



OULUN YLIOPISTO
UNIVERSITY of OULU

STUDYING NORDIC PHILOLOGY FOR THE FIRST YEAR

Ambitions and Expectations

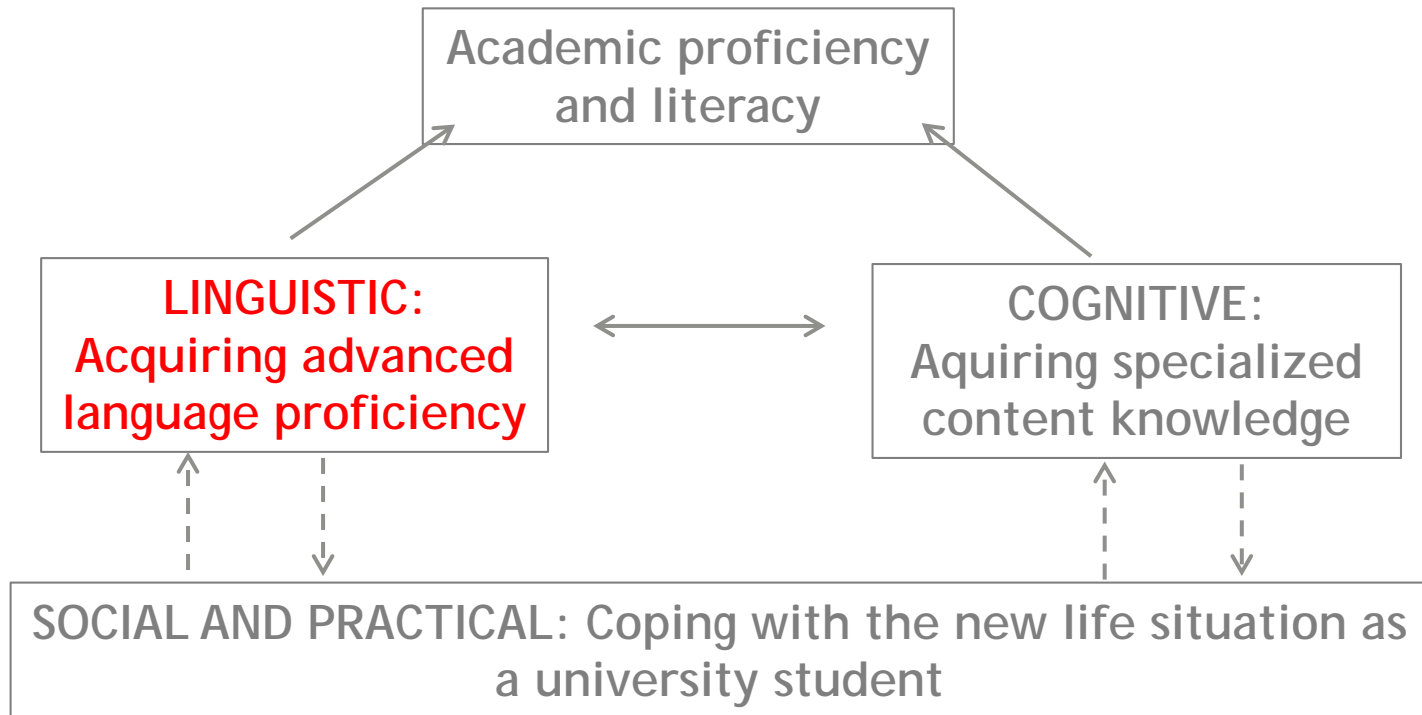
ABOUT US



- University of Oulu, northern Finland
- 9 faculties, 16 000 students and 3 000 employees
- Nordic Philology is one of the main subjects in the Faculty of Humanities
- 24 majoring students, some 10 minoring students per year
- Teaching is in Swedish, which is a foreign language to most of the students
- Entering students have B1-level in the Swedish language according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages



CHALLENGES



MEASURES TAKEN

- Each new student at the University of Oulu gets a study advisor/tutor teacher, who helps the student to prepare a personal study plan (PSP) for Bachelor's and/or Master's degree.
- In Nordic philology, 4 lecturers work as tutor teachers and take care of the study guidance of 6 new students per year.
- Every tutor teacher in Nordic philology also teaches her own tutor group in oral and written communication.



