aielpl 2025

1st Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Easy and Plain Language in Institutional Contexts (AI & EL/PL)

Proceedings of the Workshop

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Message from the Organising Committee

This volume contains the proceedings of the 1st International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Easy and Plain Language in Institutional Contexts (AI & EL/PL 2025), held in conjunction with the 20th Machine Translation Summit (MT Summit 2025). The workshop aims to explore technological solutions focused on Easy and Plain Language across various institutional contexts and to bring together researchers from diverse fields, including healthcare, administrative communication, and education. It also aims to encourage multidisciplinary research that both develops and critically examines solutions and challenges related to promoting awareness of Easy and Plain Language, as well as advancing specialised machine translation and translation tools, including applications of large language models (LLMs) for translation.

The workshop received 13 submissions, with 10 accepted following a rigorous review process. The selected papers reflect a rich interdisciplinary engagement with AI-driven approaches to easy and plain language in institutional settings. Topics range from LLM-based simplification of administrative, healthcare, and web texts to the adaptation of numerical expressions and intralingual translation into Easy Languages. Several contributions focus on evaluating linguistic accessibility, including the alignment of professional adaptations with Easy-to-Understand guidelines and computational metrics for word complexity. Others reflect on the social and democratic implications of language simplification. Together, these works showcase a dynamic blend of technical innovation, empirical research, and inclusive design.

In addition to the technical programme, we are honoured to have two invited speakers: Christiane Maaß (University of Hildesheim) with a keynote entitled AI-assisted Intralingual and Interlingual Translation iinto Plain and Easy Language: An Emerging Field of Research"; and Silvia Hansen-Schirra and her team (Johannes Gutenberg University) who will present an Interactive session on Prompt Engineering for Easy Language translation.

We sincerely thank all the people and institutions that contributed to the success of the workshop: the authors of the submitted papers for their interest in the topic; the Programme Committee members for their valuable feedback and insightful comments; the MT Summit organisers for their support.

We hope you enjoy reading the papers and are looking forward to a fruitful and enriching workshop!

María Isabel Rivas Ginel
Patrick Cadwell
Paolo Canavese
Silvia Hansen-Schirra
Martin Kappus
Anna Matamala
Will Noonan

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Opening Keynote

AI-assisted Intralingual and Interlingual Translation into Plain and Easy Language: An Emerging Field of Research

Christiane Maaß
University of Hildesheim

Abstract: AI-assisted translation into Plain and Easy Language–both within the same language (intralingual) and across languages (interlingual)–is an emerging field at the intersection of translation studies, language technology, and accessibility research. This field addresses the growing need for accessible communication, particularly for people with reading difficulties, cognitive impairments, or limited proficiency in the source language. Unlike traditional interlingual translation, intralingual translation into Plain or Easy Language involves not merely simplifying text but adapting content to meet defined linguistic and cognitive standards, which presents unique challenges for automation.

Recent advancements leverage AI-driven tools to automate and standardize translation processes. While such tools increase efficiency and can generate texts that are easier to understand than standard versions, studies show that AI-generated outputs often fall short of fully meeting the nuanced standards upheld by human translators, especially regarding content accuracy and adherence to accessibility guidelines. Furthermore, the lack of one-to-one sentence correspondence in intralingual translation complicates the use of conventional computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools, requiring new approaches for alignment and quality assurance.

Despite these challenges, AI-assisted translation holds significant promise for inclusive communication, enabling broader participation in social, educational, and scientific discourse. Ongoing research focuses on improving model accuracy, integrating user feedback, and developing open-source solutions to ensure continuous quality improvement and wider adoption. As the field matures, it is expected to play a crucial role in reducing language barriers and promoting accessibility across diverse populations.

Bio: Christiane Maaß is a full professor at the University of Hildesheim and Director of the Department of Translation Studies and Specialized Communication. Since 2014 she has been Director of the Research Centre for Easy Language at the University of Hildesheim. She is an authorised expert for the German Federal Government's Accessibility Initiative. She is the Head of the accessible health communication section of the German Network for Health Literacy. She is the author and co-author of several monographical works as well as numerous articles and papers on Easy and Plain Language and co-editor of the Handbook Accessible Communication.

Interactive Sessions

Prompt Engineering for Easy Language Translation

Silvia Hansen-Schirra, Dimitrios Kapnas
Johannes Gutenberg University

Abstract: Similar to interlingual translation workflows, Artificial Intelligence (AI) can also be used to optimize intralingual translation processes by generating Easy Language (EL) translations, which can further be postedited. In order to produce high-quality AI translations into EL, prompt engineering is a way to implement rules, target groups, and other parameters in the instructions to an AI, like ChatGPT. In the workshop, we will introduce and test different prompting strategies (e.g. role-goal-context style prompting). The AI's output depends on how the prompt is formulated, and this has an effect on the postediting effort afterwards. Therefore, we will explain what prompt engineering is, why it matters, and how to do it in a simple way.

In order to test the quality of the AI output or the postedited texts, several methods come into play: Eyetracking, for instance, helps test the readability of the intralingual translations. Ratings and comprehensibility tests shed light on how well readers comprehend the AI-generated texts. In the workshop, we will therefore also show how to test the readability of the AI output by recording and quantifying eye movements, such as fixations (areas the eye stops on), saccades (jumps between fixations), and regressions (jumps back to previous text). Based on the eye-mind hypothesis, we correlate the eyetracking metrics with processing effort. This enables us to evaluate different prompting strategies for intralingual translation into EL.

Bio: Silvia Hansen-Schirra is a full Professor of English Linguistics and Translation Studies and Director of the Translation & Cognition (Tra&Co) Center at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germersheim. She is the co-editor of the book series Translation and Multilingual Natural Language Processingand Easy – Plain – Accessible". Her research interests include machine translation, accessible communication and translation process research.

Dimitrios Kapnas holds two M.A. Diplomas, one in Translation and one in Conference Interpreting. He finished his studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germersheim in 2022. He is currently a doctoral student at the Tra&Co Center. His research interests include machine translation, accessible communication, easy language as well as gender linguistics.

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