

MOU

Haus am Gern

#10.17436/etk.c.066

#Elmo*

#Bruialesi, Trmasan

#Katze (Motiv)

#Maschinelle Übersetzung

#Nichtverbale Kommunikation

#Paralinguistik

#Schnalzlaut

#Text-to-Speech

DDC: 599.752 Felini (Kleinkatzen)

Es ist einer der grössten Träume und gleichzeitig eine der grössten Tragödien in der Menschheitsgeschichte: die Unmöglichkeit, mit Tieren zu sprechen. Wenn wir es könnten, wäre das Paradies wieder hergestellt, wo der Löwe mit dem Lämmchen etc. etc. Aber die Realität sieht anders aus: Während wir unser billiges Schweineschnitzel aus der Massentierhaltung braten, versuchen wir mit ziemlich lächerlichen Schnalz-, Zisch- und Klicklauten, die Katze zum Schmusen anzulocken. Mit künstlicher Intelligenz gelingt es uns zwar inzwischen prima, das japanische Kochrezept ins Deutsche zu übersetzen, ja sogar vom Computer vorlesen zu lassen – aber wenn die Katze uns was sagen will, bleibt uns weiterhin nur Intuition und Interpretation.

Rudolf Steiner (*1964) & Barbara Meyer Cesta (*1959) arbeiten seit 1997 unter dem Label "Haus am Gern" an gemeinsamen Projekten, treten aber auch unabhängig unter ihrem eigenen Namen auf. Mit "Haus am Gern" haben Meyer Cesta und Steiner eine künstlerische Strategie entwickelt, die ihnen die Freiheit gibt, alle Rollen, die das Kunstsystem anbietet, selbst zu übernehmen. Mit diesem überraschend offensichtlichen Stilmittel mischt sich "Haus am Gern" in Zusammenarbeit mit Insidern und Outsidern in den laufenden Kunstdiskurs ein und ortet oder schafft Lücken in den bestehenden Systemen. Zudem verlegen Meyer Cesta und Steiner Kunstbücher unter dem Label Edition Haus am Gern. Barbara Meyer Cesta und Rudolf Steiner leben und arbeiten in Biel, Warschau und Rondchâtel. Mehr: www.hausamgern.ch/, www.edition-hausamgern.ch

Zum Projekt erschien eine Audio- bzw. Tape Edition (tkbks028, DOI: 10.17436/etk.t.028). Der Übersetzungseditor findet sich unter <https://lingojam.com/ELMOU>

MOU

Haus am Gern

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Dear Paul,

yesterday I bought a new mattress. The decision to embark on this unpleasant undertaking had matured over weeks and was confirmed by the fact that my sleep, especially in the early morning hours, was regularly interrupted by unpleasantly loud snapping sounds and clicking noises, the source of which I was initially unable to fathom, because as soon as I woke up, they were already gone. Since I usually fall asleep alone and wake up alone, I had to assume the probability that I myself was the cause of these noises, a circumstance that did not cause worries, but which I had to get to the bottom of if I wanted to regain my sleep. Clicking and snapping sounds, dear Paul, belong to the repertoire of human expressiveness, even if - apart from a few languages in eastern Africa - rather in the non-verbal and paralingual field of com-

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munication. Especially when trying to talk to animals, humans snap, hiss and click for all they're worth, or for what their tongues can offer. But I have neither cat nor bird, no dog, no horse. So where does the early morning click and snap come from? It had to be, so my conclusion, the mattress, as the vernacular says: „As one beds oneself, so one lies“.

So I scoured the city map for mattress stores and wrote down a few addresses on the back of my hand. Have you ever noticed, dear Paul, that mattress stores, especially the cheap ones, are located exclusively in corner buildings? Maybe there is something like a secret plan that wisely assigned the mattress stores the best locations for the erection of street barricades to come. Anyway I decided to go first to the store called „Matratzen-Concordia“, because where there is unity, I thought in my simplicity, it's where to sleep peacefully. So there I went.

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Memorandum of Understanding

MoU

frz. weich

moU

Bedeutung: Kater; männliche Hauskatze

MouDi

Bedeutung: doch schon.

moUou

2) einmal, z. B. „Du hesch doch mou gseit...“; siehe > mal

siehe > momou

Bedeutung: 1) doch, ja, z. B. „Mou du hesch das gseit.“;

Schreibweisen: mau, mol

moU

Inside it smelled of turpentine. The woman behind the counter pointed wordlessly - for a brief moment I thought I heard a click - to a row of gray felt slippers next to the entrance. Also without a word or a greeting, I put on a pair. I was the only customer. The late afternoon light fell softly through the shop windows on piles of mattresses stacked overman-high. Crisscrossed by narrow alleys, the floral-patterned mattress towers remained me of painted backdrops in a ruined castle or monastery garden. I followed obediently the arrows on the ground. Accompanied only by the shuffling of my slippers, I penetrated deeper and deeper into the labyrinthine of the mattress corridors, and the further I ventured, the higher the mattress walls became, the closer the soft bloated mattress bodies moved together, looking as if they had gorged themselves on masses of swallowed sound.

