

ENGLISH/SCANDINAVIAN REHABILITATION TERMINOLOGY

A Dictionary on Rehabilitation Terms

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ABSTRACT. Presentation of a project with the aim of elaborating a dictionary in American, Danish, English, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish of special terms and concepts used within the broad field of rehabilitation, e.g. medical, paramedical, vocational and social rehabilitation of physically and psychically disabled including also terms from the field of care for drug- and alcohol addicts, criminals as well as the care for old people.

The author outlines the background for the project and describes in which form the entries will be presented. It is emphasized that the dictionary will not be solely a vocabulary but will include articles on for example social systems, school systems etc., and as far as possible diagrams and charts will be used for illustrations.

The author ends his article with a request to all interested colleagues in Scandinavia and throughout the English speaking world to assist with the project.

BACKGROUND

The idea of elaborating an English Scandinavian dictionary on rehabilitation terms is a natural consequence of the rapid developments within this field which have created a new set of terms and concepts.

The members of the group working on the project have among the people they have met at international/scandinavian events, e.g., congresses, conferences, seminars or during visits by colleagues from abroad or from other Scandinavian countries often experienced difficulties in understanding each others terminology.

The above mentioned rapid developments within the field is the main reason for the rather heavy terminology problems among rehabilitation personnel, because not only it created a set of new terms, but these terms had to be learned and understood quickly by the co-workers the number of which increased concurrently with the expansion

of the rehabilitation programmes all over the world, including not only rehabilitation of the "classical" type of handicapped but for example also criminals, drug addicts as well as aged persons.

Many of these co-workers are recruited from entirely different professions and in several countries the training for their new jobs is condensed and short and very dependent on their own initiatives and studies.

The development also started a series of medical/technical/social research programmes which for shorter or longer periods involves experts as for example engineers, research people from the labour market, traffic experts, architects etc. in the field of rehabilitation. These groups are mostly quite unfamiliar with the many new rehabilitation terms and have difficulties in finding them in standard dictionaries.

In addition it must be emphasized that in most of the Scandinavian countries, textbooks are rarely translated, and most of them are still only available in American/English.

It is the committee's experience that many rehabilitation terms and concepts are simply translated into other languages and vice versa by means of common vocabularies or dictionaries, by using the most "suitable" word; this often leads to misunderstandings because it must be realized that in many cases a direct translation cannot be made, often because the concept simply does not exist in the country in question—or has a different meaning. The committee also feels that whilst many languages are equipped with synonymous words, such words have significant differences in shades of meaning.

On this basis, and as a result of an encouraging response to a questionnaire which was distributed to ascertain interest in the project, the committee in August 1967 decided to go ahead with the work of elaborating a dictionary of special terms and concepts used within the broad field of rehabilitation, e.g. medical, paramedical, vocational, and social rehabilitation of the physically and psychically disabled including also terms from the field of care for drug- and alcohol addicts, criminals as well as the care for old people.

The dictionary will include the following languages: American, English, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish, and *will not be solely a vocabulary* but will also include articles on for example social systems—school systems—rehabilitation systems etc., preferably illustrated by diagrams; for example it will explain and translate various kinds of professions, their special designation and their function within the broad field of rehabilitation in the countries included, and it will as far as possible include the definitions of concepts, institutions, handicaps etc. used in these countries.

The dictionary would serve as:

1. A source of information for persons who are starting their career in one of the many branches of rehabilitation, e.g. doctors, therapists, social workers, administrators, vocational counsellors, teachers within special education, prosthetists/orthotists etc. giving the prevailing local details as well as a translation and explanation of words and terms used in Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden and in the U.S.A.
2. A source of information as well as a vocabulary for students in the field of rehabilitation for whom textbooks are most often written in English/American; as the Scandinavian countries have not yet been able to catch up with the rapid development in rehabilitation terminology, students in Scandinavia have to use textbooks with foreign languages during their studies and also during postgraduate courses etc.
3. A vocabulary reference for persons employed within one of the branches of rehabilitation when meeting colleagues who visit their institution, when they are attending international/Scandinavian seminars, congresses, conferences, study-tours etc.

4. A source of information for rehabilitation workers on social systems, school systems, rehabilitation schemes etc. particularly those wishing to make further studies of the subject in literature written in one of the languages included in the dictionary.
5. An aid to rehabilitation fellowship students visiting one of the countries using the language of the dictionary. Many seminars, courses and individual study tours take place in the Nordic countries, and very often fellows are coming from countries where English is their mother tongue or is fairly well understood.
6. A vocabulary and a source of information for research staff on technical terms used specially in connection with rehabilitation procedures.
7. A source of information for professionals who are working for example on research projects within the rehabilitation field, but only on a short term basis, and coming from other professions, e.g. engineers, architects, traffic experts, autocar designers, labour market experts etc.

