

Swedish as a pluricentric language – Examples from health care contexts

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The study of pluricentric languages, languages that have several national centres and are spoken in several countries, is a well-established area in the field of linguistics. However, previous research has shed only little light on how varieties of pluricentric languages differ in terms of their interactional patterns because of their connection with different societies. One aim of the research program *Interaction and variation in pluricentric languages*, with which this presentation is associated, is to provide new knowledge about how the Swedish language is used and developed in two different societies. Communicative patterns in Finland Swedish and Sweden Swedish are documented by the use of naturally occurring conversations in the domains of service, education, and health care. My presentation addresses interactional patterns in the two varieties of Swedish with special regard to the domain of health care.

Through analysis of videotaped interaction from preventive health care as well as primary care in Sweden and Finland, communication patterns associated with the two different varieties of Swedish are considered and explored. It is demonstrated that the study of certain linguistic practices, such as address forms, can reveal differences between the two varieties of Swedish, whereas the investigation of other features, such as the language of pain, is challenging from the perspective of investigating differences between two varieties.