

Signs2Go: Re-using Sign Language Resources to Teach BSL as a Foreign Language

Poster for the fourth workshop of the Sign Linguistics Corpora Network
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www.signs2go.eu



Who?

- University of Central Lancashire (Preston, UK)
- Pragma (Hoensbroek, NL)
- Møller Kompetansesenter (Trondheim, NO)
- Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal (Magdeburg, DE)
- Siena School for Liberal Arts (Siena, IT)

What?

Signs2Go is a EU project, partially funded under the LLP KA2 programme. The objective: to develop a website where sign language users can learn BSL as a foreign language.

Starting date: January 2009. Website on-line: January 2010.

How?

- We use existing BSL material selected from a TV-show for BSL-users "*Wicked!*", to show real BSL as it is used today (www.bslbt.co.uk/wicked).
- We add two teachers: one explains in the national sign language (DGS, NGT, LIS, NTS), the other explains in 'BSL for beginners'. These teacher videos are 3-5 minutes long, and are 'linked' to sections of the BSL "*Wicked!*" video: a new teacher video for every 2- 5 seconds of "*Wicked!*". In the teacher videos, the teachers translate, explain, and comment on the BSL that is used in the linked section of "*Wicked!*".
- We add interactive exercises to test comprehension and production (webcam).
- We 'throw' the learner into this BSL language pool: YOU decide what you want to see, YOU decide when you need help, YOU decide what help you want, YOU learn as you go!

Results?

- An innovative + challenging online environment, where sign language users can learn BSL as a foreign sign language. No reading/writing required!
- A possible format for the exploitation of sign language corpora: a central screen showing the sign language source video, with 1 or 2 'linked' teachers on the side who explain, translate & comment.
On-line, in sign language!



Education and Culture DG

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