CONTENTS

As mentioned above the languages to be included are: American, Danish, English, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish, and it should cover the following items:

- A. Description of social, medical, educational rehabilitation systems, if possible with diagrams. Such articles or diagrams will also include a description of the various institutions, units etc. including the function of the persons employed within these institutions. If similar professions are not found in some of the other countries it will be stressed that it is a special profession in for example a Swedish or Danish system, and that the translation is only descriptive.
- B. Definitions or descriptions of various concepts, diseases, handicaps, institutions etc. which have been agreed upon in the various countries and by the international agencies such as UN, WHO, ILO etc.
- C. A group of terms which may just be translated with a short definition added to them, but no further explanation needed.
- D. It has been decided to include the anatomical terms commonly used in rehabilitation practice,

because whereas the Scandinavian paramedical workers is mostly using Latin terms, it is often found that in Great Britain and in the U.S.A. these terms have been translated into some English form, which for the Scandinavian reader or for the person employed abroad might well be confusing. Moreover, medical statements etc. provided by Scandinavian doctors and their secretaries, e.g. for English speaking Insurance Companies could by this means have a much clearer meaning.

It is the intention as far as possible to use anatomical charts with description in all 6 languages to illustrate anatomical terms.

E. In consultation with the commissions working on terminology problems all over the world, most of them in special, limited fields, the dictionary will include agreed nomenclatures and terms applicable to such fields but with definitions and descriptions making them understandable also for persons outside these limited fields.

PROGRESS PLAN

During the year in which the committee has existed a questionnaire was circulated to a limited group of people working within the field of rehabilitation asking them whether they might be interested in assisting in the project. The response was rather encouraging and the Secretariat in Copenhagen has up to now collected in its files about 2000 words and concepts suggested for inclusion in the dictionary.

All suggestions are evaluated and screened and as far as possible they are furnished with definitions from available sources, e.g. standard dictionaries, professional manuals etc. They are then typed out on loose-leaf sheets with all available information and forwarded to the co-workers who are requested to do the following:

1. Express their opinion as to whether the term or concept should or should not be included.
2. Evaluate the definitions and possibly rewrite them in short, clear professional terms.
3. Add the term or concept in their own languages, or if the concept does not exist in the same form in their country they are requested just to translate the article in the form which demonstrates the procedure etc. used in the

country; they may also indicate or explain existing differences.

4. If necessary forward, or ask the Secretariat to forward, the loose-leaf to experts for further consideration.
5. Notify the Secretariat of other terms and concepts which should be included.

Moreover the co-workers are urgently requested to submit to the Secretariat all relevant information and to assist with their advice and critique—in other words to assist in any way to bring the contents of the dictionary up to the highest standard possible.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Denmark

Mr. *Niels E. Søndergård*, Chairman, Psychologist, Statens Åndssvageforsorg (Danish National Service for the Mentally Retarded), Copenhagen.

Mr. *Otto Wandall-Holm*, Chief of the State Rehabilitation Office, Odense.

Secretary of the committee

Miss *Birgit Cederholm*, Secretary of the International Committee on Prosthetics and Orthotics of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

Finland

Castor Lindqvist, M.D., Chief, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, The Invalid Foundation, Helsinki.

Mr. *Veikko Niemi*, Director of the Rehabilitation Unit of the Finnish Insurance Association, Helsinki.

Great Britain

Commander *Ian R. Hendersson R.N.R., Rtd.*, Secretary-General of the British Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled has offered to represent the British Council in the committee until another representative has been appointed.

Norway

Mr. *Tore Øyen Aaen*, Managing Director of the State Rehabilitation Institute of Oslo.

Sweden

Ivar Frostner, M.D., Medical consultant to the National Labour Market Board, Stockholm.

Mr. *Torbjörn Sundqvist*, 1. Secretary of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the National Labour Market Board, Stockholm.

U.S.A.

Mr. *Miles Anderson*, Ed.D., Director, Clinical Instructor Training Program, University of California.

The members of the committee are so far working independent of any other projects, organisations or institutions and without any financial support.

The committee is well aware of the necessity of assistance from colleagues from Scandinavia and throughout the English speaking world, and in my capacity as chairman of the editorial committee it is my privilege to invite all interested to

assist us with this project which we hope may be a help for all our colleagues working in the field of rehabilitation and for all the persons who in future are going to join the rehabilitation institutions and rehabilitation teams.

We intend to publish a proof edition during the year 1969 including abt. 1000 words and concepts. This edition should give an idea of our plans and be an inspiration for present as well as potential co-workers. We know very well that a compilation of 1000 words will be but a poor collection and that the project must go on continuously because expanded knowledge as a result of intensified research and expanded rehabilitation programmes will still bring new words and concepts into our working field.

Key words: Dictionaries, medical; documentation; rehabilitation.

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