

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

ELEMENT 1. PROCESSES

SAMPLE 7: E2U SUBTITLES – DOCUMENTARY FOR ADULTS

Other Video Transcript

NARRATOR This is Unit 3A, Easy to Understand and Subtitling; element 1, Processes; other video, Sample 7: E2U subtitles – documentary for adults. This is a copyright-free video.

NARRATOR This is a trailer for a documentary entitled *North Pond. The search for Intraterrestrials* (Michael Brown). It was uploaded in 2012 to YouTube by Lisa Rau Cannon. It is a science documentary meant for adults. It is a sample of pre-recorded, interlingual, monolingual, block subtitles. In pre-recorded subtitling, the subtitles are displayed in synchrony with the images.

When the viewers are adults with some cognitive disability or some problems to understand the language (elderly people, immigrants...), we have to prepare E2U subtitles with some additional



adaptations. For example, we must leave long, complex sentences, abstract nouns, rhetorical questions and idioms aside.

At the same time, it is highly recommendable to use synonyms to explain difficult concepts, to use simple comparisons and to help decipher acronyms.

Here we can see some examples:

Example 1: whereas at the very beginning of the trailer one of the speakers uses a long, complex sentence ("Exploring the ocean floor and below the ocean's floor is probably the closest thing to being an astronaut that you can be without going into space. It's our inner space."), E2U adaptators are expected to simplify this structure with short sentences (copulative if possible) and clear comparisons: Exploring the ocean floor and below it is like being an astronaut. However, we don't explore the outer space but the inner space.

Example 2: on Tom Pettigrew's first intervention (00:26), he says: "It can drive me mad, some of the things they want to do but... it's a... it's a new challenge every time." In order to get a E2U subtitle we must avoid rhyme at the beginning of the sentence and reorganize according to common structure (subject + verb + complements). At the same time, the addition of synonyms may help understand some terms. This would be an E2U



subtitle: "Scientists want to do some things that look like crazy things. It's a new challenge, a trial."

Example 3: on Adam Klaus's first intervention (00:39), he uses an abstract noun (afterthought): "[...] It's an ocean planet and the land is somewhat of an afterthought." Katrina Edwards (00:55) also uses a specialized term (igneous) to describe the ocean crust: "...igneous ocean crust so two and a half miles below the surface of the ocean." In both cases we need to adapt the subtitles by means of a simplified idea or giving explanations: "the land comes in second place" instead of "the land is somewhat of an afterthought", and "ocean crust, made of rocks coming from volcanos" instead of "igneous ocean crust."

Example 4: Acronyms must be either avoided or accompanied by the whole term. The first time the acronym CORK appears in the documentary (01:17), a full description must be provided in this way: "We are going to be [...] taking what is called a cork that implodes a hole at the bottom of the ocean" turns into the E2U subtitle "We will sample the crust again with the help of a CORK, that is, a "Circulation Obviation Retrofit Kit". This tool is used as a cork: it closes and uncloses a hole in the crust so that scientists can sample."



Example 5: Rhetorical questions (and other rhetorical tools) must be avoided. When Adam Klaus refers to foreseeable problems when using the drillers (01:53) he says: "Will we have trouble? I'm sure we will." An E2U rendering would be: "We will have trouble, indeed."

Example 6: Idioms (and metaphors) must be avoided. Bill Reinhart uses an idiom (02:04) to talk about the prospective dangers of the project if the CORK does not come out: "[...] that really throws a monkey wrench in everything you have to look at." An E2U advisable subtitle would be: "It will be a failure, we will not succeed."

K. EDWARDS

Exploring the ocean floor and below the ocean's floor is probably the closest thing to being an astronaut that you can be without going into space. It's our inner space.

E2U subtitle: [Exploring the ocean floor and below it is like being an astronaut. But we don't explore the outer space but the inner space.]

H. MILLS

Well, if there is life on this planet beneath the surface the ocean, what does it mean to be alive elsewhere?

E2U subtitle: [On this planet there is life beneath the ocean surface. What does it mean to be alive elsewhere?]



B. RHEINHART

It's kind of a one-shot deal. We are out in the middle of the Atlantic. There is no store nearby. We can't get off and go get anything.

E2U subtitle: [There's just one chance. We are in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. There are no shops to buy things.]

T. PETTIGREW

It can drive me bad, some of the things they want to do but... it's a... it's a new challenge every time.

E2U subtitle: [Scientists want to do some things that look like crazy things. It's a new challenge, a trial.]

A. KLAUS

You start to sail around the world's ocean to realize that that's really our planet. It's an ocean planet and the land is somewhat of an afterthought.

E2U subtitle: [When we sail around the oceans we get to know our planet. It's an ocean planet. The land comes in second place.]

TITLE

North Pond. The search for intraterrestrial life.

E2U subtitle: [North Pond. The search for intraterrestrial life, life beneath the ocean's crust]

K. EDWARDS

For this particular expedition we are going to be going down about 500 m...

