

Minutes: Birna Bjarnadóttir.

Minutes

A) IAB and boards meeting, Friday 21 April 10:00–12:00

Sebastian welcomes all, explains why there are separate meetings for this session and that Auður attends the first part of the **Internal WNN meeting**. He then asks the members of the IAB to share their impressions of the opening ceremony on April 20.

Bernard was impressed by the range of people in attendance.

Sebastian agrees and points out that the University of Iceland and the Vigdís Institute benefit also on a day like this from the fact that Iceland is a small country. Vigdís has also something to do with the wide range of the people in attendance, and that the subjects of language and culture are of interest to many. Just the fact that the competition for the naming of the new building drew around 1000 submissions tells us something about this society.

Jens states that this is the first time he witnesses sign language interpret music, and praises also the overall effect of Brynhildur's performance (the singing in all the languages), sign language and spoken language in the event's program. The President of Iceland, Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, seems to be a great President, he adds.

Peter: Astounding program! (A round of applause for Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, who directed the program). The only problem with the program was at the end, when people experienced some confusion reg. which door to use on their way out of Háskólabíó.

Anju: Very enjoyable, also the choice of language – Icelandic only. The wide range of people in attendance reflected also the idea behind the establishment of VIC; that is could unite politicians, artists, academics and the general public.

Peter: Some negative points: Given the multicultural nature of the population of present day Iceland, one wonders why there was no sign of linguistic diversity in the program. A group of children could, for example, have highlighted the presence of other spoken languages in Iceland. **Sebastian** agrees.

Jens: The Immigrant Institute in Gothenburg could cast some light on how to strengthen and or establish ties with immigrants in Iceland.

Sebastian agrees. Important to have the languages exposed.

Eiríkur Smári notes that currently, there are 100 hundred language spoken by children in elementary schools in Iceland.

Jens: All the more reason to highlight intercultural understanding.

Lars: A note on terminology: When is one no longer an immigrant...how many generations does it take? When is a child of immigrants no longer a 'foreigner', and what do you need to

do in order to become ‘native’? Perception is shaped by the way in which you portray various situations. The Samis, for example, reveal a problematic case in question. Where do they belong? Who are they?

And now to the impression: A somewhat surreal experience to sit here – in this house. Auður Hauksdóttir has worked wonders.

Sebastian agrees, and states that he finds this house amazing – with all its light.

Peter: One more note on the opening ceremony: It was a demonstration of high culture. Where was popular culture in the program?

Sebastian: What we should or could do is to highlight the multifaceted nature of language, and thereby highlight popular culture. Linguistic diversity – that is something people should learn about.

Jens suggests that immigrants are the key. He also discusses the subject of language maps in this context – for VIC to have several maps even that could highlight different dimension of languages.

Sebastian states that this part of the agenda is now completed. The next item: Report on activities related to VIC: a) current development & plan, b) what are the plans for the future. Auður is still chairing the **WNN session** and gives the report after Sebastian introduces himself to the **IAB board**.

Sebastian introduces himself.....could you please include some info here?

Why did he accept the offer from the University of Iceland to become the Director of VIC? Two main reasons: a) Auður’s enthusiasm, and b)Iceland exotic. The question is: What should be the direction of VIC? **IAB board’s** advice & input crucial.

A discussion followed on possible collaborators in the foreign lands, for example the Max Planck Institute and CLARIN.

Lars asks if Iceland can become a formal member of CLARIN.

Eiríkur Smári notes that the ministry of culture, education and science in Iceland has promised to pay for one year’s participation.

Auður arrives and the following discussion centers on: a) VIC here and now and b) what VIC should become.

Auður: The director is to shape its future activities. However, we have the Westnordic research net in place and are going to focus on this region in relation to the subject of the ecology of languages. The main idea is to create a database on language developments in Greenland, West-Norway, the Faroe Islands and Iceland in the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. We would create a kind of a microcosm, which, in turn, could contribute to the larger stage; a comparative study & corpus building. We should not underestimate funding possibilities for this research project. The same is true reg. the international network available already through the faculty members of the Vigdís Institute. Auður also stressed the importance to involve the two boards actively in VIC’s research

projects (**VI** and **VIC**). She then brought up the UNESCO part in **VIC**'s main activities in the upcoming years.

