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THE DISTRIBUTION OF STØD AND TONAL ACCENT
IN DANISH DIALECTAL AREAS

It is commonly accepted that the distribution of stød/no-stød and acc.1/acc.2 in the Scandinavian languages is so alike that it is evidence of a genetic relationship.

In my paper this way of reasoning is carried on to the dialectal level. I try to show that the two areas Western Danish (Northern Jutlandish (stød)-Southern Jutlandish (tonal acc.)) and Eastern Danish (Sealandic (stød) - Scanian (Tonal acc.)) deviate respectively in the same way from the overall accentual system, so that each of them must be regarded as one coherent dialectal area as to accents.

It must be admitted, however, that my information from Scanian in this respect is rather scant, which is very unfortunate. Therefore it is suggested that Scandinavian dialectologists take more interest in dialectal distribution. The usefulness of distributional maps is shown by cases where they have been the means of deciding in stød discussions.

In a glottochronological spirit the above-mentioned dialectal similarity is taken as evidence of long unity, or in other words as evidence that the split between tonal dialects and stød dialectals is rather late.

Further details from the Jutlandic rules are mentioned. Some well-known arguments are taken up once more. And the conclusion is that the introduction of the stød is later than assumed by most Danish language historians to-day.