

**Franz DOTTER – Marlene HILZENSAUER**

## ***"SignOnOne"***

### ***Visual Learning for the Deaf***

"SignOnOne" is an online course for teaching English to deaf adults without any prior knowledge of English. As the deaf are barred from the acoustic channel, they need to receive all their information via the visual channel. Therefore "SignOnOne" uses sign language as language of instruction (the users may choose between a translation of the sentences, words and phrases into the national sign languages of the six partner countries).

The program also includes animations to visualize the cognitive concepts within the English sentences. Each animation is linked to a sentence in the English text. The animations were developed based on the theory that languages are learned by watching "scenes" and "scripts". The artists doing the animations tried only to include what is mentioned in the sentences, no more and no less. Linking the language to what you can see, these animations could be of interest to all language learners.

"SignOnOne" could be used as a tool for testing whether a visual "scenic representation" of what happens in a sentence helps with multimodal memorizing as well as with "naturally analyzing" texts along visual perceptions.

Additionally, sign languages as visual languages should be considered intensively in the field of visual learning.

**Franz DOTTER**, born 1948 in Salzburg, Austria; studies in German language and literature, mathematics, and philosophy; Dr. phil.1975. Works since 1973 at the Institute for Linguistics and Computerlinguistics of Klagenfurt University. Habilitation (on iconicity in syntax) 1990, then Associate Professor for General Linguistics; since 1996 head of the Centre for Sign Language and Deaf Communication (<http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/zgh>). Main interests: Typology and cognitive linguistics, sign languages, sociolinguistics of politics and minorities, text/discourse analysis, deaf education. E-mail: [Franz.Dotter@uni-klu.ac.at](mailto:Franz.Dotter@uni-klu.ac.at).



**Marlene HILZENSAUER** was born in 1967 in Austria and studied Linguistics and English at the University of Klagenfurt. After her graduation (doctorate) in 1994 she participated in several linguistic projects. In 1995 she joined the project "Austrian Sign Language" which later evolved into the "Center for Sign Language and Deaf Communication" (ZGH). She is now an assistant professor at the ZGH. Beside teaching at university and doing linguistic research into Austrian Sign Language, she works mainly on multimedia language courses and teaching materials for deaf and hearing people. E-mail: [Marlene.Hilzensauer@uni-klu.ac.at](mailto:Marlene.Hilzensauer@uni-klu.ac.at).

