

Oral Easy-to-Understand language and audiovisual content: how do they mix?

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What is E2U language?

Easy Language

"Language variety in which a set of recommendations regarding wording, structure, design and evaluation are applied to make information accessible to persons with reading comprehension difficulties for any reason. [...] The term "easy language" is preferred as it can be applied not only to written content which is read but also to oral or multimodal content." (ISO, 2023)

Easy Language +

"(It) has a high level of perceptibility and comprehensibility, even if it is not as high as for Easy Language. [...] It is closer to the standard layout." (Maaß, 2020).

Plain Language

"Language variety whose wording, structure, and design are so clear that the intended readers can easily find what they need, understand what they find, and use that information." (ISO, 2023)

Oral E2U recommendations

- 7 guides with oral recommendations

(Accessible Information Working Group, 2011; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009; ILSMH-EA, 1998; Inclusion Europe, 2009; ISO, 2023; MENCAP, 2000; North Yorkshire County Council, 2014)

- Recommendations about prosody, type of voice, language and some technical aspects
- These recommendations are vague, specially the prosodic recommendations

Interviews with oral E2U creators

Methods

- 11 interviews
- 1 hour
- Semi-structured interviews, online

Content

- Varied types of content: news and conference interpreting, mediation, easy news, educational, institutional and informative videos, film AD, audio explanations
- Language varieties: EL, EL+ and some case of PL

Language and content simplification

- Written E2U recommendations are suitable for oral E2U.
- **Content simplification strategies vary:**
 - Simplify all the speech or provide oral glossary (news interpreting and mediation)
 - Describing things that are subtle and easily missed (easy film AD)
 - Changing degree of simplification (easy film AD)
 - Leave out unimportant details or make generalizations
 - Summarising

Prosody

- Three common key aspects:
 - Speech speed
 - Pauses
 - Pronunciation
- Emotivity varies depending on the type of content

Image and audio

- The videos and images used can be **standard** or **adapted**
- They must correlate with the audio
- Synchronisation strategies vary based on the type of content:
 - Live contents
 - Pre-recorded content

Subtitles or transcriptions?

- Adapted subtitles vs. unadapted subtitles
- Subtitles vs. transcriptions

Validation and evaluation

There are three trends depending on the type of content:

- The content is not validated, but receives **feedback**
- The content is **validated** or the **target group is included** in the creation
- The content is not validated nor receives feedback

Conclusions

- The linguistic recommendations for written E2U appear to be suitable for oral E2U as well, but it would be interesting to study it more in depth.
- The interviewees agree on the importance of speech speed, pauses, and pronunciation. However, it's crucial to conduct more research, taking into account the characteristics of each language.
- Additional research is necessary to determine the optimal choice between subtitles and transcripts.

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Thank you!

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