



## The production process – Language versioning

Many of our productions are released in one or more foreign language versions.

Some productions are actually produced in more than one language, with all dialogue, interviews and other content originally produced in each release language. Such language versions are regarded as separate original language productions.

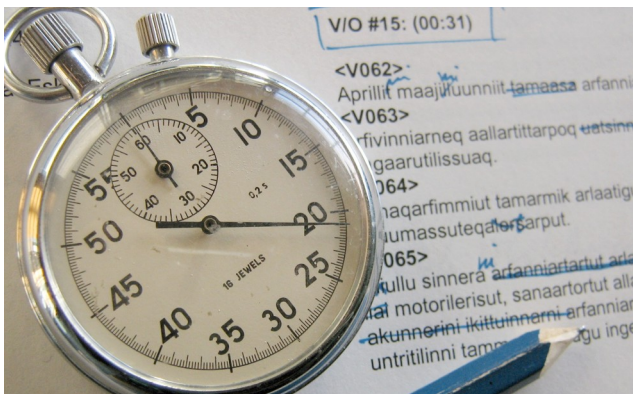
Most language versions are produced as an adaption of an original production, where the duration of the version - scene by scene - mirrors the original.

The original narration is replaced with narration in the version language, and any "on-camera" dialogue is dubbed - or more usually subtitled.

The graphics and captions are also replaced with text in the version language.

Such a language version is always produced on the basis of a completed and approved original production.

There are too many opportunities for mistakes if the language version is produced before the original is completed, as changes to the original will have also to be made to other versions.



*Versioning script – all sequences timed and numbered*

Channel 6 Television has a tried and tested approach to language versioning - even to languages that our production staff members do not understand.

The final script for the original production - usually in Danish or English - is broken down into identifiable components - often as single sentences or statements - and each component is numbered.

The master timecode for the start and end of the original, and the possible additional time before and after each is logged so that the translator knows exactly how much time the versioned component may occupy.

Channel 6 Television always uses translators whom have the required language as their mother tongue, and who have been selected for their experience and ability - often with regard to the subject matter.

The translators receive a VHS copy of the original production, together with a copy of the broken down original script into which they will type their timed translation. When finished the translator's version script is returned for approval.

For productions with complicated technical content, the version script will be evaluated by another person who is competent in the subject and preferably speaks the version language as his or her mother tongue.

Any corrections or alterations will be undertaken in a direct dialogue between this person and the translator.

Representatives of the client company or organisation may often be suitable candidates to evaluate the translation.

We always strive to select an additional person as the narrator - partly because we are looking for an experienced mother-tongue voice, and partly to give us an extra filter in which to identify any unresolved translation issues.

We may also ask the translator to be present during the voiceover recording session, to be able to discuss corrections with the narrator directly.

We are usually able to find such persons in Denmark - although the immigrant population does not always include professional narrators, there are many foreigners who are experienced at public speaking and have a good voice and a sound grasp of language and grammar.

Occasionally we may need to source the translator or narrator outside Denmark, though this is unusual.



The most difficult and important task is to ensure that each sequence in the version language has the same duration and chronological structure as the original language.

There are considerable differences between the time taken to say the same thing in different languages - therefore if we expect subsequent language versioning at the time when we edit the original, we allow some extra time in the original scenes to accommodate "longer" language versions - though our ability to cater for such eventualities is also limited by considerations regarding the desired tempo of the original.

It is our experience that where such accommodation is possible, the resulting language versions are usually easier to produce and of a more satisfactory result.

There are some languages - such as Greenlandic and other Inuit languages - where it may be necessary to re-cut some sequences from the original film - extending certain video clips and soundtracks to make space for a satisfactory narration in the version language.

This is however a more demanding process, provision for which should be made in the versioning budget.

The versioning of the graphics and captions - together with the production and programming of subtitles - is undertaken in-house, usually with the assistance of the translator or the narrator.

Similarly, the translator or the narrator is also engaged to translate any texts for printed matter such as VHS box covers; DVD and CD packaging and media labels; and any printed matter that will be distributed with the production.

The goal of the version process is to arrive at a finished production that the target audience will perceive as having been produced for them in their language, with no apparent compromise due to the versioning process.

***See also our information about narration***