

Re: [Swedish] Some questions about Swedish language

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2007-10/msg00635.html>

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 - *Date:* 25 Oct 2007 12:50:57 +0300
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"Carnby" <linnetsNOSPAM@xxxxxxxxxx> writes:

I'm learning some Swedish to read some scientific books written in that language. I found this clause: "USA torde för närvarande härbärgera ung. hälften half världens judar, där de framför allt bo i New York [...]". I have some problems with the word "torde" and with the verb "bo": why is it infinitive? Shouldn't it be "bor"?

(What's your problem with "torde", it's a normal (if a bit antiquated) construction for marking slight uncertainty about what is being told? Also, it should of course be "hälften av" (or "af").)

It is not infinitive but rather present tense plural (but the form is indeed identical with the infinitive with very few exceptions, "äro" for "vara" is the only one I can come up with). I guess it's an old text?

The plural forms were lost over the 20th century, their final major institutional stronghold (newly enacted Swedish-language legislation of Finland) was lost around 1970, in Sweden they were basically extinct already in the 1950s.

Additionally, even earlier, there also was a separate form for 2nd person plural: "vi/de äro" but "I ären". I believe this one died well before WWI, but at least it was still included in some early 20th century grammars.

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