Am Mittwoch hat die Polizei eine Auto·bahn in Schleswig-Holstein gesperrt.

Das heißt:

*Auf der Auto·bahn durften **keine** Autos fahren.*

Auf dieser Auto·bahn war nämlich ein Hirsch.

Hirsche sind Tiere.

Und Hirsche leben meistens im Wald.

Auszug aus: „Hirsch auf der Auto·bahn"; URL:
https://www.ndr.de/fernsehen/service/leichte_sprache/Hirsch-auf-der-Autobahn-,hirsch340.html [12.11.2018].

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The Research Training Group

"Simply complex!
A multimodal and interdisciplinary approach to examine linguistic complexity within Easy Language"

Leichte Sprache
GNK Mainz

G|NK JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ **JG|U**

WHAT IS EASY LANGUAGE?

Easy Language is a form of German that has been simplified at different linguistic levels and is intended for people who cannot easily understand texts in standard language (for example people with learning difficulties). An example of Easy Language can be found in this brochure.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN EASY-LANGUAGE-RESEARCH

Easy Language was developed through practical application. In 2009, Inclusion Europe and "Netzwerk Leichte Sprache" performed pioneering work by publishing rules for writing texts in Easy Language. These rules, which were initially still very vague, were soon linguistically substantiated by members of the Research Center for Easy Language of the University of Hildesheim, which led to the publication of the first handbook about Easy Language in the German-speaking world (Bredel/Maaß 2016*).

FAILINGS IN EASY-LANGUAGE-RESEARCH

The now linguistically substantiated rules for writing texts in Easy Language have not yet been empirically investigated. This means that it is often not known whether linguistic structures that correspond to the rules for Easy Language are indeed understood and processed more easily by the target group.

THE RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP FOR EASY LANGUAGE IN MAINZ

The Research Training Group focuses on this research gap: the major objective is the investigation of the empirical validity of the postulated rules for Easy Language, combined with evidence from linguistic complexity research, and the further, evidence-based development of these rules. Therefore, multimodal studies are conducted which also serve to develop a neurobiologically-feasible model of Easy Language.

Neurolinguistics Lab Mainz

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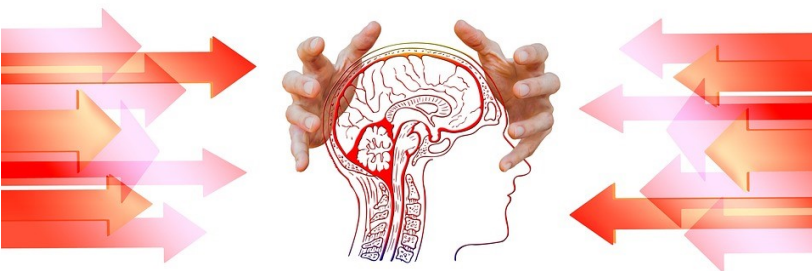Prof. Dr. Walter Bisang

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*Bredel, Ursula / Maaß, Christiane (2016): *Leichte Sprache. Theoretische Grundlagen. Orientierung für die Praxis.* (Sprache im Blick). Berlin: Dudenverlag.