

Re: [Possibly OT] Three questions concerning the Swedish language

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-09/msg01174.html>

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 - *Date:* 21 Sep 2005 16:27:59 +0200
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FB <fam.balducciNOSPAM@xxxxxx> writes:

> I've read the f.a.q. "What is sci.lang for?", but am still doubtful whether
> the following questions about Swedish are allowed. If they aren't, let me
> know; and I'd appreciate if you'd recommend other newsgroups, too, since I
> asked the same questions on se.humaniora.svenska recently but have received
> no replies yet.

I read that group, but I haven't seen your questions there.

> Conversely, if they are IT, I should point out that I haven't a proper
> Swedish grammar book at the moment—I'd appreciate recommendations on
> that, too (I'm considering buying the large Routledge one).
>
> 2) All verb forms have accent 2, don't they? What if that verb has a
> prefix? Do accents somehow shift? Or what else happens?

I'm used to the terms "acute accent" and "grave accent". Is accent 2 one of those? In that case, the answer is no, since, for example, "faller" has acute accent and "seglar" grave accent. It seems to be strongly correlated with the vowel of the ending, but I don't know any Swedish phonological theory, I'm just a native speaker. (The only words ending in -ar I can think of with an acute accent right now, are personal names, like Gunnar. And "pengar".)

There are verb prefixes that don't take any stress themselves for example "be-" and those that do, for example "av-". (And those that can behave either way.)

I'm finding that I lack the proper way to represent the grave accent – to my ear it resides on two syllables, let's call them g and G. Acute is A. (g and G don't have to be adjacent, but they are in my examples here.)

Example:

Acute accent:

A A g G

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faller befaller avfaller

Be- doesn't change anything, av- takes stress and changes the accent type.

Grave accent:

g G A g G
seglar beseglar avseglar

As in the other case, be- doesn't change anything, av- takes stress and changes the accent type. If this pattern prevails generally, I can't say.

As someone else noted, the stress works differently in the Swedish spoken in Finland.

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• **References:**

◆ **[Possibly OT] Three questions concerning the Swedish language**

◇ From: FB

- Prev by Date: **Re: I think languages are obsolete!**
- Next by Date: **Re: "Never change a running system"**
- Previous by thread: **[Possibly OT] Three questions concerning the Swedish language**
- Next by thread: **Re: Three questions concerning the Swedish language**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **Date**
 - ◆ **Thread**