Just as I - seized by a quiet panic - decided

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Yours, Trmasan

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I said nothing and signed the Memorandum of Understanding in seven copies. Later, as we entered the staircase, the clicking and snapping began and I woke up. I then ordered the new mattress by phone from one of the addresses on the back of my hand, it was delivered today.

special interests and needs of all the negotiating partners involved,“ the cat said solemnly, „as well as the moral and psychological significance of the transactional project under negotiation here, while observing the obligation of secrecy, and subject to a possible claim for damages in connection with self-referential statements about the obligation of all the partners to perform, I propose to toast the Memorandum of Understanding here before us!“

„Mou, said the lady.

„Mou, said the cat.

I said nothing and signed the Memorandum of Understanding in seven copies. Later, as we entered the staircase, the clicking and snapping began and I woke up. I then ordered the new mattress by phone from one of the addresses on the back of my hand, it was delivered today.

Yours, Trmasan

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to leave the mattress store in a hurry, but avoiding any attention, and without having achieved anything, I realized that I was not alone. A lady, dressed in the yellow house costume of Matratzen-Concordia, stood in the half-darkness under a sheer overhanging mattress wall. I was already ashamed of my hasty thoughts of escape, but she only asked, „Are you interested in Claude Lorain?“ I didn't manage a clear answer, and the woman, obviously noticing my hesitation, said, „Then I'll show you something else. Follow me, please.“

Reaching the end of the corridor, the lady opened a low, padded door that barely stood out against the mattress walls. We entered a brightly lit open-plan office, but it seemed only half occupied. The lady offered me a chair and told me to wait. To my right, a coffee machine was humming, neon lights were buzzing on the ceiling, and the whir of a vacuum cleaner could be heard somewhere

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Without waiting for an answer, the cat reached for the briefcase again, moistened his paws with his velvety tongue, and picked out a stack of printed papers, which he carefully spread out before me. „In view of the

„Pardon me, my lady,“ croaked the cat, „would I ever allow myself to pour vodka for a lady?“

„Is that vodka?“ the lady asked weakly.

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yesterdmou I bougmou a nmou mattremou. Tmou decisimou to embamou on thmou unpleasamou undertakimou hmou maturmou ovmou weemou amou wmou confirmmou by tmou famou thmou my sleemou especialmou in tmou earmou mornimou hourmou wmou regularmou interruptmou by unpleasantmou lomou snap-pimou sounmou amou clickimou noisemou tmou sourmou of whimou I wmou initialmou unabmou to fathomou becaumou as somou as I womou umou thmou wemou alreamou gomou. Sinmou I usualmou famou aslemou alomou amou wamou up alonmou I hmou to assumou tmou probabilitimou thmou I mysemou wmou tmou caumou of themou noisemou a circumstanmou thmou dmou nmou caumou worriemou bmou whimou I hmou to gmou to tmou bottmou of if I wantmou to regamou my slemou.

Clickimou amou snappimou soundmou demou paumou belomou to tmou cmou offimou. Bmou I hamou neithmou cmou nmou birmou no domou no hormou. So whemou domou tmou earmou mornimou climou amou snmou comou fromou it hmou to bmou so my conclusiomou tmou mattresmou as tmou vernaculmou saymou „Mou omou bemou oneselmou so omou liemou“.

So I scourmou tmou cimou mmou fmou mattremou stormou amou wromou domou a fmou addressmou on tmou bamou of my hamou. Hamou ymou evmou noticemou demou paumou thmou mattremou storemou especialmou tmou chemou onemou amou locatmou exclusivemou in cornmou buildingmou maymou themou is somethimou limou a secrmou plmou thmou wisemou assignmou tmou mattremou stormou tmou bemou locatiomou fmou tmou erectimou of stremou barricadmou to comou. Anywamou I decidmou to go firmou to tmou stomou callmou „Matratzen-Concordiamou“ becaumou whemou themou is unitmou I thougrou in my simplicimou itmou whemou to slemou peacefulmou.

So themou I wemou.

