

A Dictionary and a Swedish Sign Language Corpus

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Feestelijke opening van het Corpus NGT
Nijmegen 12 Dec 2008

Overview

- Status of Swedish Sign Language
- Dictionary work
- A Swedish Sign Language Corpus

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Sign Language Statues in Sweden

- Interpreting course 1969
- Interpreting service
- Sign Language Linguistic Research 1972
- Legal recognition of Swedish Sign Language as language for deaf 1981
- Bilingual education since 1982
- TV, theatre, higher education ...
- the Language Council of Sweden 2007
- SDR's campaign for sign language

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Swedish Language Law

- Swedish
- Five official minority languages;
Finnish, Meänkieli, Sami, Romani and Yiddish
- Swedish Sign Language

The new language law is set to enter into force on July 1st, 2009

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Old Dictionary of Swedish Sign Language 1916



274. Danmark.

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Dictionary online 2000 – 2008



www.linq.su.se/tsp

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Dictionary online 2000 – 2008

- 2001 Swedish Sign Language Dictionary
- 2004 Sign Language Dictionary of Mathematics
- 2005 Sign Language Dictionary of Bridge
- 2006 Sign Language Dictionary of Linguistics
- 2006 Sign Language Dictionary of Religion
- 2007 Sign Language Dictionary of Swedish provinces and cities
- 2007 Sign Language Dictionary of Sex and Relationships
- 2008 Sign Language Dictionary of Number signs

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- 2001 Swedish Sign Language Dictionary
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- 2005 Sign Language Dictionary of Bridge
- 2006 Sign Language Dictionary of Linguistics
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- 2008 Sign Language Dictionary of Numeral signs
- **2009 New Swedish Sign Language Dictionary**

How about Our Corpus?

- Very good experiences from the ECHO project 2002-2004
- How to work for database and accessibility?
- Mostly for dictionary work and teaching at Stockholm University

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Materials ~ 1500 hours

- Constructed sentences in the dictionary
- Teaching materials
- Researcher's own materials
- Early corpus, eg. Hedberg 1989
 - the stories of 200 elderly people
 - without annotations
- Educational TV

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Language Resources ?

- Swedish National Association of the Deaf, SDR
- Stockholm University
- Swedish Television
- Sign Language and Interpreter teaching
- Schools for the Deaf
- The National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools

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Nordic Countries and Corpus Work

- Network within five countries: Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland
- The first meeting for corpus network November 2008
- All of the Nordic countries have dictionaries online (except Iceland)

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The Swedish Sign Language Corpus

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011

financed by The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary
Foundation

The Swedish Sign Language Corpus

- Similar to NGT Corpus and Auslan Corpus but even more like BSL Corpus
- More free conversation than elicitation
- 21 persons from the beginning (with 5 cameras)
- Also other materials like old recordings, lectures, tactile signing (with 1-2 cameras)

the Aim

- to create the necessary conditions for long-term work on a Swedish Sign Language corpus
- providing the prerequisites for corpus based studies on the vocabulary and grammar of the language

For whom?

- Researchers
- Teaching staff
- Parts of the corpus will be freely accessible for use in e.g. Sign Language courses and the training of sign language interpreters

The Swedish Sign Language Corpus

Dictionary work

Research into the
structure and use of SSL

The SSL Corpus
available

Tack! Thank you!

