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<u>Workshop 1 (available at 9.30 CET)</u>

Reaching MARS: accuracy and rapidity in real-time subtitling, by Carlo Eugeni, Wim Gerbecks, Silvia Velardi, Julia Borchert

Real-time intralingual subtitling is one of the most intriguing professions in the field of Audiovisual Translation because the focus is not just on how accurate subtitles are, but also how rapidly they are produced, in a race against the clock and with a severe assessment from end users and researchers. This implies a deep understanding and command of two important aspects by the professional: accuracy and delay.

Accuracy is one of the oldest and most debated topics in the research and profession (Apone, Brooks, and O'Connell 2010; Eugeni 2008, 2009; Ofcom 2015; Romero-Fresco 2009, 2011, 2018). It is not simply a question of how many words of a speech are transferred in the subtitles; many perspectives contribute to different views of the notion. This implies that it varies according to countries and traditions, as well as the choice of the measurement tool used to assess it.

Delay is also the object of many investigations (EBG 2014; Eugeni 2020; Mikul 2014; Romero-Fresco 2015; Romero-Fresco and Eugeni 2020). Again, it is not simply a question of time, as views vary according to country and tradition. Depending on the notion of accuracy and delay, professionals must possess different skills to reach the target standards, of which being rapid and accurate are common.

To try and shed light on this topic, this workshop is divided in 2 parts: a theoretical and a practical. In the theoretical part, the notions of quality and delay in real-time subtitling will be addressed. In particular, the factors influencing them will be detailed and discussed. Then, two opposite views will be considered: verbatim subtitles aimed at 100% correspondence between the words in the subtitles and those pronounced by the speaker; and sensatim subtitles aimed at providing end users with all the idea units pronounced by the speaker. Finally, a theoretical framework for the overall comprehension of the various notions of accuracy will be proposed.

In the practical part, participants will be invited to reach MARS, acronym for Most Accurate and Rapid Speech-to-text rate. The notion of MARS is a result of the EU-funded LTA project, and aims at assessing the maximum amount of words per minute a TV subtitler, a conference speech-to-text interpreter or a court or parliamentary reporter can produce while maintaining high quality standards. To do so, training material produced within the LTA project will be used together with an Automatic Speech Recognition software program and a Velotype keyboard provided for each participant. Professionals need their own hardware and software to test their skills as in a world championship of fast writing.