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Subtitling on Children's Television

Aspects of Translation and Comprehensibility

Original title:

Untertitel im Kinderfernsehen.

Perspektiven aus Translationswissenschaft und Verständlichkeitsforschung.

Abstract: This volume focuses on intralingual TV-subtitling for children who are D/deaf and hard of hearing between the ages of 8 and 12 in Germany. It elaborates whether subtitle-specific features have an influence on the content comprehension levels and the evaluation of comprehensibility of the polysemiotic text, i.e., the subtitled programme for children. It is a contribution both to Audiovisual Translation Studies as well as to studies on comprehensibility. It furthermore draws on perspectives from Disability Studies and Deaf Studies. The model developed in this study gathers relevant comprehensibility factors for subtitled polysemiotic texts, which are then analysed empirically. By using standardised questionnaires and statistical analysis and with the help of 158 study participants, data on features such as subtitling speed, methods of text reduction, synchronicity and typographical enhancements were gathered and analysed. Results show that subtitle-specific features do not, for the most part, have significant effects on content comprehension or on the evaluation of comprehensibility by the target group. This might be attributed to the complexity of the polysemiotic text in which the subtitles are embedded and indicates the need for further research drawing on studies on multimodality.

Keywords: SDH, Subtitling for children, Comprehensibility, Reception studies, Intralingual translation.