

Technical Aspects in Subtitling

Shot changes

There is another golden rule in spotting which recommends that a subtitle should not be maintained over a **cut**. The subtitle should leave the screen just before the cut occurs and a new subtitle spotted after the cut, which functions as a dividing frontier between subtitles. This recommendation is based on eye movement that have shown that if a subtitle is kept on screen when there is a cut exchange, the viewer is led to believe that a change of a subtitle has also taken place and starts re-reading the same onscreen text.

Shot changes

There is some controversy as to when to time the subtitles before the shot change .

For some professionals it is common practice to avoid displaying a subtitle precisely as a shot change takes place , arguing this can distract the viewer from the visual content of the video and is somewhat disturbing to the eye ; others prefer to use the exact moment when the cut happens to cue the subtitle out .

Delay function between subtitles

A slight, clear pause has to exist between two consecutive subtitles if the viewer is to register that a change of written material has taken place on screen. If a subtitle is immediately followed by another one without leaving any frames between the two, the eye finds it difficult to realize that new information has presented. The changes of this mishap occurring are greater when the two subtitles share a similar layout.

Problem of delay function

To avoid this problem , many subtitling programs have an automatic delay function that creates a small pause immediately after the out-time of every subtitle , before the next one can be cued in .This function can be manipulated and various values can be selected , but in order to be effective **a minimum of two or three frames are needed .**

Problem of delay function

WinCAPS

For the exercises contained on the DVD , it is recommended that a minimum gap of two frames be left between consecutive subtitles.

Text reduction

The written version of a speech in **subtitles is almost always a reduced form of the oral source text. Indeed, subtitling can never be a complete and detailed rendering and nor should it be.** Because of its multiple channels a complete translation is not required. However, this does not mean that viewers do not have the right to high quality translation (Diaz Cintas and Remael, 2006: 146).

Concept of text reduction

(1) because viewers can grasp a speech more quickly than they can read, so subtitles must give them enough time to register and understand what is written at the bottom of the screen.

(2) viewers must also watch what is happening on the screen, so they must have the time to combine reading with watching.

(3) subtitles are limited to a maximum of two lines. How much text they contain depends on the time available, the subtitling reading speed, and the speed at which the source text is actually pronounced (Diaz Cintas and Remael , 2006:146).

Line splitting

In subtitling , **lines need to be split Syntactically–cued text and reading**. When reading, people make sense of words by grouping them into phrases – a process known as parsing (Warren, 2012). Parsing is done incrementally, word by word: readers do not wait until the end of the sentence to interpret it, but try to make sense of it while they are reading. To understand a sentence, readers must “first identify its syntactic relations”. (Rayner et al., 2012, p. 223)

Line splitting

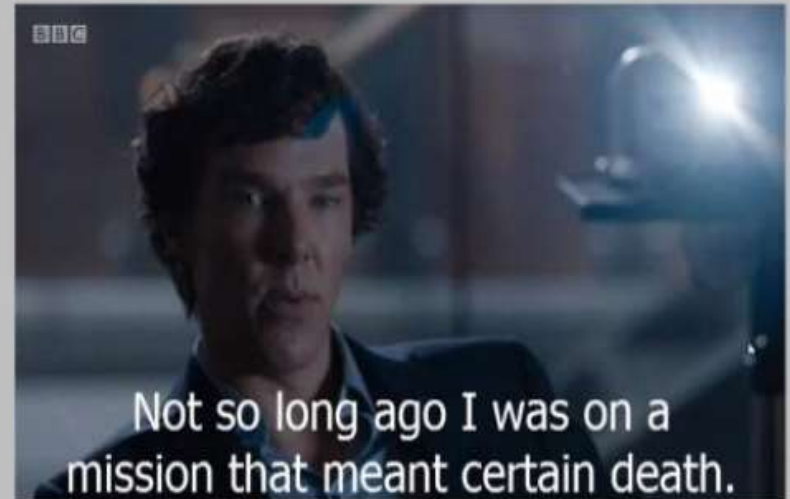
1 – Article and noun/adjective:

Who knows why the
dog ate the chicken?

It should be:

Who knows why
the dog ate the chicken?

Click on the picture with better subtitles.



Press the space bar to continue.

Line splitting

2. Adjective and noun it modifies

I drove here in the red
car with big wheels.

It should be:

I drove here in the red car
with big wheels.

Line splitting

3. Adverb and verb it modifies

I was happily
walking down the street.

It should be:

I was happily walking
down the street.

Line splitting

4. Verb and subjective pronoun

Don't tell me you
ate all the pizza.

It should be:

Don't tell me you ate
all the pizza.

Line splitting

5. First name and last name

The 18th president, Abraham Lincoln, was born in a log cabin.

It should be:

The 18th president, Abraham Lincoln, was born in a log cabin.

Line splitting

6. Negative verbs

Although I was hungry, I did not want to eat too early.

It should be:

Although I was hungry,
I did not want to eat too early.

THANK
YOU