E2U subtitle: [For this expedition we are going down about 500 m]



K. EDWARDS

...into the igneous ocean crust so two and a half miles below the surface of the ocean. Drilling for scientific research has been going on since mid-nineteen sixties when they first drilled North Pond.

E2U subtitle: [into the ocean crust, made of rocks coming from volcanos. There are about 2 and a half miles from the surface to the crust. Scientists make holes in the crust since 1965, when they first drilled North Pond.]

K. EDWARDS

They discovered enormous amount of fluid flow and something we know just about nothing about. We are going to be sampling that environment again and taking what is called a cork that implodes a hole at the bottom of the ocean.

E2U Subtitle: [They discovered many fluids and things we do not how to describe yet. We will sample the crust again with a CORK, a "Circulation Obviation Retrofit Kit". This tool is used as a cork: it closes and uncloses a hole in the crust so that scientists can sample.]

K. EDWARDS

We are pulling one of these corks out studying microbiolife and then we are going to be going back there and putting in new corks and new experiments and collecting new samples.

E2U subtitle: [We are pulling one of these corks out studying microbiolife. Later, we will put in other corks in order to make more experiments and collect new samples.]



A. KLAUS

Well, there is a lot of challenges when implementing this type of expedition. Putting observatories....

E2U Subtitle: [There are a lot of challenges in these expeditions. Putting observatories]

A. KLAUS

...into the ocean crust is probably the most challenging environment we can do that in. So it's a 500-foot ship with a drill rig on top. The drill string weight could be a half a million pounds or so. Will we have trouble? I'm sure we will.

E2U subtitle: [into the ocean crust is, probably, the most difficult challenge. The ship has a drill which works 500 feet under the surface. This drill weighs around a half a million pounds. We will have trouble, indeed.]

B. RHEINHART

No matter how well we've planned there is always certain contingencies that come up. We can have whole difficulties when we are drilling the well. What if that cork...

E2U subtitle: [We plan well but there are always some problems. We can have difficulties when we are drilling the well. What if that cork...]

B. RHEINHART

...is not ripple? What if it doesn't want to come out? So that really throws a monkey wrench in everything you have to look at. Weather can come up.



E2U subtitle: [...does not come out? It will be a failure, we will not succeed. Stormy weather is also a problem.]

SHIP CREW

Well Cap, this is the latest weather forecast drops hopefully a day, let's move about 72 miles west, north-west and west six hours.

E2U subtitle: [Captain, it seems the weather will be fine. Let's move about 72 miles west, north-west and west six hours.]

B. RHEINHART

Men were about 45 hundred meters away so we can't see what we are doing, you know, from the surface so it's quite a skill that our drillers hang up.

E2U subtitle: [Men were about 4500 m deep. From the surface we can't see what they are doing. For this reason, we must be very skillful with our drillers.]

T. PETTIGREW

Most of the job is done blind. We...

E2U subtitle: [Most of the job is done blind, we cannot see...]

T. PETTIGREW

...can't see what is going on and so a lot of it is down by measurement, by feel. I don't mean, imply, that it is a guessing by golly time, there are indicators along the way. We feel confident that things are where they are supposed to be.

E2U subtitle: [...what is going on. We work helped by measurements and by feel. This does not mean



that we are guessing because there are indicators along the way. We feel confident that things are where they are supposed to be.]

NARRATOR

The scientists on this expedition come from all over the world. The scientists want this really bad. They have been working at this for years and they are very emotionally invested and professionally invested in this. We are going to spend two full months at sea.

E2U subtitle: [The scientists come from all over the world. They have been working at this for years and they love their job. We will spend 2 months at sea.]

K. EDWARDS

It's actually going to happen finally after five years of planning which is pretty exciting. We get to finally test basic hypothesis about the role of micro play. Nobody's been able to actually grab and address the hypothesis using exclusive experiments and we get the opportunity to do that.

E2U subtitle: [After 5 years, now we can test our hypothesis, that is, those things we imagine about microorganisms. Before, we cannot test them, just by means of experiments. Now, we can.]

H. MILLS

So far everywhere we've drilled...

E2U subtitle: [So far everywhere we have drilled]

H. MILLS

...we've found microbiolife and it is now up to us to start understanding how they are changing our water, changing our air, changing our climate. This opens up brand new questions, fundamental questions of science in terms of what is it to be alive.

E2U subtitle: [we have found microbiolife and now we must understand how they change our water, our air and our climate. These are new, fundamental questions about what means being alive.]

K. EDWARDS

It is something that is completely undiscovered, there is no data, and so there is everything to find out right now.

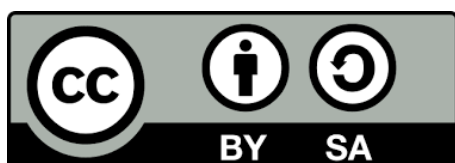
E2U subtitle: [There are many things to be discovered. There is no data. Now, we have to find out many things.]

NARRATOR

Credits. Title: *North Pond. The search for Intraterrestrials* (trailer)
<https://vimeo.com/53752647>. Director: Michael Brown. Producer: Ad Santell & Samuel Hulme.
Year of production: 2012.

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