Sebastian: Addresses issues reg. the main profile of **VIC**, UNESCO Cat. 2 Centre:

- a) spoke with Ms. Choi, who made a promise to find a person at UNESCO who could become **VIC**'s key contact person, (in addition to one member there who he has already established contact with him).
- b) To organize in collaboration with UNESCO a special celebration in 2018 for the annual Mother-language Day in Iceland
- c) The long and complicated title of **VIC**. According to Ms. Choi, it is impossible to change the 'legal name', but Sebastian wanted IAB to reflect on possible abbreviations...

Jens suggests the following title: 'Language and Culture Centre'.

Some discussion followed on possible abbreviations, to be continued.

Sebastian: Time to address the financial and staffing situation and perspectives for 2017 and 2018:

- a) The Director position is secured for three years.
- b) Support staff: 2 positions secured for two and a half years.
- c) Ideas circulating reg. a possible Marie Curie grant application. If successful, the Director's position would be secured for a longer period of time.

In short: Real challenges ahead on the financial front.

Auður suggests possible ways to raise funds for **VIC**:

- a) renting out the Lecture hall for various events
- b) Languages Open up Worlds – revenue from the sale of the book
- c) entrance fee for the exhibition
- d) international conferences

Sebastian notes that there is nothing secured on these fronts, in particular reg. conferences. Some discussion on that subject followed.

Anju: Generally speaking, it is good to separate the two following tasks:

- a) how to attract people to **VIC**
- b) how to secure/generate funds for **VIC**

The subject of entrance fee needs a careful approach – may not serve the overall cause. The question of funding for **VIC** calls for a separate discussion.

Peter asks who maintains the building.

Auður: **VIC/VFI** in part.

Peter suggests possible ways to generate funds: To establish 'Friends of **VIC**' society. He also suggested that there should be no entrance fee for **VIC**'s exhibitions in Veröld for the first two years.

Sebastian stresses the importance of IAB and states that he would like to consult with the board every second month.

Reg. the vision for VIC: Hawai...the globe, which could grow over time. First, it would highlight the Westnordic region.

Lars: To establish a social-data base/raw data could be a possible project in the first few years – to investigate what is available already on that front and what VIC could do in this matter.

Sebastian: This is precisely something VIC could work on, and we would start with the Westnordic region (local data base).

Auður: With the Westnordic research project, we could precisely provide a local example & local map.

Sebastian directs the discussion to possible collaborators – who are they?

Auður: One point reg. Vic's prospects – the building has now risen and what awaits us are gleaming possibilities.

Sebastian states that it is easier to raise money for concrete things. Now, we need to find money to fund research projects.

Auður: Yes, a task awaits us on the financial front. But we have money to run VIC for the next two years.

Peter asks about plans for IAB, now that VIC has been formally opened?

Sebastian notes that this subject will be discussed in due time.

Lunch.

C) Joint IAB, boards and WNN meeting, Friday 21 April 13:15–14:45

Sebastian introduces himself to the members of WNN, and discusses possible research projects for VIC. He then asks if one member of the WNN would like to brief the IAB on where the WNN stands.

Karoline informs all that Zakaris, Auður, Gunnstein and herself have been working on a specific research project and will be applying for a research grant. Greenland may also participate.

Sebastian asks if he is correct in thinking that there are a few research projects under way, and one of them has to do with the linguistic situation in the West Nordic region.

Peter Juel: It is on language changes in the region.

Auður highlights what she discussed during the session with the IAB.

Bernard stresses that in order for VIC's IAB to be able to give advice on the culture/literature part of the West Nordic research project, an expert in literature is needed on the board.

Auður agrees that it would be good to include an expert in literature.

General discussion follows on possible research topics like Danish as a language of literature in the region; thematic connection between language and literature across the West Nordic region; microcosms of universal movements/interconnections of various worlds via immigration/immigrants.

Sebastian suggests that the research network investigates available knowledge on intercultural understanding & multilingualism in the region, for what is already available? And in Iceland? What is the data on immigrants?

Peter Juel suggests an open-door policy at VIC: The Centre can establish itself by collecting specific data, and **Sebastian** asks: How many languages, for example, are spoken in hotels in Iceland here and now?

