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

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

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

Old Dictionary of Swedish Sign Language 1916


www.ling.su.se/tsp

- 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

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

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

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

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)
The Swedish Sign Language Corpus

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011

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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)

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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

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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

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Tack! Thank you!

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