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“On the “easy” and “plain” Russian”

Speakers and writers automatically adjust their linguistic output to match the linguistic abilities of their listeners and readers. For example, we speak to children using simplified language, and there is specific literature designed for young readers. From a communicative perspective, this process is known as recipient design, perspective-taking, tailoring, or simply accommodation.

Beyond these individual adjustments in speech, there are two linguistic varieties with a more systematic role: "plain" language and "easy" language. The need for plain language arises in response to the complex and bureaucratic language often found in legal texts and various official documents. Simplifying these texts results in what we call plain language. One of the most notable efforts to address this issue is the *Plain Writing Act* signed by President Obama in 2010.

The concept of “easy language,” on the other hand, addresses a different set of needs. In most societies, approximately 15% of people have significant difficulties understanding texts written in plain language. This group includes immigrants, elderly people, individuals with mental health challenges, and an increasing number of young people. In my presentation, I will examine the status of "easy" and "plain" linguistic varieties in Russia.