Auður points out that no one should underestimate the current position of the humanities at the University of Iceland. It is strong, thanks in part to VIC.

Sebastian notes that VIC could serve as a bridge between cultures/group of people in Iceland; more important to focus on lived experiences of natives and immigrants in Iceland and their ideas on, for example, what 'home' is/means than to foster research under the banner of digital humanities.

Kristján suggests that the focus of VIC should be on exhibitions and the study of languages, followed by a general discussion on various possibilities, also within the West Nordic region.

Bernard stresses the comparative aspect of the WNN's research project, and how it may contribute to the bigger world.

Lars suggests that a project like the West Nordic could map out various aspects of post colonialism in the region.

D) WNN meeting, Friday 21 April 15:15–17:30

Sebastian notes that what is needed at this point reg. the WNN is to formulate concrete ideas/actual projects in order for its members to be able to apply for grants. He also suggests the translation of literary works as a possible research topic in/for the cultural part, adding that such projects should be formulated from within the group of scholars in that given field.

Auður suggests the subject of 'influence' from abroad and how literary movements/philosophical ideas can be traced in certain works of literature, including 'loanwords' that are or could be viewed as characteristic of these movements/ideas. Such a

research would map cultural contact in the region and contribute directly to the linguistic part of the research.

Kristján notes that it is important to include both functional and structural parts in the research. **Auður** agrees.

Pórhallur discusses his ongoing research within the West Nordic research project – a mirror research project, which draws on a bigger research project that is conducted by a group of linguists, including a couple of members of IAB (Anju and Comrie). He stresses also the necessity to include – in the research on loanwords and language changes in the West Nordic region – the subjects of grammar, syntax, etc.

Lars suggests that the space between grammar and vocabulary is an exciting one to explore, in particular in relation to a language like Icelandic.

Jens asks how this is to be accomplished – to combine the linguistic aspect with the cultural one. And **Sebastian** asks how we are we to make this research visible and exciting.

Pórhallur: There are already existing maps, and more to make, adds **Sebastian**.

Nina: If the members of WNN do not get funded, what will then happen to WNN?

Auður: There are funding possibilities.

Sebastian: We are not here to decide which projects will apply for grants.

Auður stresses the near future structural changes reg. VIC, on the one hand, and VFI, on the other. VIC will, for example, manage all publications for both the Institute and the Centre.

Peter would like to know what the value of VIC is for the West Nordic research project – is it perhaps related to policy issues, or governmental policy, he wonders.

Sebastian: We need to ask ourselves where this Centre is going. What is the *vision* of the Centre? Does it include education for the government of Iceland in matters of language? Should it occupy itself with policy making and or politics? So far, we have focused on the following issues:

- 1) how to raise money
- 2) exhibitions

What else should VIC do? What is the mission of the Centre?

Auður: It is, at least, a platform.

Peter mentions the UNESCO-connection. No money there, but still...

Kristján: Clearly, there is some ideology behind the establishment of VIC. The question, however, is if it is first and foremost a research institute, or if the scholars at VFI are to be responsible for the research conducted at VIC.

Auður: Both.

Kristján: What about grant applications? Do people apply via the Faculty of the Humanities, or VIC?

Auður: Depends on the subject matter.

Dinner.

E) IAB and WNN meeting, Saturday 22 April 10:00–17:30

Revised agenda for the morning session: IAB meeting 10:00-12:00.

A general discussion on VIC's main function, goals, vision and mission, and the UNESCO dimension.

Sebastian reads VIC's goals according to the agreement between VFI and UNESCO.

Lars: According to one of the goals, sociolinguistics is listed as a focal point. But where is that scholar in the research network? In order to fulfill this particular goal, VIC would need to hire an expert in sociolinguistics.

Anju: VIC could fulfill this goal with a specific research project and get funding from an external source. She also suggests that in order to fulfill VIC's goals, it would be good to define *keywords*.

Jens is of the opinion that the goals of VIC, on the one hand, and IFV on the other, need to be clear. He also suggests that VIC becomes an active member of an existing Nordic network on intercultural issues/studies. Do not forget immigrants in Iceland, he adds.

