



UNIT 2

Element 1 – Learning outcome 1

TRANSCRIPT: ACCURACY



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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1 Slide 1

LiveTextAccess: Training for real-time intralingual subtitlers.

2 Slide 2

This is Unit 2. Linguistic competence. Element 1. Functionality which is made of accuracy, readability and legibility.

3 Slide 3

This video lecture is an explanation of what is accuracy.

The training materials have been created by UAB, SSML and SDI München.

4 Slide 4

The learning outcome for this unit is to produce accurate transcriptions in terms of spelling, grammar and meaning.

5 Slide 5

In this unit we will be dealing with the following points:

Accuracy definition, Real-time subtitling techniques, Verbatim versus Sensatim subtitles and main limitations that real-time subtitlers face in their jobs.

6 Slide 6

Accuracy.

7 Slide 7

Accuracy in real-time subtitling could be defined as the degree to which the subtitle conforms to a defined standard.

8 Slide 8

Real-time subtitling techniques.

9 Slide 9

Before entering into accuracy in more detail it is important to understand how real-time subtitlers develop their job. There are two main techniques in real-time intralingual subtitling for the text entry one is based on speech recognition systems and the second is based on fast typing systems.

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Professionals working with speech recognition systems wear a headset and a microphone. They are called respeakers. They listen to speakers and simultaneously repeat word-by-word or reformulate what they say to a microphone connected to the software program which automatically recognizes the respeaker's voice and turns it into written words that appear on the screen.

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Professionals working with fast typing systems wear a headset and work on special keyboards. They are called stenographers, palantypists or velotypists to name some. In all cases they listen to the speakers and simultaneously type word-by-word or reformulate what they say to a special keyboard based on a phonetic or a syllabic system connected to a software program which automatically turns the typed text into written words that appear on the screen.

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Verbatim versus sensatim subtitles.

13 Slide 13

There are two main methods to subtitle a speech in real-time verbatim and sensatim. Verbatim subtitles are required in some countries such as the US or the UK. Accuracy in verbatim means transcribing every single word, evident mistakes or features of orality included. Subtitlers deliver word-by-word transcriptions and include every utterance within the audio including words such as "like", "uhm" and stutters. Verbatim subtitles are mostly displayed in roll-up mode. The subtitle appears word-by-word at the bottom of the screen. Once the bottom line is full it's pushed upwards by new words.

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Sensatim subtitles are also known as edited subtitles. They are required in other countries mainly European ones such as Italy, Spain or Germany. In this case the subtitler is more focused on the meaning and the original speech of the speaker is edited by omitting unnecessary utterances or summarising quick ones, in order to allow the text version of the speech to flow more easily for the reader. Sensatim or edited subtitles are mostly displayed in pop-up mode in which a block subtitle appears and disappears at once.

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Main limitations.

16 Slide 16

It is important to bear in mind that there is not always enough time. Most real-time subtitlers fight against the clock. Time constraints will depend on the working context in which professionals carry out their job. For instance, the news and the parliamentary sessions are particularly fast and professionals have to go along with the speakers because form is as important as content. On the other side real-time subtitlers working with sports programs have to describe actions shown on the screen rather than speech utterances. So, there will be much more editing on the sports than with the news or the parliament regardless of how fast the speaker is.

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Limitations, as Lambourne states, all real-time subtitling techniques share the same limitations creating and delivering subtitles in real-time for a truly live unscripted TV program, meeting or live event involves a degree of compromise. Perfection is not achievable almost by definition. Because there is simply not enough time in which to: Carefully edit the text, transcribe it and correct any errors, time to match what the speaker is saying, position it so as to never obscure interesting onscreen information, present it in a way that the viewer always has time to read it.

18 Slide 18

The aim is that real-time subtitlers should be able to reproduce the source text without losing key information.

19 Slide 19

Summary.

20 Slide 20

As a summary we should stress the following points: First, two main subtitling techniques in real-time voice recognition systems and fast typing systems. Second, accuracy will depend on the subtitling method verbatim or sensatim. Third, time constraints are always a limitation for accuracy.

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Disclaimer: This project has been co-funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

22 Additional metadata¹

Title or file name of resource	U2_E1_LO1_Accuracy_TRANSCRIPT
Version	Final
Description of resource	Audio transcripts for the video lecture about accuracy
Keywords	Accuracy, real-time intralingual subtitles, respeakers, velotypists, verbatim, sensatim
Author/Contributor	UAB, SSML, SDI München
File type	Text
Length (pages, actual length of audio or video)	7 pages
Copyright holder	UAB, SSML, SDI München
Other related pedagogical assets	PowerPoint files and videos in the YouTube playlist of the unit
Related subject or skill area	Unit 2 Linguistic competence
Publisher	LiveTextAccess
Format	PDF file
Issued	22/01/2021
Language	English
Licence	CC BY-SA 4.0
Accessibility	PDF checked with TingTun
Certified by	ECQA: http://ecqa.org/

¹ The scheme used is an adaptation of the format provided by the EU project 2014-1-DE01-KA203-000679