Linguistic Simplification for Empowerment and Self-Determination



THE IMPACT OF CO-AUTHORSHIP AND CO-RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES IN INCLUSIVE MEANING MAKING

Gather data on their opinion

Participants to focus group cycles (actual day center group): 8 Participants (4 males and 4 females) in familiar environment age ranging from 36 – 60

FROM RECIPIENTS TO PARTICIPANTS TO CO-AUTHORS.

Figurative language, encompassing nonliteral expressions like metaphor, is fundamental to human communication. Understanding figurative language is a complex cognitive and pragmatic process crucial for social interaction. Individuals with NDCs frequently exhibit difficulties in processing and understanding figurative language. Research highlights theoretical challenges in understanding figurative language in NDCs, particularly regarding meta-level semantic and pragmatic abilities.





Focus groups allowed for in-depth data collection:

- Observing group interactions, shared understandings and divergent opinions on the adapted texts and the co-authorship process.
- Monitoring the co-authorship process in real-time and over subsequent stretches of time
- Evolution of their perceived sense of self-efficacy.



Qui si parrà la tua nobilitate.

Ok...but why Dante?



Dignifying participants: Humor and complex literary texts don't happen often to be discussed in the context of disability. Therefore, to challenge the deterministic myth that complex literature is inaccessible people with disabilities, intellectual agency was fostered by de-constructing it.

Pushing boundaries of «easy-to-understand» by empowering participants to cocreate adaptations, shifting focus from reduction to collaborative meaning-making

Addressing research gaps

Longitudinal data from Focus Groups

IMPROVEMENTS IN FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING AND PERCEIVED SELF-EFFICACY GAINS



What fostered engagement and self-efficacy?



"Mi sento come al sole." "Lo leggi con più voglia, capì"

Findings

- **Usability:**
- -photos vs. pictograms
- -block capitals vs. uppercase and lowercase
- Understanding of interpretive rules to decode figurative language vs. literal meaning
- Eliciting of their opinion on simplified language varieties' definition
- easy-to-understand vs. simplified

Implication for further (much needed) research

- Replication with larger cohorts and participants with differing complex communicative needs
- Incorporating the need for self-representation and codesign in research
- Focus on adaptation rather than translation
- Further analyze the role of pictures in de-coding



To summarize:

Co-authorship proved crucial in underscoring the validity of insights and had a transformative potential to really include addressees in the process of creating valuable and truly inclusive materials.

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