
Language: Swedish

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Abstract

This dissertation consists of studies in the vocabulary of the Västergötland monk Peder Månsson. It begins with a presentation of Peder Månsson’s writings (1508-1522) and his life (d. 1534). There follows an examination of the manuscripts and editions of the scripts. These are works in which there appear a large number of words which are not instanced in other late-mediaeval texts. These words, or lexemes, form the basis for the subsequent lexical investigations, which focus on lexical renewal.

Peder Månsson’s writings are like a series of handbooks, illustrating a variety of subjects, such as agriculture, maritime law, the martial arts, medical practice and various kinds of handicraft. The writings are adapted translations of largely Latin origin. Since nothing had previously been written on these subjects in Swedish it is natural that certain words appear in writing here for the first time. The study therefore contributes to the understanding of the development of technical language in Sweden in former times. Peder Månsson’s letters in Swedish to Västergötland Monastery also form part of the material.

The analysis falls into two parts, the first of which examines the content or meaning of the lexemes, and the other their form. The part dealing with content includes an examination of the degree to which the lexemes detailed in the material may be considered technical, that is to say, bound up with a certain subject. One result is that three-quarters of the lexemes have a clear connection of this kind. In the part dealing with form, a number of productive word-forming morphemes in late-mediaeval Swedish are examined. A further discussion deals with bound, respectively free forms of semantic compounds. In a number of cases individual lexemes are studied in greater detail.

These investigations are followed by a discussion of the notion of first instance. Finally there is discussion of the extent to which the lexical material in this choice from Peder Månsson’s works may be considered to reflect lexical renewal.

Keywords: late-mediaeval Swedish, Peder Månsson, technical language, lexical renewal.