

Loan elements in Kristfrid Ganander's medical terminology

Kristfrid Ganander (1741–1790) is principally known as a dictionary writer and a collector of folk poetry; however he also published a lesser known, but very important medical book in 1788. *Maan-Miehen Huone- ja Koti-Aptheeki* [Farmers' home remedies] contains popular medicine practices and medical formulae formerly only available in foreign languages that had been collected by the author during his field trips. The intended audience is the community of Finnish-speaking farmers who hardly had any access to medical care due to contemporary conditions. Thus, the book was written in Finnish, but several expressions did not have Finnish equivalents at the time, since the scientific language was dominated by Latin and Swedish. This is why the predominantly Finnish text contains Latin and Swedish words as well. The present paper studies Ganander's medical terminology from the point of loan words: what the amount of foreign expressions is in the text and how much they made it difficult for the contemporary reader to understand it.

Latin names are usually applied in cases where the native speaker named the given ingredient (mostly herbs) ambiguously, or the given ingredient required measuring and mixing in a pharmacy. The tools used for the mixing and preparation of medicines are often named in Swedish, but these words had probably blended in the Finnish language at the location of collection and speakers did not use them as foreign words anymore. This seems to be supported by the fact that they are used in the text in a Finnish transcription and with Finnish inflection. Units of measurement are the most varied, which reflects a peculiarity of the time: no unified system of measurements was available then and everyday people used several old, unofficial units that may be Latin, Finnish or Swedish in the text.

It can be stated in conclusion that the author made every effort to create a book that was suitable for the needs of the intended audience, being easy to understand and use. The structure of the formulae is punctual and practical, conforming to the requirements of the intended use. E.g. formulae written for pharmacists applied the official and scientific names and spelling, while ingredients collectible from nature were named in multiple languages to make their identification easier.

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