

Study “Easy-to-understand language gender-fair!”

Abstract

For about 20 years there have been attempts in German-speaking countries to design texts in such a way that they can be read by as many people as possible. Also people with German as a second language benefit from easy-to-understand language, because they too need texts that have a significantly reduced complexity in terms of vocabulary, syntax and content. Gender-fair language, on the other hand, can increase the complexity of texts in order to include everyone and to overcome the binary that the German language suggests.

Both the easy-to-understand language and the gender-fair language serve the inclusion of people. How can the complexity of gender-fair language be reduced to such an extent that it can also be understood in easy-to-understand language? The aim of the study is to determine which variants of gendering are possible in easy-to-understand language without making it too difficult to understand. The central hypothesis is that it is possible to establish gender-fair language in texts without making understanding more difficult or even impossible.

The study is a commissioned study for capito, a company with years of experience translating into easy-to-understand language and creating accessible information, that is now looking for a suitable form of gendering into easy-to-understand language.