Using corpus data for teaching purposes

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Sign Linguistics Corpora Network
Workshop XI: Exploitation
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Introduction

- Exploiting material collected for sign language corpora; use it for
  - lexicographic work
  - research
  - deaf education
  - non-academic training purposes
  - our own teaching purposes

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During or after building the corpus?

- Using corpus data for teaching while the corpus is still under construction means students can give feedback on
  - how well suited the glosses are
  - search problems they encounter
  - what type of discourse is best suited for teaching
- It also gives teachers access to teaching materials

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Plans from the LREC workshop 2008

- Try to work with annotations and discuss results and problems with students
- Use ELAN for courses in Sign Language for beginners
- Work with a larger corpus
- Expand the use of ELAN beyond research also to Sign Language instruction and learning

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Planning a pedagogical corpus

- We also offer courses in Swedish Sign Language for beginners
- Large need for adapted materials for these courses
- We are now producing materials especially suited for beginners, and are planning to include this material in a “pedagogical corpus”.

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Support for students

- We will also use the corpus material for students’ essays (BA & MA level).
- Using corpus material students will not have to spend a lot of time filming, getting permissions to use the material, annotate and gloss the material, etc.
- They will “only” have to analyze the chosen material in accordance with their research questions.

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Support for teachers

- Teachers can search the corpus for usage examples of the kind of structure that a particular lecture will present
- Ready made, glossed examples to show as a complement to printed materials
- Film clips given to students for assignments and as parts of exam questions

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Testing reliability: independent glossing by three researchers

Dec 2009

Glosses by three researchers compared (appr 1,5 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A1 - A2</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>A1 - A3</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>A2 - A3</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>69%</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>different</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Results

- Average different = 22%
- More unified transcription conventions needed for glossing
  - currently preparing glossing conventions
- Will make unified search of annotations in ELAN possible in the corpus

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Courses in Swedish Sign Language at Stockholm University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>No. Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Sign Language Linguistics</td>
<td>5-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Sign Language for beginners</td>
<td>25-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous professional education for interpreters</td>
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</table>

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Swedish Sign Language Linguistics

Sign Language I
- Form and meaning of signs
  - Annotate gloss, receive teacher’s version
  - Merge tiers to discuss them
- Exams
  - See Sign Language II

Example: NPs
- Studying the structure of noun phrases (NPs) in Swedish Sign Language, students can look for NPs in a film clip, then send in their annotation files
- The teacher merges files, adding his/her own suggestions and comments
- Discuss in group

Swedish Sign Language Linguistics

Sign Language II
- Sign Language Grammar
  - Annotated material, eg. ECHO fable material
  - Expanded set of tiers with sentence markers, sentence types, negation, NP etc.
  - Merge tiers of 5-10 students
  - Discuss with students
- Exams
  - Film clips from corpus material (and some other materials)
  - Analyze and answer according to exam questions
  - Reply with Word and/or eaf-files

Structure of sentences

Syntactic function: predicate

Sign categories (i.e. word class)
Learners of Swedish Sign Language

- ELAN a good tool for language learning
- They understand vocabulary and grammar better
- Glossed examples in the ordinary corpus material can be shown during lectures
- Specific “pedagogical” corpus material constructed for them
- Their own production can be marked and commented in ELAN
- Average 25 students for a first semester course. Have to plan teaching well – tiers for 25 students not a good idea

Types of questions (Sign Language for Beginners) + merged answer tiers

Example: “classifier signs”

- Marked with empty annotation cells
- Students fill in e.g. ‘agentive classifier’
- Easy for the teacher to see what students have and have not understood
Two main questions

- Selection and nature of glosses for signs
  - pointing signs
  - compounds or not?
  - glossing the non-dominant hand
- The duration of a glossed annotation, i.e. where a sign begins and ends

References