QUESTIONS

- What kind of expectations do first year students of Nordic Philology at the University of Oulu have of their studies in the very beginning of the autumn semester?
- How are these expectations and the studies in Nordic philology evaluated later in the year?



MATERIAL AND METHODS

33 student essays, written in the beginning of autumn semester 2013

- *"I as a University Student - Expectations and Ambitions"*
- What kind of rationality and values lie behind the students' wordings of their ambitions and expectations?

A questionnaire to the same student group in the beginning of spring semester

- 2 ranking questions on a scale from 1 to 5 about the students' priorities in their studies (inspired by the 5 discourse types found in the essays)
- 4 rating questions on a scale from 1 to 5 about the students' motivation and persistence
- 2 open questions about the courses in oral and written communication



DISCOURSE TYPES IN THE ESSAYS

1. Interest in language and language learning

- " I like to study languages, and my aim is to acquire fluent oral and writing skills in both Swedish and English.*
- " During my studies I want to get a grip of the [Swedish] language and unveil all its secrets.*

2. Degree & profession

- " I want to become a qualified language teacher and enter working life.*
- " My goal at the university is, of course, to take Master's degree.*

3. Self-cultivation

- " I think university is about growing up. You don't study only to gain information, but also to learn about yourself and your strengths.*
- " Studying languages also gives you a broader perspective on the world.*



... DISCOURSE TYPES

4. Identity

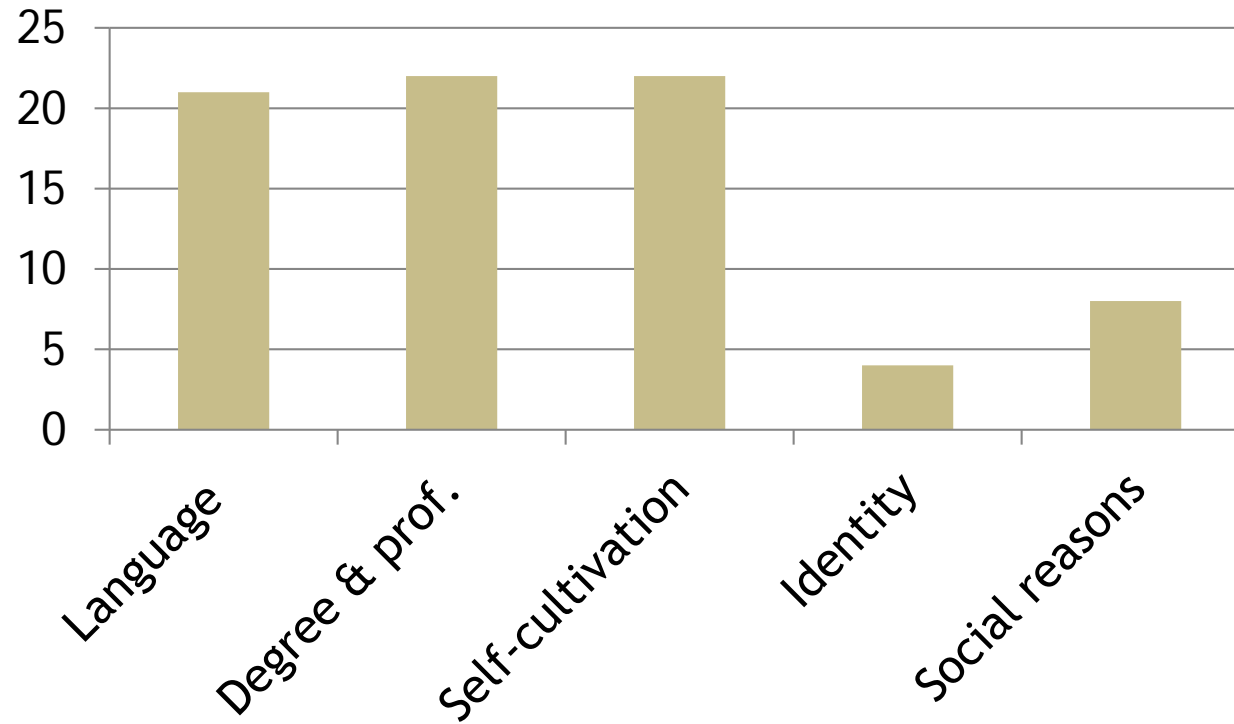
- " For me it's all about finding yourself at your best. My vision and my dream - to become a Swedish teacher - grows stronger day by day.*
- " In my opinion, every Finnish citizen has a small portion of Swedish identity inside of them. So, studying Swedish not only makes me better in the language, but also develops my identity.*

