ABSTRACT

The thesis presents the development and changes of the Norwegian written standard in the United States during the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. The research is based on the material from the newspapers published by the Norwegian immigrant community in the United States. For the purpose of the analyses, three leading Norwegian written newspapers (Decorah-Posten, Skandinaven, Minneapolis Tidende; commonly known as The Big Three) were selected. The development of Norwegian is documented from the perspective of language management and its theory. The first part of the analyses deals with the influence of English as the dominant language of the area on the written Norwegian. Morphological and orthographic integration of English loanwords as well as the most affected fields of the immigrants’ lexicon are discussed in this part. The second view monitors the impact of the spelling reform codified in 1907 in Norway on the written standard of the immigrants in the United States and its extent. Features such as voiced/voiceless occlusives, plural and preterite forms, use of double consonants and font are studied in the newspaper material. The individual research points give a general view on the topic of the written Norwegian as used by the immigrants in their press.

KEY WORDS

Norwegian emigration to the United States, immigrant press, English loanwords, reforms of the Norwegian language, Norwegian newspapers, language management