



# **UNIT 3B. EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND (E2U) AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION (AD)**

## **ELEMENT 1. PROCESSES**

### **EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND AUDIO SUBTITLES: A SAMPLE**

#### **Other Video Transcript**

#### **Slide 1**

This is Unit 3B, easy-to-understand (or E2U) and audio description (AD). Element 1, processes. Other video "Easy-to-understands audio subtitles: a sample".

Hello, I am Martina Atzeri a student of Applied Interlinguistic Communication at the Università degli studi di Trieste.

#### **Slide 2**

This video sample will show you how standard audio subtitles (or AST) can be adapted into easy-to-understand (or E2U) audio subtitles.

First, you will watch and listen to the first video excerpt with standard ASTs in English. Then, you will watch and listen to the same excerpt with E2U ASTs.



## Slide 3

The sample that we selected is taken from a Slovenian documentary show entitled "Stories Behind the Faces: Sabina Dermota".

## Slide 4

Let's start with the first video excerpt with standard audio subtitles. This is a simple example where only one speaker is talking. More complicated situations occur when more speakers talk to each other, and therefore the constraints for the audio subtitler are tighter.

Now listen to the excerpt carefully.

[<https://4d.rtv slo.si/arhiv/zgodbe-izza-obrazov/174438859>, 20.04-20.51]

**STANDARD AST:** I am aware that I will never be able to see the beautiful views from our highest mountain, the fantastic sunrises and sunsets nor gorgeous flowering meadows. But I take that in my stride, but I still feel a pain in my heart when I think that I will never be able to see the glowing faces of my children. But this is my life. I have reconciled myself to it. I try to enjoy things I love, to do what I enjoy doing, what I can. All these people who accompany me in my life are making up for everything I don't have. This keeps me going and makes me happy.

## Slide 5

In this excerpt, audio subtitles are delivered in the first person: I am aware, I take that, etc. - which is only one way of delivering them. The ASTs are a form of verbatim translation of the original dialogue.



## Slide 6

The style is informal, with some colloquial expressions (such as “But I take that...”). Even if ASTs are spoken, their syntax can be a bit off-putting, with complex sentence patterns, where a dependent clause is linked to a main clause (for instance: “I still feel a pain in my heart when I think that I will never be able to see the glowing faces of my children”).

## Slide 7

Let’s try to make the text easier to understand, sticking to the main E2U principles. In this case, those pertaining to the sentence and the organization of information. In fact, the vocabulary used in the text is not particularly difficult.

## Slide 8

Now listen to our E2U version of the audio subtitles, which delivered at the standard speech rate:

### **E2U AST [standard rate]:**

I know I will never see the beautiful mountain views.

I know I will never see the sunset or the sunrise.

I know I will never see beautiful flowers.

I am not upset.

I am sorry because I will not see the faces of my children.

But this is my life.

I accepted this life.



I try to do and enjoy what I love.

The people around me are very important.

The people around me are better than the things I do not have.

This makes me happy and strong.

## **Slide 9**

The E2U version of the ASTs avoids most coordinate and subordinate clauses; it relies on the initial repetition of the referent; it applies the well-known “one-idea-per-sentence” principle; it opts for short sentences that could in fact be read more slowly and with the appropriate intonation.

## **Slide 10**

This is just one way of implementing E2U principles in AST. More solutions are certainly possible. You can think about them and find new ways to simplify the original ASTs!

## **Slide 11**

Before concluding, however, we would like you to experience the same excerpt at a slower rate - which in fact might be more suitable for a certain segment of users.

### **E2U AST [slower rate]:**

I know I will never see the beautiful mountain views.

I know I will never see the sunset or the sunrise.



I know I will never see beautiful flowers.

I am not upset.

I am sorry because I will not see the faces of my children.

But this is my life.

I accepted this life.

I try to do and enjoy what I love.

The people around me are very important.

The people around me are better than the things I do not have.

This makes me happy and strong.

## **Slide 12**

Finally, in the AD and AST fields, the dilemma of whether human-voiced narrations should be preferred over text-to-speech (or the other way round) is central. Text-to-speech converts written text into a synthesised spoken voice.

The debate on what delivery mode is best is still ongoing, with users opting for one or the other solution based on personal preferences, familiarity with synthetic voices, preference for quantity over quality - to mention just a few factors.

## **Slide 13**

No doubt, human and synthetic voices are quite different. If nowadays English has refined its software and manages to minimize such differences, in the case of other languages text-to-speech can be quite



unnatural and disappointing. And overall, synthetic voices can't compete with human artists when it comes to appropriate delivery and dramatic capability.

## **Slide 14**

In this video sample, we would like you to listen to an E2U AST delivered by a human voice, and one delivered via TTS.

### **[Human voice]**

I know I will never see the beautiful mountain views.

I know I will never see the sunset or the sunrise.

I know I will never see beautiful flowers.

I am not upset.

I am sorry because I will not see the faces of my children.

But this is my life.

I accepted this life.

I try to do and enjoy what I love.

The people around me are very important.

The people around me are better than the things I do not have.

This makes me happy and strong.

### **[TTS]**

I know I will never see the beautiful mountain views.

I know I will never see the sunset or the sunrise.



I know I will never see beautiful flowers.

I am not upset.

I am sorry because I will not see the faces of my children.

But this is my life.

I accepted this life.

I try to do and enjoy what I love.

The people around me are very important.

The people around me are better than the things I do not have.

This makes me happy and strong.

## **Slide 15**

How was your experience?

Would you be willing to accept text-to-speech audio descriptions and audio subtitles as an alternative to their absence on the market?

Did you know that there is a limited availability of languages and voices available in synthesised speech?

The debate is still intense, but you can now think about it based upon the authentic comparative experience you just made.

## **Slide 16**

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## Slide 17

The standard audio subtitles were created and read by Maja Šumej from RTV Slovenija. The E2U audio subtitles were created by Elisa Perego from Università degli studi di Trieste. The first version was read by Maja Šumej from RTV Slovenija. The second version was converted into speech by the free online text-to-speech software TTSMP3 (website address: <https://ttsmp3.com/>).

## Slide 18

The screenwriter of the documentary film 'Stories behind the faces: Sabina Dermota' was Neva Novljan, the film director was Boštjan Mašera. Produced by Educational Programmes, Programme Editor Aleša Valič. Culture and Arts Programme. Editor-in-chief Andraž Pöschl. It was produced by RTV Slovenija in 2015.

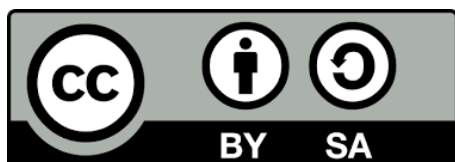
## Slide 19

This video sample was prepared by Elisa Perego and Martina Atzeri, from Università degli studi di Trieste, and Andrej Tomažin and Veronika Rot from RTV Slovenija. The video was produced by RTV Slovenija.



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