5. Friends, social life

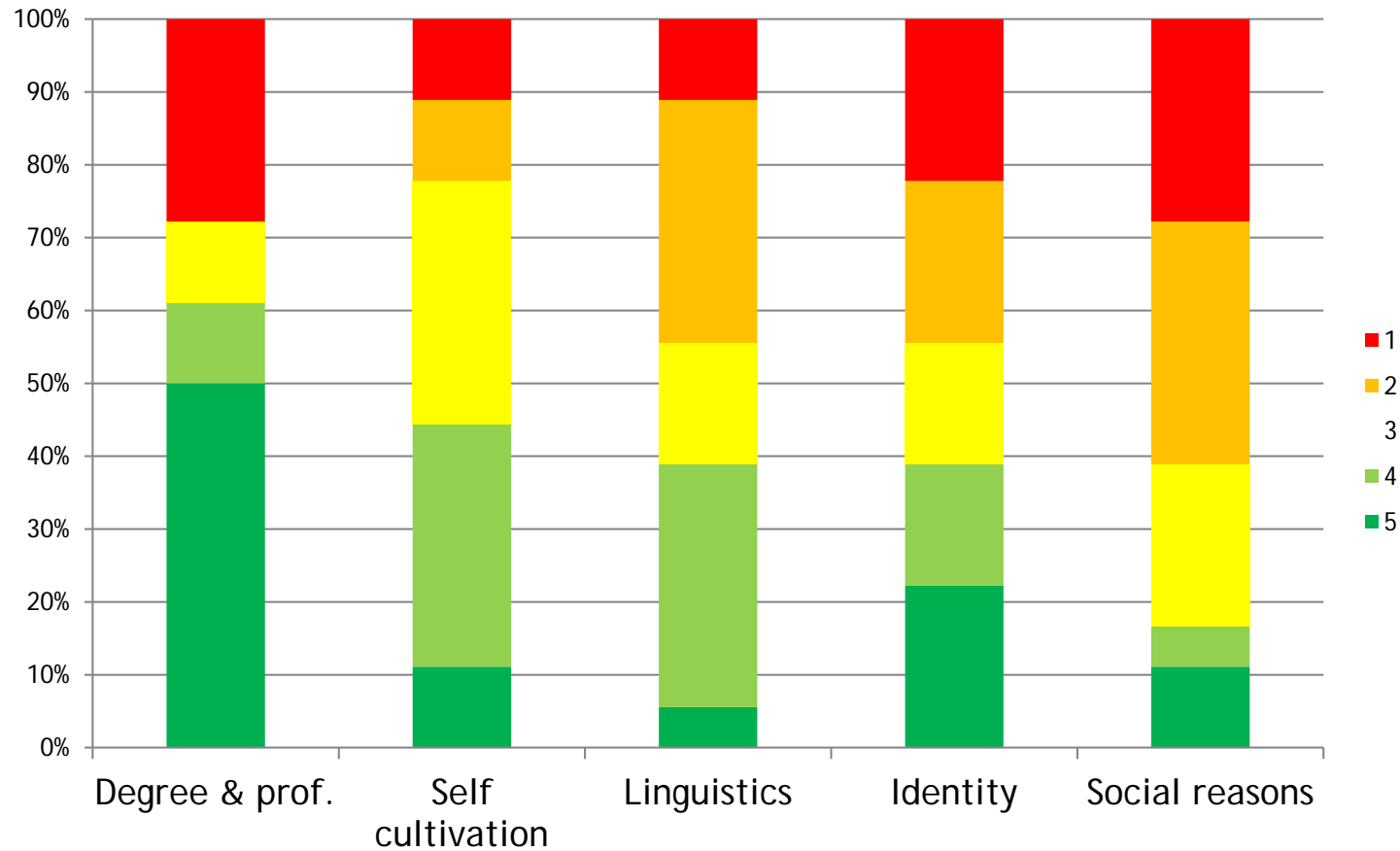
- " I want to get new friends who are interested in the same kind of things that I am, and I also want to have some fun.*
- " One important reason why I moved such a long way from home was to meet new, different kind of people. Social relationships play an important part in my life.*



