ABSTRACT

In this thesis, we examine the possibilities of a semantic analysis of spatial configurations represented by Danish prepositions.

In the theoretical part of the thesis, we explore the means that cognitive linguistics uses to describe meaning in general, and to describe spatial configuration in particular. We also briefly present the results of several analyses of English spatial expressions.

In the practical part of the thesis, we then apply the cognitive linguistics' terms and methods on material gathered from Danish dictionaries and grammar handbooks and Danish Corpus, in order to achieve an analysis of spatial senses represented by the Danish preposition *i*. The result of our analysis is a structured overview of the preposition's distinct spatial senses, accompanied by a suggestion of the preposition’s semantic network.

KEY WORDS: cognitive semantics, spatial scene, schema, spatial configuration, prepositions, Danish