In recent years, several studies have shown that English is exclusively used as the language of scientific publishing in a number of disciplines in Sweden. This constitutes a key concern in contemporary language politics. It has been held that Swedish in some disciplines is “not used as a scientific language” (SOU 2002:27, 82). However, this conception may be nuanced when a text is regarded as just one outcome of the larger processes of entextualization (Silverstein and Urban 1996). Thus, a scientific text is preceded by manifold scientific practices, some of which operate across languages. From this vantage point, this paper investigates practices in physics, psychology and computer science in Sweden. It presents data from the practices that unfold throughout the processes of producing a scientific text, with a view to recovering the contexts from which the texts are the products. Results show that Swedish is used extensively throughout the multilingual and multimodal processes of writing a text in English. In addition, attention is turned to a Swedish researcher in computer science, and the way in which past practices across his life trajectory have structured his sociolinguistic repertoire (e.g. Blommaert and Backus 2011). The researcher undertakes the task of writing scientific texts in Swedish for the first time, in genres where Swedish has not previously been used. Of particular interest here, is the way in which resources are drawn on in performance, and the way in which this indexes connectivity to prior events of using language. The researcher appears to be able to patch together interdiscursive generics from similar Swedish texts and from oral performance of academic Swedish. Results thus indicate that the resources of an individual’s repertoire are significantly transposable across languages, modes and genres.

Keywords: scientific practice, sociolinguistic repertoire, entextualization.