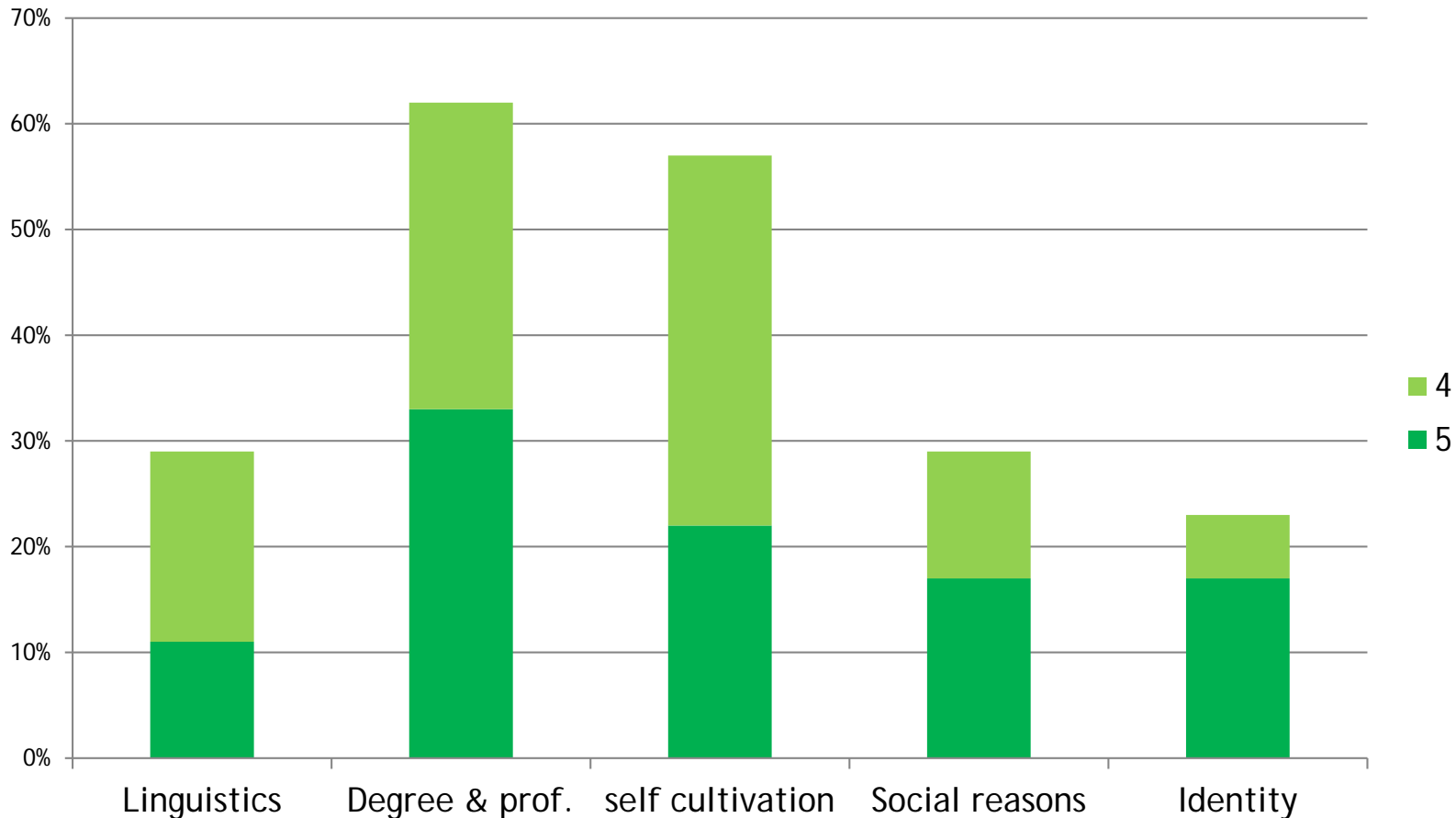
Number of essays



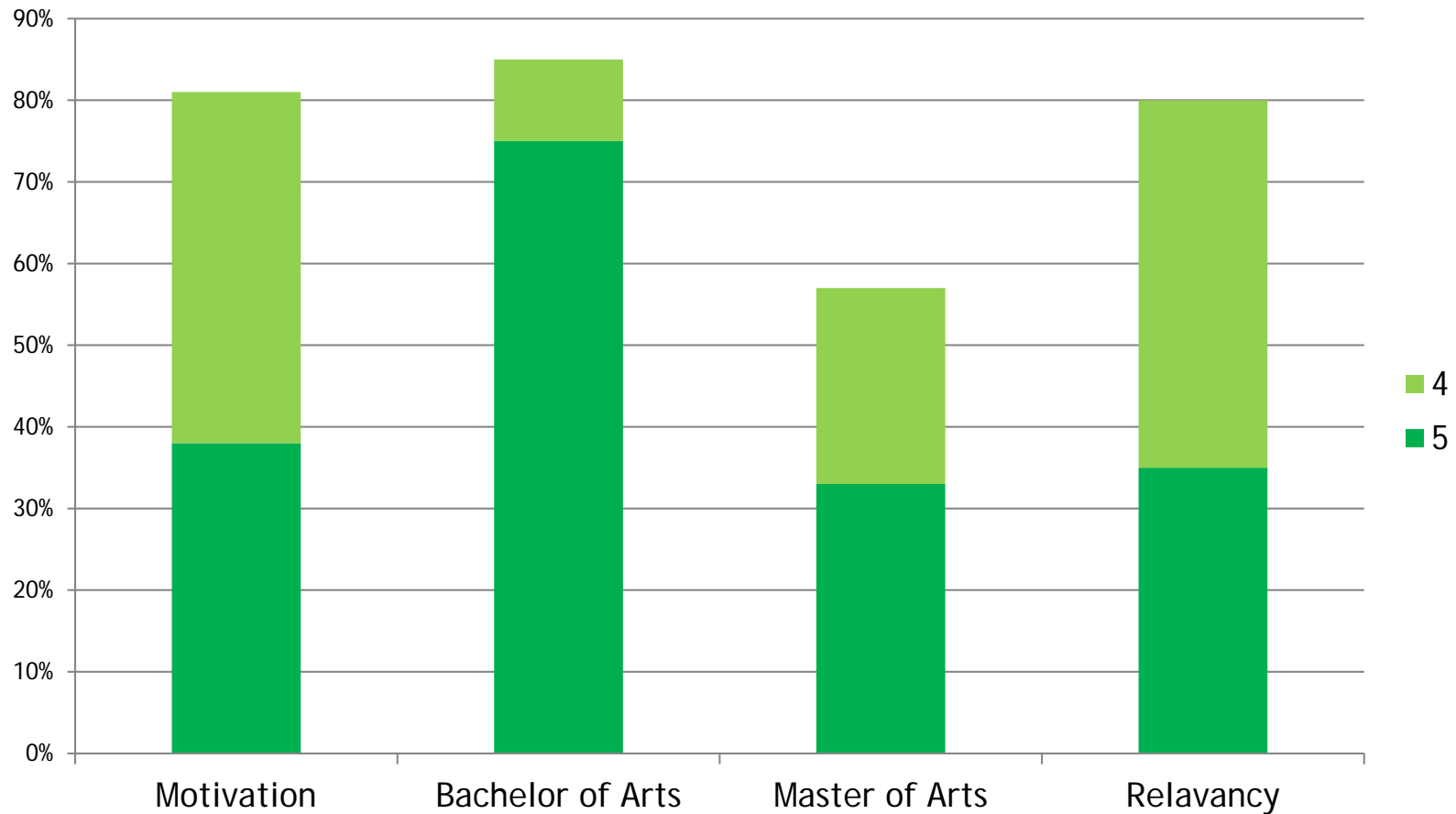
WHY DO YOU STUDY SWEDISH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OULU?

