

# 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



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# Dictionary online 2000 - 2008





www.ling.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



## 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 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** 

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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

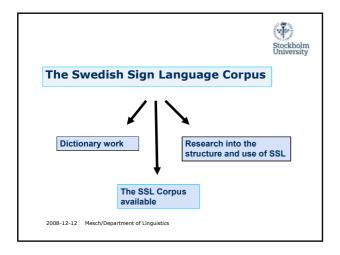
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#### For whom?

- 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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