

## Abstract NORDPAL 2019 – Anna Smålander

### Linguistic characteristics of Swedish medical records and what they tell us about the intended reader

Since 2017 all Swedish citizens can access (parts of) their medical records online. The amount of accessible information varies between different regions, but everyone has access to clinical notes (*anteckningar* in Swedish). According to Swedish law, medical records should be “as easy as possible to understand by the patient” (*Patient Data Law*, ch. 3 art. 13, SFS 2008:355, my translation).

However, medical records are also seen as a work tool by the medical professions (Grünloh et al. 2016). This conflict of intended reader in medical records is the overarching point of interest in my PhD project. To be able to see the intended reader, the linguistic characteristics of clinical notes will be investigated. The following questions will guide the project:

1. What linguistic features characterize clinical notes in Swedish medical records?
2. Do the linguistic features indicate a clear intended reader, and if so, who?
3. Is there a change in linguistics characteristics when the medical records are made available online? If so, how can this change be described? Does it indicate a change in intended reader?

For my presentation and project discussion at NORDPAL 2019, I would like to focus on theoretical framework for my project, both on a more general level with regard to professional or specialized language, and more specifically the notion *intended reader*. My starting point is the Swedish expressions *målgrupp* (‘target group’ or ‘target audience’) and *mottagaranpassning* (approximately ‘recipient adaption’). I welcome further suggestions for theoretical frameworks or concepts that can capture the idea which I call *intended reader*.

### References

Grünloh C., Cajander Å., Myreteg G. “The Record is Our Work Tool!” – Physicians’ Framing of a Patient Portal in Sweden. *J Med Internet Res* 2016; 18(6):e167. DOI: 10.2196/jmir.5705

SFS 2008:355. *Patient Data Law*. Stockholm: Justitiedepartementet.