Sebastian is grateful for the advice. He also suggests some local activity for the Centre. In light of the fact that there are 100 languages spoken by children in elementary schools in Iceland, one idea would be to organize weekly events where one language would be introduced at a time.

Auður points out that there is an annual event up and running that highlights foreign languages spoken in Iceland – the Mother Tongue Day.

Anju suggests a Language Café – similar to the one which is up and running in Sweden where people meet in a non-formal setting.

Pórhallur points out that there is such a Café in Reykjavík – at the International House downtown.

Sebastian points out that for VIC to realize its goals, it will have to take one step at a time, also when promoting multiculturalism in Iceland.

Peter asks what the university people would like this Centre to be.

Kristján would like to revisit the subject of sociolinguistics, stating that it is a growing field in Iceland. He also reports on the works of two current doctoral students and the work of the

Language Committee, and suggests that VIC could apply to Rannís in order to fund a doctoral research project in the field.

Pórhallur adds to these comments by pointing out that there has never been a position in sociolinguistics at the University of Iceland. Some scholars in the field of linguistics have pursued, in part, the subject, scholars like Höskuldur Bráinsson and Kristján.

Kristján suggests two possible collaborators in this field; professors at the universities of Copenhagen and Bergen, who have been planning a big network with information on research in sociolinguistics in Scandinavia.

Lars: We need to ask ourselves how VIC can realize its goals in this field. An expert in the field is needed, for someone has to do the work.

Sebastian agrees - how to realize the goals is the issue, and how certain projects are needed in order for VIC to do that.

Lars discusses the Research Fund in Sweden and its support of infrastructural projects in the Humanities. What is the situation here? Would Rannís support such projects? Collecting substantial data is one example of an infrastructural research project, which, in turn, could be used for other research projects in the Humanities.

Sebastian suggests that VIC could serve as a *knowledge centre* for particular research projects in the fields of linguistics and immigration. It could also be the 'home' of CLARIN. In addition to this, VIC could take on global research projects and establish a substantial data base. First, however, the funding needs to be secured, also for the technology part.

Auður stresses the need for consistency within the context of VIC goals. There are good reasons why we were able to raise the funds needed for the new building and the Centre, and we cannot depart from our stated goals.

Pórhallur: What does the university want/the people who donated money?

Auður: During the fundraising process, we stressed the focus on research in the West Nordic region and the creation of a data based/corpus. Are we changing that focus? The other concrete issue in the UNESCO-agreement is the subject of translation.

Pórhallur: Translation studies are present here at the university and should be directly connected/associated with VIC.

Kristján: What does the university want – the Rector and the Dean? These are very important questions.

Peter: Should VIC perhaps aim for one big showcase-event? What does the Rector say? There should be concrete deliverables. In addition to the long-term research projects, what could some short-term projects be?

Lars suggests translation projects.

Auður agrees and reports briefly on an existing idea for VIC to present the flow of translations worldwide.

Lars also suggests publication statistics on translations (for UNESCO).

Bernard agrees and states that this plan could be accomplished – to focus on a limited number of short-term projects at the start, but asks also where the resources for these projects would come from.

Anju stresses again the importance of formulating *keywords*, suggests activities that are directly related to the profile/theme of the Centre, and that people should try to avoid going into 100 directions.

Peter suggests that the Centre should not underestimate the goodwill through the Vigdís-connection. What about an annual Vigdís lecture series?

Sebastian raises the subject of the agreement between UNESCO and VIC, and reads from it. The “objectives” – appear vague, and are far too many. The same is true of the “functions”. If VIC had far more staff members, some of the “functions” could be accomplished. What he suggests for the near future are specific plans:

- a) exhibitions
- b) language map/maps
- c) to connect with ISO
- d) two or three concrete research proposals

Auður explains the process behind the making of the agreement: UNESCO arrived in Iceland with an agenda and VFI had prepared its own at the time. The result/the existing agreement is a mix of both. She also discusses the current exhibition on Vigdís’ life and work and why it is relevant for VIC and the Centre’s near future tasks. The exhibition will attract people to VIC and also generate some funds. We have one year to prepare the next exhibition, which should be on the West Nordic project – a map of languages in the region. When it opens, we could organize a lecture series on its theme.

