

## **Kevin Müller**

Late medieval literate mentality is reflected in the lexicon, e.g. the Latin verb *scribere* originally denoted merely ‘to write down’, but not ‘to compose’, because the author usually dictated his work to a scribe who wrote it down. This custom changed during Late Middle Ages, so that *scribere* expanded its semantics and also denoted ‘to compose’. A similar distinction was made between *legere* ‘reading aloud’ and *videre* or *inspicere* ‘reading silently’. This terminology of literacy has not yet been thoroughly investigated in Old Icelandic. For a beginning I investigated *Sturlunga saga* for my masters thesis, as this saga contains many examples of literacy. In my paper I will demonstrate that the literate mentality of the Sturlung Age is very similar to that found in continental Europe and draws similar terminological distinctions to those in Latin.