



Little Door to the 21st of December

The Spoon Language (= Löffelsprache)

It is December the 21st, meaning the word gets too long which would mess up the title, hence there's the number itself now instead of the written one (twenty-first).

Anyway, today's a light door as we learn about the Spoon Language. It's not actually a language in German, but rather a playful secretive language which is based on the replacement of vowels with predetermined abbreviations. The consonants remain unchanged.

In order to decode, learn or speak this language the abbreviations must be known beforehand. However, even for those who have their own spoon language, it might get difficult to understand each other since it is spoken in syllables – thus ignoring word boundaries. To outsiders, it will sound like gibberish.

The origin of the term is unknown, but in German it expresses onomatopoeically (lautmalerisch) what the language is about. It is characterized by a great density of the letter *L*, since vowels and diphthong (two vowels connected to each other, like *au*, *ei*, *ai*) are replaced by a combination of the original letter and the letter *L*.

Here's an example how the Löffelsprache looks like:



Figure 1 - The sentence says: "This is the Spoon Language"