

EXAMPLE OF SIMPLE LANGUAGE

Am Mittwoch hat die Polizei eine Auto·bahn in Schleswig-Holstein gesperrt.

Das heißt:

*Auf der Auto·bahn durften **keine** Autos fahren.*

Auf dieser Auto·bahn war nämlich ein Hirsch.

Hirsche sind Tiere.

Und Hirsche leben meistens im Wald.

Auszug aus: „Hirsch auf der Auto·bahn“; URL:
https://www.ndr.de/fernsehen/service/leichte_sprache/Hirsch-auf-der-Autobahn-,hirsch340.html [12.11.2018].

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The Research Training Group

“Simply complex!
A multimodal and
interdisciplinary approach to
examine linguistic complexity
within Simple Language”

WHAT IS SIMPLE LANGUAGE?

Simple Language is a form of German that has been simplified at different linguistic levels and is intended for people who cannot easily understand texts in standard language (for example people with learning difficulties). An example of Simple Language can be found in this brochure.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SIMPLE-LANGUAGE-RESEARCH

Simple Language was developed through practical application. In 2009, Inclusion Europe and "Netzwerk Leichte Sprache" performed pioneering work by publishing rules for writing texts in Simple Language. These rules, which were initially still very vague, were soon linguistically substantiated by members of the Research Center for Simple Language of the University of Hildesheim, which led to the publication of the first handbook about Simple Language in the German-speaking world (Bredel/Maaß 2016*).

FAILINGS IN SIMPLE-LANGUAGE-RESEARCH

The now linguistically substantiated rules for writing texts in Simple Language have not yet been empirically investigated. This means that it is often not known whether linguistic structures that correspond to the rules for Simple Language are indeed understood and processed more easily by the target group.

THE RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP FOR SIMPLE LANGUAGE IN MAINZ

The Research Training Group focuses on this research gap: the major objective is the investigation of the empirical validity of the postulated rules for Simple Language, combined with evidence from linguistic complexity research, and the further, evidence-based development of these rules. Therefore, multimodal studies are conducted which also serve to develop a neurobiologically-feasible model of Simple Language.

*Bredel, Ursula / Maaß, Christiane (2016): *Leichte Sprache. Theoretische Grundlagen. Orientierung für die Praxis.* (Sprache im Blick). Berlin: Dudenverlag.



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