

A Study on Abridgement for Spoken Word Titles

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This paper is a part of the survey aiming to show the characteristics unique to the spoken word (=audio book, talking book) medium. The whole survey including this paper claims that titles in the spoken word format are independent enough of the book they are based on so that they should be treated as such. This particular paper investigates its textual aspect, especially abridgement.

The comparison is made among the original text (=book format) and abridged texts for the spoken word titles. The latter text has been prepared by the author listening to the recordings.

First, the simple survey shows how short common abridged CD titles are. Then next survey investigates how this shortening is done with some hypotheses including the four below.

- (1) If the abridged text is a scaled model of the original, it would be seen in the POS distribution.
- (2) Common modifiers, adjectives and adverbs, are likely to be omitted in abridged texts.
- (3) Adverbials modifying reporting verbs are likely to be omitted in abridged texts.
- (4) POS distribution changes as the story develops, and this should be observable in both texts.

As a result the survey shows

- (1) statistical information on shortening for spoken words
- (2) editors' concept of text identity and their method to preserving it
- (3) advantages of properly abridged texts