Insimou it smellmou of turpentimou. Tmou wommou behimou tmou countmou pointmou wordlessmou - fmou a brimou mome-mou I thougrou I heamou a climou - to a rmou of grmou femou slippemou nemou to tmou entranmou. Almou withomou a womou or a greetinmou I pmou on a pamou. I wmou tmou onmou custommou. Tmou lamou afternomou ligmou femou softmou throumou tmou shmou windomou on pilmou of mattressmou stack mou overman-himou. Crisscrossmou by narrmou alleymou tmou floral-patternmou mattremou towemou remainmou me of paintmou backdromou in a ruinmou castmou or monastemou gardmou. I followmou obedientmou tmou arromou on tmou groumou. Accompanimou onmou by tmou shufflimou of my slippermou I penetratmou deepmou amou deepmou inmou tmou labyrinthimou of tmou mattremou corridormou amou tmou furthmou I venturermou tmou highmou tmou mattremou walmou becamrou tmou closmou tmou somou bloatmou mattremou bodimou movmou togethemou lookimou as if thmou hmou gorgmou themselvmou on massmou of swallowmou soumou. Jumou as I - seizmou by a quimou panmou - decidmou to leamou tmou mattremou stomou in a hurrmou bmou avoidimou amou attentiomou amou withomou havimou achievmou anythinmou I realizmou thmou I wmou nmou alomou.

A ladmou dressmou in tmou yellmou houmou costumou of

„Matratzen-Concordimou“ stomou in tmou half-darknemou undmou a shemou overhangimou mattremou wamou. I wmou alreamou ashammou of my hasmou thougrou of escapmou bmou smou onmou askemou „amou ymou interestmou in claumou lorrainmou?“ I didnmou manamou a clemou answe-mou amou tmou womamou obviousmou noticimou my hesitatomou saimou, „thmou I‘mou shmou ymou somethimou elmou. Follmou mmou pleamou.“

Reachimou tmou emou of tmou corridormou tmou lamou openmou a lomou paddmou domou thmou baremou stomou omou againmou tmou mattremou walmou. We entermou a brightmou lmou open-plmou officmou bmou it seemmou onmou hamou occupimou. Tmou lamou offermou me a chamou amou tomou me to wamou. To my righmou a coffmou machimou wmou humminmou nemou lighmou wemou buzzimou on tmou ceilinmou amou tmou whmou of a vacuumou cleanmou coumou be heamou somewhemou in tmou deptmou of tmou romou.

Tmou floomou I noticmou onmou nomou consistmou of yellmou brickmou whimou astonishmou me to somou extenmou sinmou it remindmou me of a pictumou thmou I hmou noticmou onmou recentmou in an exhibitimou bmou tmou lamou camou bamou amou tomou me omou of my thougrou. Smou wmou accompanimou by a hugmou nobmou dressmou blamou tomcmou.

Tmou cmou placmou a blamou briefcamou wimou tmou emblmou of „Matratzen-Concordimou“ on tmou tabmou amou tomou frmou it thrmou cone-shapmou glassmou amou a bottmou wimou a clemou liqumou. „Noblesmou obligemou,“ samou tmou camou, fillimou tmou glassmou to tmou brmou. „Mou thmou vodkamou?“ tmou lamou askmou weakmou. „Pardmou mmou my ladymou“, croakmou tmou camou, „woumou I evmou allmou mysemou to pomou vodmou fmou a ladymou?“

Withomou waitimou fmou an answe-mou tmou cmou reachmou fmou tmou briefcamou agaimou moistenmou hmou pamou wimou hmou velvemou tongumou amou pickmou omou a stamou of printmou papermou whimou he carefulmou spremou omou befomou me. „Mou vimou of tmou specimou interesmou amou neemou of amou tmou negotiatimou partnemou involvedmou,“ tmou cmou samou solemn-mou, „mou wemou as tmou mormou amou psychologimou significanmou of tmou transactionmou projemou undmou negotiatimou hermou whimou observimou tmou obligatimou of secrecmou amou subjemou to a possibmou clamou fmou damagmou in connectimou wimou self-referentimou statemenmou abomou tmou obligatimou of amou tmou partnemou to performou I propomou to toamou tmou Memorandmou of Understandimou hemou befomou usmou!“

„Moumou,“ samou tmou lamou.

„Moumou,“ samou tmou cmou.

I samou nothimou amou signmou tmou Memorandmou of Understandimou in sevmou copimou. Latemou as we entermou tmou staircasmou tmou clickimou amou snappimou begmou amou I womou up. I thmou ordermou tmou nmou mattremou by phomou frmou omou of tmou addressmou on tmou bamou of my hanmou it wmou delivermou todmou.

Youmou, Trmasmou

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