Motivation of English and Danish Medical Terms – a Contrastive Analysis
Birthe Toft
University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

A large number of Danish clinical terms have been reviewed and modified over the past four years in the framework of the Sundterm Project, conducted by the Danish National Board of Health. The aim of the project was to create a Danish version of SNOMED, an American/British nomenclature of clinical terms which will be used for the electronic health records planned by the Danish regions.

Having participated in the project in question as a terminology consultant, I find that the resulting corpus of English and Danish terms deserves in-depth theoretical analysis and discussion from a motivation point of view, in particular in the light of the appearance of Myking 2008.

I shall perform a contrastive analysis of a carefully selected set of English-Danish term pairs within SNOMED, and on this basis I shall discuss the following theoretical issues, inspired by Myking 2008 and Høy 2000:

1. What types of motivation (according to Myking’s definitions) are predominant in the English and Danish terms, respectively?
2. What influence, if any, have the guidelines for term formation in Danish laid down by the editorial board of the project exerted on the types and the degree of motivation found in the Danish terms analysed?

Bibliography
