

Survey on subtitle presentation rates and segmentation in interlingual subtitling

My name is Agnieszka Szarkowska and I'm the author of this survey.

The survey is part of the EU-funded project on the quality of subtitling that I carry out at the Centre for Translation Studies at University College London as part of my Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship.

Your answers will help me find out about subtitling rules regarding subtitle reading speeds and segmentation in different countries.

Please note that this survey is about pre-recorded interlingual subtitling in films and TV series only. It is NOT about live subtitling. It is NOT about subtitling for the deaf or hard of hearing.

The survey will take you less than 10 minutes to complete.

The survey will be active until the end of August.

If you have any questions or comments related to the survey or to subtitling quality, please email me at a.szarkowska@ucl.ac.uk.

You are also welcome to follow my project on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SureProject

Thank you!

1. How long have you worked as a subtitler?

Please give the number in years. *

Wprowadź odpowiedź

2. Which country are you based in? *

Wprowadź odpowiedź

3. Do you mostly work for companies based in your country
or for international companies? *

☐ I work mostly for local companies in my country

☐ I work mostly for international companies

☐ I work for both local and international companies

☐ Inne

4. Are you usually required to do spotting
(insert the in- and out-times of subtitles)? *

- ☐ Yes, I usually spot the subtitle files I translate.
- ☐ No, I mostly work on templates with time codes and I am not allowed to change them.
- ☐ No, I mostly work on templates, but I am allowed to change them if necessary.
- ☐

5. What is the usual maximum number of characters per line?
If you work for different clients who have different requirements, please state all of them. *

Wprowadź odpowiedź

6. In your work as a subtitler, are you usually given instructions on the subtitle presentation rates (reading speed)? *

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never
- ☐

7. Is the presentation rate usually given in characters per second or words per minute? *

- ☐ words per minute (wpm)
- ☐ characters per second (cps)
- ☐

8. What is the usual required subtitle presentation rate? Please give a value and units, e.g. 180 words per minute, 15 characters per second.
If you work for different clients who have different requirements, please let us know about all of them. *

Wprowadź odpowiedź

9. If you are not given any instructions regarding the subtitle presentation rate, what is the rate you use? Why? *

Wprowadź odpowiedź

10. How do you make sure that you stay within the limits of the required presentation rates? *

- ☐ My subtitling software indicates this for me.
- ☐ I know from experience how much time people need to read a subtitle.
- ☐ I have a table with the maximum number of characters per unit of time, which I consult.

- ☐ Inne

11. Do you sometimes send your subtitle files back to the client without complying completely with the reading speed requirements?

For instance, some clients allow for some degree of tolerance, letting the subtitlers prioritise between rendering the content of the dialogue and the reading speed. *

- ☐ I always send the files which completely meet the reading speed criteria specified by the client in every single subtitle.
- ☐ I sometimes send the assignments with some subtitles not meeting the reading speed criteria.
- ☐ I prioritise content over reading speed, so my subtitles frequently do not meet the required reading speed criteria.
- ☐

Inne

12. In your career as a subtitler, have you observed any changes in the subtitle presentation rates? *

- ☐ Yes, they went up.
- ☐ Yes, they went down.
- ☐ No, they haven't changed much.
- ☐ I don't know.
- ☐

Inne

13. Do the subtitle presentation rates differ depending on the format? (DVD, cinema, TV, VOD)? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

☐

14. How do you usually segment a two-line subtitle (divide it into two lines), assuming the subtitles are centre-aligned?

(You may choose more than one option and add other answers below) *

☐ I try to keep the first line shorter (a subtitle looks like a pyramid)

☐ I try to keep the second line shorter (like an inverted pyramid).

☐ I try to keep both lines of similar length (like a rectangle).

☐ I try to keep the semantic units together.

☐

15. Does the way you segment two-line subtitles depend on the format? (DVD, TV, cinema, VOD)? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

☐

16. If have any comments on the quality of subtitles, presentation rates or segmentation, please state them here.

For instance, what do you think good subtitles are like? What do you prioritise in your work as a subtitler?