META-FORUM 2012

Linguistics activities of Airbus Design office

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Controlled Language Definition

• What is a Controlled Language?

“A restricted or controlled language refers to a system that limits language to a set number of core vocabulary words, and usually, a set of writing guidelines for grammar, mechanics, and style. […]

A controlled language attempts to reduce ambiguities, colloquialisms and synonyms”

AECMA (1995)

• What are the objective?

The main objective are to improve the quality of texts by:

➢ Reducing potential ambiguities

➢ Improving text comprehensibility by non-native English speakers through:
   ⇒ text standardization
   ⇒ text simplification
Controlled Language Design Principles

➢ “one word, one meaning”

➢ “one word, one short form”

➢ “one meaning, one word order”
The Controlled Language

How to write a message, a label, ...?

* List of writing rules

Respect topic-status order
prefer FUEL CONSUMP INCREASED
than INCREASED FUEL CONSUMP

Avoid double negating
prefer ALL SPD AGREE
than NO SPD DISAGREE

Which word(s) to use?

* List of terms to be used and their abbreviations
* List of terms grouped by ideas (thesaurus with definitions)

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<tr>
<th>ENTRY</th>
<th>GRAMMATICAL CATEGORY</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED FORM TO BE USED</th>
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<td>UPPERCASE LETTERS</td>
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<td>RECOMMENDED ENTRY</td>
<td>red=TEC (evaluations)</td>
<td>possible ambiguities with other military abbreviations</td>
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What we have

Software tools:
- to extract texts from specifications
- to check the good application of some requirements of the Controlled Language
- to manage data, corpus and recommendations
- to make easier the use of the Controlled Language by designers

One Controlled Language for texts displayed to pilots

Corpus
What we have - What we wish

Software tools:
• to extract texts from specifications
• to check the good application of some requirements of the Controlled Language
• to manage data, corpus and recommendations
• to make easier the use of the Controlled Language by designers

Software tools:
• to ease specification writing (for system designers)

One Controlled Language
for texts displayed to pilots

Corpus

One Controlled Language
For specifications written by designers