


Fundamental Concepts in Sociolinguistics
Professor. Doctor Om Prakash
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida
Einar Hugen and his work

Welcome to the class. Today, we will have a very brief description and discussion on Einar Ingvald Haugen and his work in linguistics. He has pioneered a specialized field called Linguistic Ecology or Ecolinguistics, he has worked on language planning and language policy, apart from his core Linguistic publications.

(Refer Slide Time: 0:54)





Einar Ingvald Haugen

Einar Ingvald Haugen
April 19, 1906 – June 20, 1994
An American linguist, prolific author, and Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Harvard University
Haugen is credited with having pioneered American sociolinguistics.
He is regarded as a leading scholar within the fields of Norwegian-American studies.

Old Norse studies.
Bilingual Behaviour
dialect


He was the first to construct the phenomenon of *The Ecology of Language*, with which he pioneered a new field of linguistics later called Ecolinguistics or Linguistic Ecology.
He published a *Norwegian English Dictionary*




Haugen was born on 19th April 1906 and died on June 20th 1994. Haugen was an American linguist. He was a prolific author and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Harvard University. Haugen is credited with having pioneered American sociolinguistics and he is regarded as the leading scholar within the fields of Norwegian-American studies with specific reference to Old Norse studies, Bilingual Behaviour and dialects.

He was the first to construct the phenomenon of Ecology of Language, with which he pioneered a new field called Ecolinguistics or Linguistic Ecology. He published a Norwegian English Dictionary; his works are immense and they had a deep impact on the emergence of this new discipline. He created a background for the discipline and his work is seen as a stepping stone in the emergence of sociolinguistics in America.

(Refer Slide Time: 2:40)




- Haugen was born in Sioux City, Iowa to Norwegian immigrant parents.
- When he was a young child, the family moved back to Norway for a few years, but then returned to the United States.
- He earned his B.A. in 1928 and immediately went on to graduate studies in Scandinavian languages under Professor George T. Floam at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, and got his PhD in 1931.



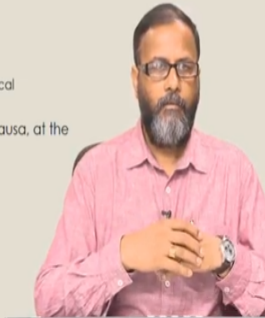
Haugen was born in Iowa to Norwegian immigrant parents and when he was young he went back to Norway for a very brief period of time and then the family returned to the United States. He completed his B.A. in 1928 and then went for graduate studies in Scandinavian languages under Professor George T. Floam at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign and got his PhD in 1931.

(Refer Slide Time: 3:25)

Academic Journey



- In 1931 Haugen joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and stayed there until 1962.
- He became Victor S. Thomas Professor of Scandinavian and Linguistics at Harvard University in 1964, and stayed here until his retirement in 1975.
- Haugen served as presidents of the
 - Linguistic Society of America
 - American Dialect Society, and
 - Society for Advancement of Scandinavian Study.He served as the member of the Board of Editors of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.
- In 1972 he was awarded an honorary degree, doctor philosophy, honoris causa, at the Norwegian Institute of Technology.

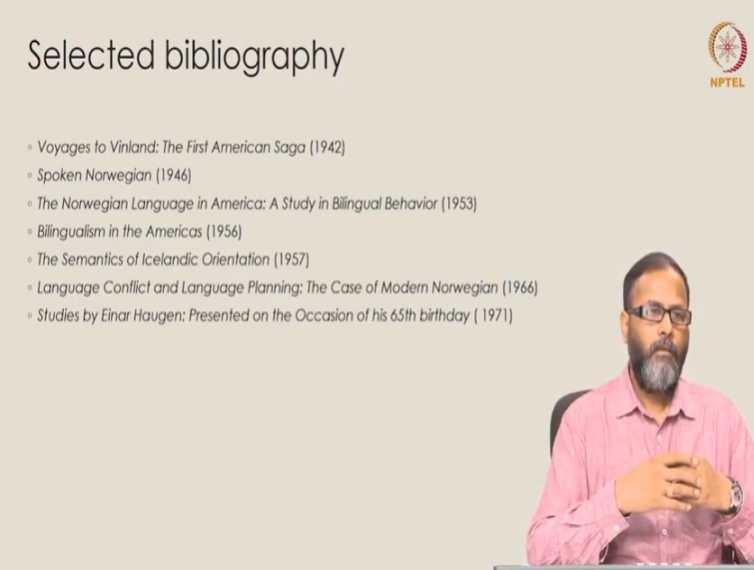


He had a very accomplished academic journey and in 1931 after finishing his PhD, he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and stayed there until 1962. He spent a very

long stretch of time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, later he became Victor S. Thomas Professor of Scandinavian and Linguistics at Harvard university in 1964 and stayed there until his retirement in 1975.

