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**Abstract**

Language policies have been drafted in Nordic higher education with the obvious, but unproblematised and unchallenged motivation caused by internationalisation. In this article, we analyse the various motivations for drafting language policies in Nordic higher education and the ideological implications of those motivations. We do this by approaching the question from multiple (macro, meso and micro) viewpoints, in order to make visible some of the undercurrents in higher education language policy. We are particularly interested in the explicit motivations for language policy change, and the explicit and implicit actors and action represented in our data. We will first discuss the background for internationalisation in Nordic higher education and then move on to our analysis of policy documents, survey data on the motivations for language policy drafting in Nordic higher education institutions. Our results indicate that internationalisation turns into a national

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question in the motivations. It also appears that the institutions are reactive (rather than active) in responding to perceived needs to draft a language policy. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Saarinen, Taina, E-Mail: [taina.m.saarinen@jyu.fi](mailto:taina.m.saarinen@jyu.fi)