CIP Symposium 2018

Et ord er et ord? – akademisk ordforråd og fælles terminologi på tværs af universitetet/
It’s only words? – Academic vocabulary and common terminology across the University

Abstract

Pete Westbrook
Center for Internationalisering og Parallelsproglighed, Københavns Universitet

Titel: “Make-up classes for censors” (in goose eyes) – the challenges of parallel language use for admin staff

It’s not only in the academic classroom that the consequences of internationalisation and parallel language use are being felt in Denmark’s universities. Administrative and technical staff too are increasingly finding that they need to communicate with international students and staff in English.

One of the major challenges that this situation poses is that of finding the right vocabulary to talk about sometimes very technical aspects of university administration. How can we ensure that the English terms used at the University of Copenhagen (KU) are correct and meaningful? Is it enough simply to have a term that everyone at least understands and can agree on? And how far should we coordinate the terms used at KU with other universities in Denmark?

This presentation will consider these challenges in more detail, using examples of actual vocabulary items that present particular problems. I will also look at how CIP has set about meeting language needs by developing terminology-based language courses in English for specific groups of university administrative staff, including HR, finance, study admin and technical staff.