

Easy Language

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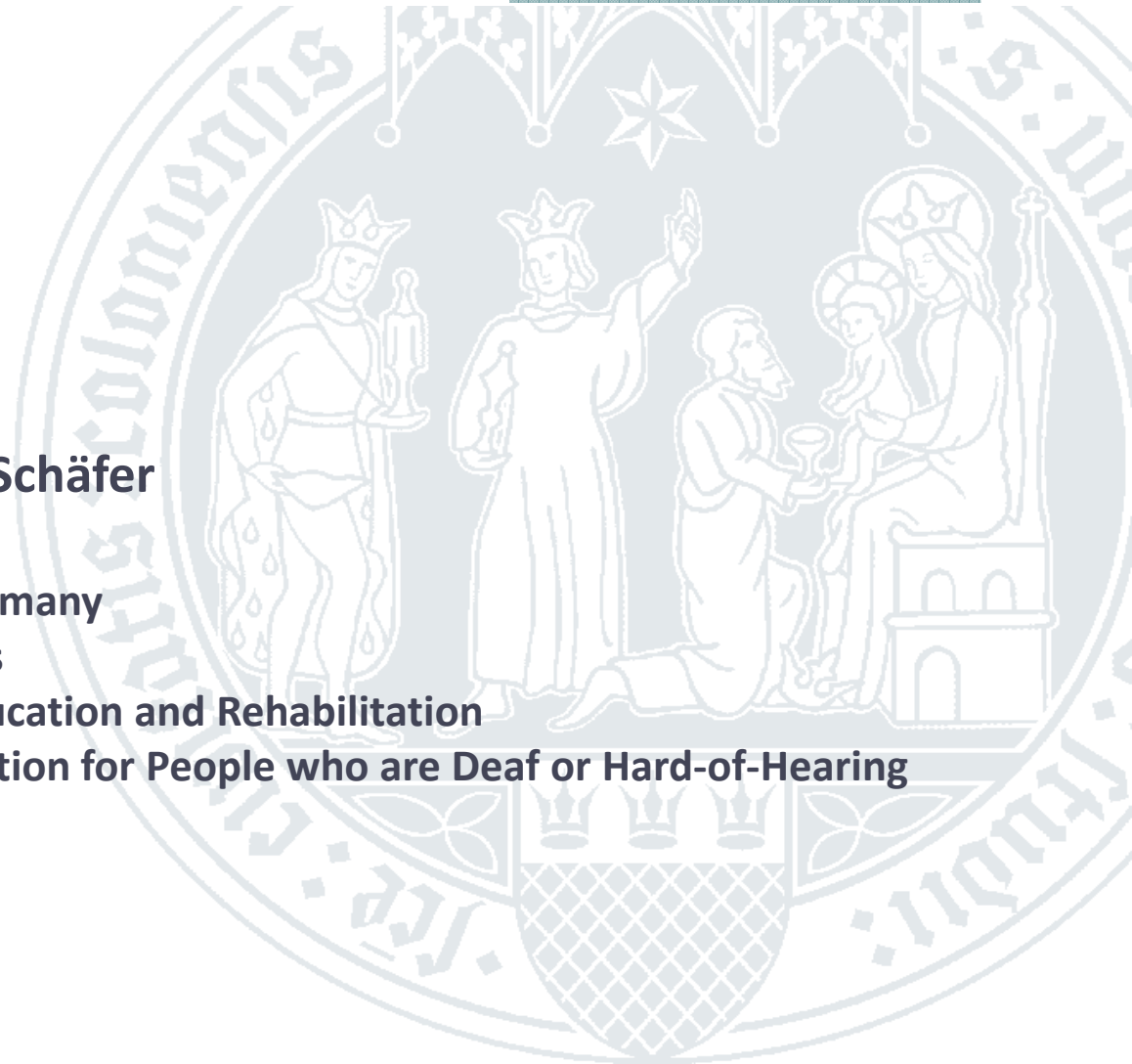
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What is Easy Language?

- Linguistic expression of German, which aims at particularly easy comprehension
- Rules are made by the German Network for Easy Language (Association since 2013)
- Target group: People with an intellectual disability
- Easy language focusses on accessibility
- Easy language ≠ Simple language
 - (Target group also includes people whose first language is not German)

Why do we have Easy Language in Germany?

- Germans very much like to make long sentences!
- Germans very much like to make words long and complicated!
 - **Example:**
 - German: Kraftfahrzeughaftpflichtversicherung
 - English: Automobile liability insurance
 - Easy Language: Kraftfahrzeug-Haftpflicht-Versicherung
 - Even easier:
 - A person causes an accident with a car.
 - The insurance company then must pay for the damage of the car of the other person.
 - The name of this insurance company is Kraftfahrzeug-Haftpflicht-Versicherung. Every person with a car must have this insurance.

Rules of Easy Language

- Short sentences are used.
- Each sentence contains only one statement.
- Passive sentences are avoided.
 - People are asked if they want to participate vs. We ask people if they want to participate.
- In the interest of comprehensibility, a sentence only consists of the terms subject + predicate + object.
- The conjunctive and relative clauses are avoided.
 - The doctor says he would like to examine the people vs. The doctor says: I would like to examine the people
- The genitive is in most cases replaced by prepositional combinations with „of“
 - The other person's interests vs. the interests of the other person
- Easy language is not children's language!
 - Especially the formal terms of address „du“ und „Sie“ are used as in the standard German language.

Exercise

- Describe in 4 sentences of Easy Language:
- What is violence?

What is violence?

- Violence is:
 - Someone is doing something bad with you.
 - You do not want that.
 - It hurts (body or soul).
 - You feel powerless.

- Please tell someone else!

Example: Information on hearing tests - Participatory Research

- Many people do not realize when their hearing is bad.
- They think:
 - I do not understand that.
 - There is too much noise all around.
- We found out: people with an intellectual disability often have a hearing issue.
- That is not good!
- Others might think: he/she does not understand that, because he/she has an intellectual disability.
- That is wrong!
- The truth is: he/she does not understand that because he does not hear well.
- And: you can not see if someone has a hearing issue!

