Accessibility in Digital Teaching and Learning Environments: Audio Description in Video-Based Higher Education Settings

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Video-Based Learning For All
Two kinds of video-based learning

a) Instructional purposes
   e.g. tutorials

b) Advanced use of video
   e.g. school practice
Advantages of video-based learning

• Link between theory and practice in university-settings
• Promoting observation, reflection, and analysis skills
• Greater flexibility of time and place
• Working at individual pace
• Possibility to repeat content
Accessible Videos

- Accessible Video player
- Closed Captions
- Audio description

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(Puhl & Lerche 2019)
Challenges and Solutions
from a Didactical Perspective
Creating audio description in Higher Education Settings (HES)

Advanced use of videos:
• Very high visual complexity and density

Decision making:
• What
• When
• How
Good audio description in Higher Education Settings

• Provides all information...
  • to achieve the learning goal
  • to complete the task
  • based on auditory information only

➢ Audio description highly depends on the given task
Video example A: Teacher behavior

• The short video example will only be included in the presentation on our own computer. It will be equipped with open captions and audio description. Unfortunately, we cannot provide the video to the attendees for privacy reasons.
Video example B: Student behavior

- The short video example will only be included in the presentation on our own computer. It will be equipped with open captions and audio description. Unfortunately, we cannot provide the video to the attendees for privacy reasons.
Audio description must...

...provide all necessary information to complete the task without completing the task.
Creating good audio description

• Knowledge of audio description vs. knowledge of the discipline

• Cooperation between lecturers and accessibility offices

• Several Feedback-loops to provide accessibility offices with technical terms etc.
Challenges and Solutions During the Production of Good Audio Description
Requirements to consider during the production of audio description

- Problem: Recording of audio descriptions can be arduous
  - Solution: Text-to-speech software
- Problem: Short speech-breaks
  - Solution: Freeze frames
- Problem: Dense visual content e.g. graphs, code, materials
  - Solution: Use supplementary written materials, e.g. code in computer science
Requirements to consider during the production of videos

• Problem: Identification of different speakers
  • Solution: Consider sweaters in different colors

• Problem: Short speech-breaks
  • Solution: Consider speaking pauses

• Problem: Poor sound quality
  • Solution: Ensure good sound quality
Conclusion

• The creation of audio descriptions is a complex process in higher education settings

• Good audio description enables access to video in higher education

• Good audio description improves accessibility for all
Screenshot Degree Video-Player

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Session Evaluation

Please point your phone at this QR code, or go to: tinyurl.com/AHEADeval

Your feedback helps shape future programming.

Thank you for attending!
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