Haugen served as president of the Linguistic Society of America, American Dialect Society and the Society for Advancement of Scandinavian Studies. He served as a member of the board of editors of the Norwegian American Historical Association and in 1972 he was awarded an honorary degree, doctor of philosophy, honoris causa, at the Norwegian Institute of Technology.

(Refer Slide Time: 4:48)



Selected bibliography

- *Voyages to Vinland: The First American Saga* (1942)
- *Spoken Norwegian* (1946)
- *The Norwegian Language in America: A Study in Bilingual Behavior* (1953)
- *Bilingualism in the Americas* (1956)
- *The Semantics of Icelandic Orientation* (1957)
- *Language Conflict and Language Planning: The Case of Modern Norwegian* (1966)
- *Studies by Einar Haugen: Presented on the Occasion of his 65th birthday* (1971)

So, Haugen worked in the early phase of development of the discipline and he retired in 1975. He continued working after retirement as well but he died in 1975 by the time social linguistics was emerging as an independent discipline. You recall that until the early 1960's and you know late 70's, that is the two decades that became instrumental in preparing the stepping stone for the discipline and his contributions cannot be undermined with a specific reference to his work in Scandinavian languages, Old Norse and electoral studies.

He worked on language planning and policy and he gave an idea about a definite phenomenon in language planning. His work pioneered a new subfield called linguistic ecology or ecolinguistics, which is thriving now. If you look at the contributions he made, contributions and publications he did in the discipline this list is not exhaustive but I have tried to document and include some


representative publications of Haugen, which changed the course of understanding language in society.

In 1942, he published 'Voyages to Vinland: The First American Saga'. In 1946, he published 'Spoken Norwegian', a book. Then in 1953, he published the 'Norwegian Language in America: A Study in Bilingual Behaviour'. In 1956 he published 'Bilingualism in the Americas'. In 1957 he published 'The Semantics of Icelandic Orientation'.


In 1966, he came up with 'Language Conflict and Language Planning: The Case of Modern Norwegian', which remains one of the most important reference documents in language planning, understanding language planning and policy and that was the fertile time when newly constituted states which got freedom from colonial forces and there the linguistic situations were seen chaotic.

Then the issue of planning and policy became very prominent and many linguists contributed. He is one of them, one of the first people who talked about language policy and planning and his work on Norwegian language policy and planning is of immense importance that inspires a number of works followed. Then on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday a volume was brought out in 1971 called 'Studies by Einar Haugen: Presented on the Occasion of his Sixty-fifth Birthday'.

(Refer Slide Time: 8:36)



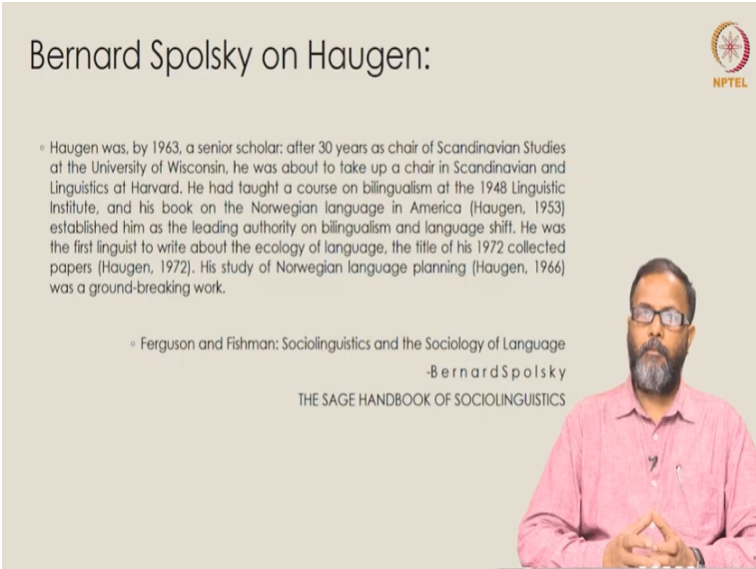
- *The Ecology of Language: Language Science and National Development* (1972)
- *Norwegian-English Dictionary: A Pronouncing and Translating Dictionary of Modern Norwegian* (1974)
- *The Scandinavian Languages: An Introduction to Their History* (1976)
- *Bibliography of Scandinavian Languages and Linguistics 1900-70* (1974)
- *Scandinavian Language Structures* (1982)
- *Blessings of Babel: Bilingualism and Language Planning* (1987)
- *Immigrant Idealist: A Literary Biography of Waldemar Ager, Norwegian American* (1989)
- *Ole Bull: Norway's Romantic Musician and Cosmopolitan Patriot* (1993)



