

# Adaptation of Easy Language Rules to the Needs of Readers with German as L2.

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From Easy Language (*Leichte Sprache*), a complexity-reduced variety of German, the concept of Easy Language Plus (EL+, *Leichte Sprache Plus*) was developed (Maaß 2020). Easy Language rules have been developed for and with people with cognitive impairments. Target groups like people with German as L2 are often mentioned as another target group, too, but they have differing requirements for complexity-reduction. In the intralingual translation of standard or specialized texts into EL+, the rules must be adapted to achieve a functional translation. More complexity than in Easy Language is welcome, hence creating a form of EL+.

In a qualitative interview study, I assess the comprehensibility and action-orientation of a standard patient information sheet and its translation into EL+. After reviewing the findings from comprehensibility research, L2 acquisition research and reading research, the translation was developed. From September 2021 to March 2022, an interview study validating the comprehensibility and action-orientation of standard text and EL+ translation was conducted. The translation was then adapted according to the feedback.

For a general session, I propose a 20-minute discussion of Easy Language rules that are unsuitable for the target group of learners of German as L2. Using concrete examples, I will discuss selected Easy Language rules, their review from the three fields of research, their implementation into the EL+ translation, and their assessment in the study.

An example of an adapted Easy Language rule is “use easy words”, including the use of native German words and the elimination of foreign words. Research in L2 acquisition suggests that learners of German as L2 have a lower German vocabulary than German native speakers of the same age (Klieme et al. 2006: 25). The use of native German vocabulary may thus not be “easy”. Internationally recognizable foreign words such as Graecisms, Latinisms and Anglicisms could aid comprehension (Heine 2017: 407). In the EL+ translation, the word *Gewebe-Probe* (biopsy) was used. After participant feedback, *Gewebe-Probe* was replaced with *Biopsie*, a Graecism recognizable from Romance languages and English.

This project, funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung within the interdisciplinary programme “Chronic Diseases and Health Literacy” (ChEG), considers intercultural health communication between experts and non-experts, thus taking into account the current situation in which professional interpreters and interlingually translated texts are not usually provided. The patient information in EL+ thus not only aims to serve the patient, but also to help community members, doctors and nurses who need comprehensible and action-oriented wording.

## References

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