Based on CEFR level and the language ladder, various grammatical properties (e.g. non-manual negation), word classes (e.g. verbs), clause types (e.g. declarative), and number of signs were included in each example sentence. Each grammatical property has been assigned a score. By tallying the total score of a sentence, it is possible to assign it to a specific CEFR level based on a pre-established scoring range per level. We have tentatively defined the levels A1–B2 as follows:

- A1 = 1–4 points
- A2 = 5–15 points
- B1 = 16–30 points
- B2 = ?

We have developed a dictionary, the Swedish Sign Language Dictionary, which is available free online and continuously updated. It includes 18,633 signs (22,000 signs collected) and 4,561 example sentences. The dictionary is a digital tool that uses CEFR for sign languages as applied to sign languages.

### Method

- The first 5-year BA program (300 ECTS) was started in the fall of 2013.
- The program consists of theoretical and practical courses in and about Swedish Sign Language, but also courses on interpreting between Swedish and Swedish Sign Language.
- The main aim is for students to develop their practical skills in Swedish Sign Language as an L2 during two years.

### BA program in sign language and interpreting

- The first 3-year BA program (180 ECTS) was started in the fall of 2013.
- The program consists of theoretical and practical courses in and about Swedish Sign Language, but also courses on interpreting between Swedish and Swedish Sign Language.
- The main aim is for students to develop their practical skills in Swedish Sign Language as an L2 during two years.

### CEFR for sign languages

- Practical teaching is adapted to CEFR definition of L2 skills in terms of production, comprehension, and conversation.
- The scale has three levels, each with two sublevels:
  - A1–A2 = basic user
  - B1–B2 = independent user
  - C1–C2 = proficient user

- PRO-Sign has developed CEFR as applied to sign languages.

### Language ladder

- Level 6: Text and discourse level (fluency, tempo, metaphors)
- Level 5: Text level (e.g. viewpoints)
- Level 4: Phrase/clause level (e.g. buoys, token, clause types)
- Level 3: Modification in signing space, morphological processes, ...
- Level 2: Signs based on the knowledge of the four parameters, both fixed and depicting, and phonological awareness, ...
- Level 1: Modality (e.g. eye and body contact, gestural and bodily awareness, simultaneity, signing space)

### Swedish Sign Language Dictionary

- Publicly available for free online December 18th, 2008.
- Updated online in September 2014.
- 18,633 signs (22,000 signs collected).
- 4,561 example sentences.
- Continuously updated with new functionality.
- Several search functions available.

### Sign language dictionary as a digital tool in L2 teaching

- This development work is highly important – not only for hearing L2 learners in the BA program, but also for similar sign language courses.
- Through the dictionary, it is possible to retrieve sentences according to the level of interest (targeting one’s progress and level of skill).
- The scoring for sentences at the A1, A2, and B1 levels are considered relevant. The next step is to develop and adjust the scoring model.


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