Yet another important publication ‘The Ecology of Language: Language Science and National Development’, which pioneered a new subfield in the discipline published in 1972. Then he created ‘Norwegian-English Dictionary: A Pronouncing and Translating Dictionary of Modern Norwegian’, published in 1974. ‘The Scandinavian Languages: An Introduction to Their History’, a very resourceful publication, was published in 1976.

‘Bibliography of Scandinavian Languages and Linguistics—1900 to 1970’, published in 1974, is an exhaustive volume to understand and have information about works in Scandinavian linguistics for a 70 year-period, which is a long period of time. ‘Scandinavian Language Structures’ was published in 1982. After his retirement, ‘Blessings of Babel: Bilingualism and Language Planning’ was published in 1987. ‘Immigrant Idealists: A Literary Biography of Waldemar Ager, Norwegian American’ (1989), ‘Ole Bull: Norway’s Romantic Musician and Cosmopolitan Patriot’ (1993): these are some among the selected bibliography of Haugen and his contribution to the field. But he worked specifically in three major areas: language planning and policy, linguistic ecology, bilingualism, directorology, and overall Scandinavian studies. His works on Scandinavian language studies and Norwegian remain a very rich resource to understand Scandinavian languages.

(Refer Slide Time: 10:57)



The slide features a video of Bernard Spolsky, a man with a beard and glasses wearing a pink shirt, speaking. The background is a light beige color with text and a logo.

Bernard Spolsky on Haugen:

NPTEL

◦ Haugen was, by 1963, a senior scholar: after 30 years as chair of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, he was about to take up a chair in Scandinavian and Linguistics at Harvard. He had taught a course on bilingualism at the 1948 Linguistic Institute, and his book on the Norwegian language in America (Haugen, 1953) established him as the leading authority on bilingualism and language shift. He was the first linguist to write about the ecology of language, the title of his 1972 collected papers (Haugen, 1972). His study of Norwegian language planning (Haugen, 1966) was a ground-breaking work.

◦ Ferguson and Fishman: Sociolinguistics and the Sociology of Language
-Bernard Spolsky
THE SAGE HANDBOOK OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS

On Haugen’s contributions, Bernard Spolsky writes in his article ‘Ferguson and Fishman: Sociolinguistics and Sociology of Language’ in *The Sage Handbook of Sociolinguistics*. I quote

from there: “Haugen was, by 1963, a senior scholar: after 30 years as chair of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, he was about to take up a chair in Scandinavian and Linguistics at Harvard. He had taught a course on bilingualism at the 1948 Linguistic Institute and his book on the Norwegian Language in America (1953) established him as the leading authority on bilingualism and language shift. He was the first linguist to write about the ecology of language, the title of his 1972 collected papers. His study of Norwegian language planning (1966) was a ground-breaking work”, I unquote.

Haugen remains an authority on Scandinavian studies in America; he remains an authority on language planning, he remains an authority on bilingualism, and he remains authority on linguistic ecology or what you call ecolinguistics. So, Haugen’s contribution to the discipline is immense and he is one of the founding members and founding fathers of the discipline.

His work goes a long way in understanding the language as a phenomena in society and you know his versatile presence and work in the field will inspire generations to come. We are still inspired by him, and anyone who takes up work in language policy and planning, linguistic ecology, bilingualism or dialectology cannot undermine and ignore Haugen and his work. This is it for now about Haugen, we will continue our discussion on other eminent scholars in the field and their work. Thank you very much.