

## **UNIT 3A. EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND (E2U) AND SUBTITLING**

### **ELEMENT 1. PROCESSES**

#### **INTERVIEW WITH USERS ON WHAT THEY THINK OF E2U SDH**

##### **Othe Video Transcript**

NARRATOR	Unit 3A, Easy-to-Understand (E2U) and Subtitling; element 1, Processes. Interview with users on what they think of E2U SDH.
NARRATOR	This video includes an interview with Costanza Marini. Costanza holds a BA in Applied Interlinguistic Communication, from Università degli Studi di Trieste, and an MA in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics and Modern Languages, from Università degli Studi di Pavia. She is currently a PhD candidate in Linguistic Sciences at Università degli Studi di Bergamo.
NARRATOR	In this interview, Costanza talks about subtitling nowadays, to what extent these subtitles are accessible for all, and how they could be improved.

- ROBERTA                      Hi. My name is Roberta Cepak and I am a PhD candidate at Pompeu Fabra University, in Barcelona. My field of study is Translation and I am here today with my dear friend Costanza Marini, who is also a PhD candidate, and agreed to take part in this interview. Hi, Costanza. Do you want to introduce yourself briefly?
- COSTANZA                    Of course. My name is Costanza Marini and I am a PhD candidate at the University of Bergamo (Italy). My field of study is Linguistics, specifically Croatian.
- ROBERTA                    Okay, very well. Today, I want to talk with you about subtitling and, in specific, subtitling for the deaf and the hard of hearing. Do you perhaps use subtitling in your daily life?
- COSTANZA                    Yes, I do. I use captions; when there is the option, I usually go for captions. I tend to use them for one or two reasons. It is either because I am in a room where there is too much noise and I would not be able to actually understand what has been said in the movie or TV series if I did not have captions on. Or I use them for learning purposes, so language learning purposes, usually when I want to practice my Croatian, then I put on either English or Croatian subtitles, just to be able to understand more of what is going on and learn new vocabulary.
- ROBERTA                    Yeah, of course. I do the same when I am not sure of whether I am going to understand something, I



just put them on or maybe I am in a loud room.

Yeah, they are very useful. On which platforms do you happen to use them or do you only use them on the TV maybe?

COSTANZA

No, I use them on several platforms: Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, but also Sky Q.

ROBERTA

Okay. And, among all the captions that you have been using on all these platforms, do you find them all to be accessible to all the people in the audience or maybe sometimes they could be adapted?

COSTANZA

I think that sometimes they could be adapted, especially if we think of people that are cognitive impaired and are not able to decode what is written in the caption at the same speed as us. So I would say that definitely some captions might need some improvement, maybe in terms of syntax, so I would go for shorter sentences and maybe I would also avoid using maybe too many modifiers in noun phrases, and I would also maybe simplify the vocabulary in so far as maybe exchanging less frequent words with more frequent equivalents, so synonyms and the like.

ROBERTA

Of course. Yeah, those are all very good options. But do you think that all these adaptations that you have been naming could be actually implemented in all the platforms or maybe also on TV, and, if so, could they be used in all broadcast content?



COSTANZA

Well, I would say that yes, they can be used on all the platforms. Maybe, when you think of the layout, the way that users view captions, maybe in some contexts they might be more useful than others. For instance, if we think of scenes from TV series where there are a lot of characters that are interacting with each other, in that case I would say that having captions that are close maybe to the characters speaking are more useful than maybe having captions in a documentary film where there is only one narrator. But that does not mean that you can't still maybe improve also and use captions for a documentary simplifying the syntax or the vocabulary of what the narrator is saying for cognitive impaired people, but also normal users.

ROBERTA

Yes, I agree with you. But now think about it. Do you think that all captions are always easy to use or sometimes they could be difficult to maybe read or to comprehend even?

COSTANZA

Maybe sometimes I have experienced some discomfort if you think about it, when using captions that do not allow me to appreciate what is going on in the scenes, sometimes you have big captions at the bottom of your screen and that actually does not allow you to see what is going on.

ROBERTA

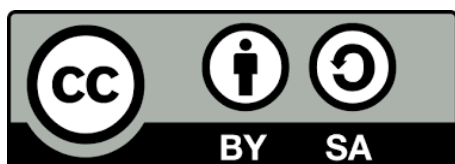
Yeah.



- COSTANZA Not being able to choose the size or the colour of the captions, that is annoying sometimes. So I would say that is a feature that could be added for improvement.
- ROBERTA Okay, yes. So you would customise maybe the format and the colours of the subtitles and captions.
- COSTANZA Definitely, yeah.
- ROBERTA Yeah. Okay, well, our time is up, but thank you so much for taking part in this interview and I will see you soon.
- COSTANZA Thanks to you, thank you very much. See you soon.
- NARRATOR This video was prepared by Roberta Cepak, from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and Costanza Marini, from the Univesità degli Studi di Bergamo, and produced by Jesús Meiriño-Gómez, from Universidade de Vigo.

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