Sebastian: We need a good website/homepage.

Anju also suggests that it would be good to include information on VIC in tourist brochures.

Auður stresses the good connections with both Hotel Saga and the City of Reykjavik.

Anju suggest the following two short-time projects:

- a) lecture series for the public
- b) workshops for scholars

She also thinks it would be good to remind the community of researchers that VIC is a research place.

Auður stresses that VIC will profit from VFI long-standing experience of organizing symposiums, conferences and lecture series.

Pórhallur points out the fact that Iceland is already brimming with international conferences. For VIC to organize international conferences should not cost that much, and that the Centre could possibly generate some money through the activity.

Auður agrees and states that the staff of both FVI & VIC can manage all aspects of the activity. She also mentions that VIC is about to hire people who will take care of tasks on that front.

Sebastain notes that he has already been asked if VIC could organize a conference.

Peter notes that there are big conferences out there in VIC's subject area.

Audur believes that VIC will be able to generate money through conferences.

Sebastian is a bit skeptical re: the fundraising part. Regardless, VIC needs to create a logo asap and a proper profile. What should the logo be?

Auður suggests that it could be a variant of the VFI logo.

Sebastian notes that there should be a separate website for VIC and asks also who will manage it, along with the one for VFI.

Peter asks again if the IAB is fit for the next chapter.

Sebastian notes that the entire group is currently in the process of defining the profile of VIC. At this point, it would be good to formulate a *vision statement*, and a *mission statement*.

VIC would also need experts in

- a) sociolinguistics
- b) multilingualism
- c) translation studies
- d) cultural studies
- e) migrant literature

In her response to the question: "Is IAB is fit for the next chapter," **Auður** states that staff members of VIC & VFI will rely on themselves, but the advice given by IAB has and will continue to be crucial.

Peter gives one more good advice when suggesting that in its profile, VIC should highlight the amazing building.

13:15–14:45: Planning of project proposals, with input from IAB members.

The West Nordic Research Network: a list of current and near future projects:

- 1) **Auður** reports on a specific research project, which centers on Danish in the West Nordic Region – situation and contact from 1750-1950 in West-Norway, Faroe Islands and Iceland. A substantial Rannís grant application (grant of excellence) is being written and will be submitted before June 15, 2017. (See also the document on the Rannís grant application in question, which was distributed on-line during the April 22-meeting). In order for people to understand better the significance of a particular research project on language and culture contact in the West Nordic region, **Sebastian** suggests that he drafts a statement for the West Nordic research network. All agree.

2) **Gísli** reports on a literature project: Existentialism and Vitalism in modern Danish, Faroese and Icelandic literature. Other participants: Malin, Bergur and Birna B. The research will focus on German philosophy in Danish literature, and the way in which certain ideas and literary movements cross over from Danish literature into Faroese and Icelandic literature. As noted by **Bergur**, it is possible to expand this research project into the realm of language and explore both aspects of the language of philosophy and the language of literature in the given region. Whether this research project could focus in particular on loanwords is another matter, as **Birna B.** noted. People also wonder if this research project could include aspects of translations in the given region. **Malan** expressed some concern reg. the timeframe of the Rannís-project, and wonders if all research projects under the banner of the West Nordic network should stick to the same timeframe.

General discussion follows.

Sebastian asks: Is there a given time restriction for all projects under the West Norden banner?

Auður is of that opinion, and suggests that when exploring certain cultural/philosophical/literary movements crossing the West Nordic region through Denmark, the literature/culture research projects should focus, in part, on the subject of loanwords.

Sebastian is of the opinion that the bigger the umbrella for the overall West Nordic research project is, the more fruitful it becomes.

Auður agrees that it is good to present various projects. The question now, however, is what fits into the 2017 Rannís application.

Pórhallur notes that there are two types of Rannís grants: a) project grant, and b) grant of excellence. The latter needs to be carefully composed, and the most important thing is for the application to demonstrate a clear focus. Applicants also need to be able to argue why this particular research is relevant here and now.

Kristján notes that for the Rannís application, the focus should be on loanwords in the given countries.

Auður notes again that in the West Nordic research project, the research on the language changes need to be combined with research on cultural changes, and that the subject of literature is essential.