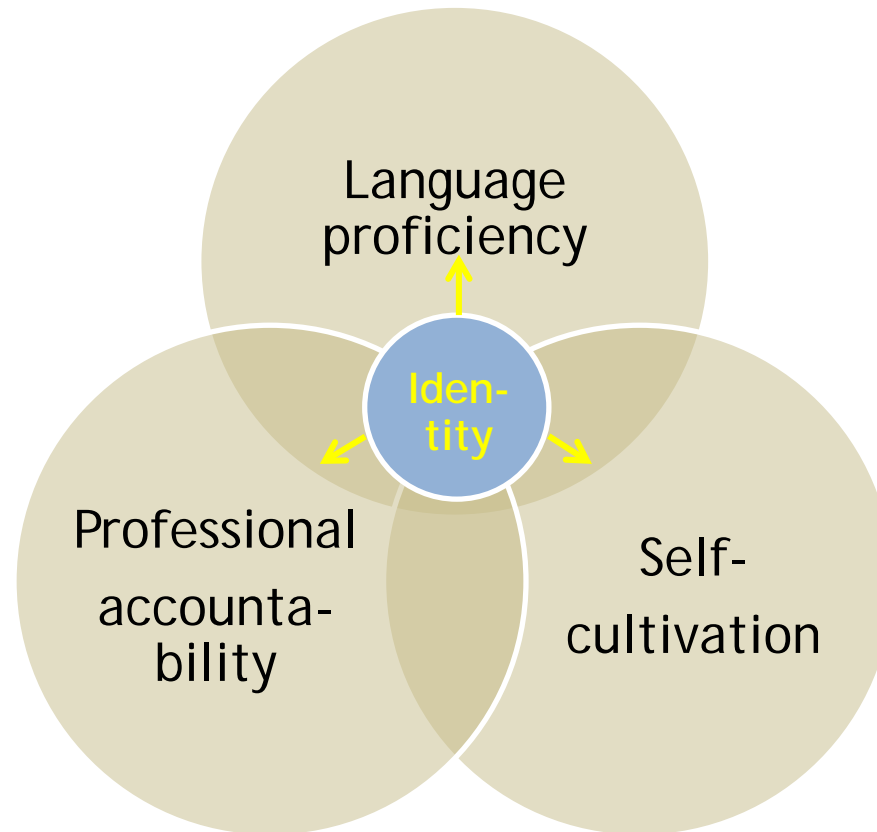


WHAT EXPECTATIONS DO YOU HAVE OF YOUR STUDIES ?



ABOUT MOTIVATION, PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND THE RELEVANCY OF THE COURSES





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

”Good job, good salary, good life”

