

EASY-TO-READ APPLIED TO LIVE SUBTITLING

mediating communication in international bodies

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[=]LTA
LIVETEXTACCESS

Easy-to-read applied to live subtitling

1. Background
2. Analysis
3. Discussion



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1. Background



Intersteno



www.intersteno.org

International Federation for Information
and Communication processing

- 1: reporting, captioning, secretariat, processing
- 2: professionals, researchers, teachers
- 3: world championship, conferences, meetings
- 4: English as official language, 31 countries



PLAIN



<http://www.plainenglish.co.uk>

AIM: “essential information giving a co-operative target a chance of understanding it, in the same sense the writer meant” (cf. Cutts 2004: 4):

- **Transitivity:** Prefer active verbs, Use ‘you’ or ‘we’,
Avoid nominalizations
- **Mood:** Use words appropriate for the reader,
Give instructions
- **Theme:** Keep your sentences short (10-15 w.)
Use lists where appropriate

CLAST
(2015-2017)

PerVoice

www.pervoice.com

AIM: Automatic Subtitling and Dubbing
Technological Solutions for AV products

IRA – Idea-Unit Rendition Assessment (Eugeni 2017)

Non-rendered Idea Units		Rendered Idea Units				
Omissions	Misrepresentations		Repetitions	Alterations		
	Lexical errors	Grammar errors		Lexical errors	Grammar errors	
	semantic errors			semantic	sem.	non sem.



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LTA (2018-2021)



<https://ltaproject.eu>

AIM: training of the real-time intralingual subtitler (respeaker/velotypist)

IOs: 1: Skills sets and best practices

2: Modular curriculum

3: Online training materials

4: Online pilot course

5: Certification of profile + training



Text-on-Top

<http://text-on-top.com>



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2. Analysis

The Project

- Live captioning speeches into plain English



The Project

- Live captioning speeches into plain English
- by a member of the speech community



The Project

- Live captioning speeches into plain English
- by a member of the speech community
- using Text-on-Top for automatic translation



The Project

- Live captioning speeches into plain English
- by a member of the speech community
- using Text-on-Top for automatic translation
- in French, Italian, German, Turkish, Chinese, Czech, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, Russian



President Speech

- SEMIOTICS: speech only
- TRANSITIVITY: “I/we/the board” (56), you/delegates/the council (35), goals/aims (25)
- MOOD: hope/would (32), regret/not understand/disagree (27)
- THEME: marked > unmarked



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President Speech

Quantitative data

	Plain E.	Aut. F./*	Aut. I./*
Words	1990/2191	2054/2387	1867/2030
WPM	110/121	114/132	103/112
IRA	94%	88%/71%	92%/89%
Transitivity	99%	98%/92%	99%/95%
Mood	92%	90%/76%	92%/89%
Theme	86%	85%/93%	85%/93%

* Compared with the Automatic Translation of the original

President Speech

Qualitative data – Transitivity

- ORIGINAL: After the 50th Congress held in Budapest in July 2015, that symbolically concluded a life cycle of Intersteno...

President Speech

Qualitative data – Transitivity

- ORIGINAL: After the 50th Congress held in Budapest in July 2015, that symbolically concluded a life cycle of Intersteno...
- PLAIN: (...) The 50th Congress (...) symbolically concluded a life cycle of Intersteno...



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President Speech

Qualitative data – Transitivity

- ORIGINAL: After the 50th Congress held in Budapest in July 2015, that symbolically concluded a life cycle of Intersteno...
- PLAIN: (...) The 50th Congress (...) symbolically concluded a life cycle of Intersteno...
- FRENCH:(...) Le 50e Congrès (...) a symboliquement conclu le cycle de vie d'Intersteno.
- ITALIAN:(...) Il 50 ° Congresso (...) ha simbolicamente concluso un ciclo di vita dell'Intersteno. (...)

President Speech

Qualitative data – Mood

- ORIGINAL: Recently - with objections that for me it is still hard to understand - an **Intersteno** Set of Professional Competencies and skills has been settled.

President Speech

Qualitative data – Mood

- ORIGINAL: Recently - with objections that for me it is still hard to understand - an **Intersteno** Set of Professional Competencies and skills has been settled.
- PLAIN: Recently an **Intersteno** Set of Professional Competencies and skills has been approved even if it has been opposed (...).

President Speech

Qualitative data – Mood

- ORIGINAL: Recently - with objections that for me it is still hard to understand - an **Intersteno** Set of Professional Competencies and skills has been settled.
- PLAIN: Recently an **Intersteno** Set of Professional Competencies and skills has been approved even if it has been opposed (...).
- FRENCH: Récemment, un ensemble de compétences et de compétences professionnelles **intersessions** a été approuvé même s'il a fait l'objet d'une opposition (...).
- ITALIAN: Recentemente un gruppo **interstino** di competenze e abilità professionali è stato approvato anche se si è opposto (...).

President Speech

Qualitative data – Theme

- ORIGINAL: Drafted in the Statute passed in 2003 at the Congress of Rome these aims...

President Speech

Qualitative data – Theme

- ORIGINAL: Drafted in the Statute passed in 2003 at the Congress of Rome these aims...
- PLAIN: These aims were drafted in the Statute passed in 2003 at the Congress of Rome.

President Speech

Qualitative data – Theme

- ORIGINAL: Drafted in the Statute passed in 2003 at the Congress of Rome these aims...
- PLAIN: These aims were drafted in the Statute passed in 2003 at the Congress of Rome.
- FRENCH: Ces objectifs ont été définis dans le Statut adopté en 2003 lors du Congrès de Rome.
- ITALIAN: Questi obiettivi sono stati redatti nello statuto approvato nel 2003 al Congresso di Roma.

President Speech

Qualitative data – tropes

- ORIGINAL: In Gent, for this reason, some delegates sang as great tits.
- PLAIN: In Gent (...) some delegates sang as great tits.

President Speech

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President Speech

Qualitative data – tropes

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- PLAIN: In Gent (...) some delegates sang as great tits.
- FRENCH: À Gand (...) certaines déléguées ont chanté comme de beaux seins.
- ITALIAN: A Gand (...) alcuni delegati hanno cantato come grandi tette.



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3. Discussion

Discussion

- Live subtitles make institutional speeches multimodal, thus increasing the audience attention.

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- Intralingual subtitles increase understanding of members of same speech community.



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- Plain Language makes speeches slower, thus increasing understanding of members of same speech community.
- Automatic Translation increases access to institutional speeches by members not sharing the same language.
- Conceptual/functional reduction balanced by > accuracy.



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- Conceptual/functional reduction balanced by > accuracy.
- When Plain English meets Multilingual Automatic Translation understanding and communication is eased but sometimes shit still happens!



Thank you 😊

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