

Trade Slang Terms among Swedish Musicians: Form, Meaning, and Function

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Most adults use both some kind of jargon at work and some kind of slang connected to their professional activities (see Strömman 1995). Earlier studies of LSP in connection with music are devoted mainly to terminology, various text types, and sheet music as channels of communication (see Störel 1998), but music slang remains a largely unexplored territory.

In my talk, I present a study of trade slang terms used by professional musicians in Sweden active in military bands, symphony orchestras, and entertainment orchestras from the 1930s onward. The study is an expansion of Landqvist (2006) and covers about 150 trade slang terms. These trade slang terms consist of appellations for musical instruments, musical activities, and categories of musicians.

The jumping-off point for my study were conversations with Åke Landqvist, a professional musician for more than fifty years, but the trade slang terms that came up in those talks have been augmented and compared with information from other sources. I have used various primary sources: biographies of musicians and memoirs written by musicians born in the first decades of the twentieth century, musicological literature, and LSP glossaries and dictionaries in the field of music. I have also used secondary literature in the form of monolingual general dictionaries, monolingual slang dictionaries, and linguistic literature about slang.

In my presentation, I discuss the form, meaning, and function of these trade slang terms. The results of my study are also discussed in relation to earlier studies of Swedish slang in general use.

Landqvist, Hans 2006: *Lira utanför, marschkaggar, rörpulare och Ankdammen*: en pilotstudie av svensk musikerslang ['Playing from memory, marching barrels, reed whacker, and the Duck Pond: A pilot study of Swedish music slang'] *Nordiska Språk Nättidskrift* [online]
<http://lipas.uvasa.fi/hut/svenska/nords/2006/landqvist.php3> (accessed 15 December 2008)

Strömman, Solveig 1995: *Två språk på arbetsplatsen. Status och förändring*. [Two languages in a workplace. Status and changes] (Acta Wasaensia 44. Språkvetenskap 7.) Vaasa: University of Vaasa.

Störel, Thomas 1998: Die Fachsprache der Musikwissenschaft. In Hoffman, Lothar/Kalverkämper, Hartwig/ Wiegand, Herbert Ernst (Hrsg.), *Fachsprachen. Ein internationales Handbuch zur Fachsprachenforschung und Terminologiewissenschaft ...* (HSK 14.1. 1. Halbband 1.) Berlin & New York: de Gruyter, 1334–1340.