More discussion follows, also on post colonialism and how the overall research project draws on multidimensional material; a fact that should be highlighted in the Rannís grant application, **Peter** notes.

Sebastian notes that the overall West Nordic research project is not yet fully focused, and that one big grant application is already a handful for the time being.

3) **Pernilla**, **Nina** and **Pórhildur** present three pillar project on Danish in the West Nordic region, with a special focus on acquisition and learning/education. (**NB:** more info from Pernilla).

- 4) Greenland: **Katti** states that Per, Karen and she would all like to participate in the Rannís-application research project. They would collect data according to the given timeframe. **Per is of the opinion** that if they find some money, they could provide the Greenland-perspective reg. the arrival of new words/ideas in Greenland. He also notes that in order to find some money, they need to be associated with a network of this kind; the West Nordic research network could, indeed, open up doors. They could also contribute to a research on current views in Greenland reg. both Danish and English. **Karen** then provides a brief overview of the history of loanwords in Greenland, and reports on how Danish universities are defining the development. We can explore the changes up to 1950, but what is equally interesting is to explore the changes that occur after 1959, or at this time when a lot of loanwords enter Greenlandic.

General discussion follows.

Referring to Karen's remark, **Sebastian** states that the time frame of the West Nordic research project/projects should indeed be broad.

Karen asks if there is an existing data on loanword after 1950.

Yes, **Kristján** replies, and states that people have looked at this, and that the big moment in the history of Denmark on this front would be the beginning of the twentieth century.

Karen is of the opinion that it is very interesting to compare the situation in Greenland with what is occurring in Iceland and Norway.

Kristján notes that in Iceland, formal language planning started early twentieth century.

Per: Reg. the timeframe: We can start in a given timeframe, or not. We need to consider what is best for the grant application, and then we can work on other projects...

Sebastian is of the opinion that the network has no authority to decide. 'We', the members of the network, need to formulate the document I have mentioned before. What I suggest is that the Rannís application will be worked on first, and then other projects follow.

Auður notes that the Rannís application does not exclude other people to apply for other grants.

Karen asks if Greenland should apply for Nordplus?

Yes, **Auður** replies, with our assistance. The next deadline is October. She also asks about the government in Greenland, and if there are possible funds to apply from them?

Ulla asks about the near future plans for the Network, if the next meeting is scheduled in the spring of 2018 in Copenhagen and what the overall plan is for the Network.

Auður notes that in order to plan the near future, the Network needs to figure out what it has achieved during the last twelve months. The immediate plan for the near future is to showcase an exhibition next year on the languages in the West Nordic region. Before we know where we are heading, however, we also need to figure out where our budget stands. This meeting

has a bit more expensive than the last one, thanks to the number of days the members are staying in Iceland.

15:00–16:30 - Final session.

Auður proposes the following 2017-2018 plan for WNN:

- a) RANNÍS grant application
- b) NORFA grant application
- c) She will request a grant from Greenland (government) of 100 thousand Danish krónur for our colleagues in Greenland to participate in the WNN/create a corpus
- d) Others who have planned projects apply for other grants
- e) Exhibition in the new building – West Nordic Region, (could become a travelling exhibition and featured in Nuuk, Smithsonian, etc)
- f) NORA

Nina stresses that the WNN needs to hold on to the literature people.

Sebastian agrees, and notes that the document on the WNN should be a kind of Manifesto and that all members of the WNN should be able to refer to it in their grant applications.

Auður notes that the WNN will conclude with a conference, and that there is also budget for one more network-meeting. She then thanks everyone for the inspiring days in Reykjavík: Sebastin, the new Director of VIC, our friends in the neighboring countries, the colleagues here and last but not least the IAB.

Sebastian notes that the first scholarly work done in the new building is the WNN.

Auður adds that her first task as the Director of VFI some years ago was to apply for a grant to hold a seminar on language and literature in Greenland and Faroe Islands.

Bergur notes that WNN should be aware of existing work on literature in the region and that it should be presented in our context.

Auður adds that there are a few articles that have been published on Danish in the West Nordic region and that they could become background material for the network. We need a homepage for WNN, she also notes.

On half of all present, **Nina** thanks Auður and Sebastian, and both receive a well-earned round of applause.