

Abstract

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to describe the intra-textual properties of simplified texts in Dutch (*eenvoudige taal*) and to compare them with simplified texts in both German (*Leichte Sprache*) and Czech (*jednoduchá čeština*). The theoretical part focuses on language policy, the history, principles, and legislative anchoring of simple language in the different language areas, and on research possibilities in the field of text readability. The empirical part analyses texts issued by the Dutch and German state administrations as part of official COVID-19 pandemic communications made to their respective citizenries, their translation into simplified form, as well as texts on the same topic available in *jednoduchá čeština*. The research results indicate that the communication of the Dutch administration is comprehensible in both standard and simplified form; therefore, *eenvoudige taal* follows the principles of simple language. Texts in *Leichte Sprache*, on the other hand, are overly complex even though it is a simplified form. Texts in *jednoduchá čeština* are the most comprehensible according to the readability tests. Practical findings thus show that in terms of readability, lexical richness, morphological and syntactic structure, simple language communication in the Dutch- and Czech-speaking area meets the prerequisites for being functional. The findings from the analyses presented here may be useful for future, more systematic text production in *jednoduchá čeština*.

Keywords

Easy reading, plain language, eenvoudige taal, Leichte Sprache, language policy, readability, stylometrics