The dialect of Upernavik was put down in writing by the author Hans Lynge in his work *Inegpait* (Lynge 1955). Later, the dialect of Upernavik played a crucial role when the so-called *Halvmåne-teori* ('Crescent Theory') was put forward on the interdisciplinary symposium *Vort sprog – vor kultur* ('Our language – our culture') in Nuuk, 1981, where archaeologists and linguists discussed a possible explanation of the peculiar phenomenon that three geographically distant Greenlandic dialects: Upernavik, East Greenlandic and South Greenlandic are strikingly similar to each other in certain respects. A closer description of the Upernavik dialect appeared few years later.

In modern times dialects are under a certain pressure from the standard language, this is true of Greenland, too. In the modern Western World, and in Greenland as well, the schooling system and the mass media are exerting heavy pressure on the dialects, but the development is not unidirectional, however. In certain instances a pressure may result in a maintenance or even intensification of dialectal features, probably as a mean of expressing the speakers' identity as *local* or *non-standard*.

In the present project I intend to follow up the hitherto descriptions of the dialect, including sub-dialects. I will focus on the language and language use among the young generation, in order to investigate the role which the dialect plays in their construction of their identity in a modern world.

The project is planned to be part of a multi-year and multi-disciplinary research effort (The Upernavik Project) into one well-defined region in Northwest Greenland: Upernavik municipality.

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