# Controlled language for text simplification

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## Do you object to simple text?

#### Loss of technical accuracy?

- It has been observed that a domestic feline with a propensity to slothfulness and of an inherently obese nature was seated on the mat.
- The lazy fat cat sat on the mat.

#### Questions:

- Is it necessary for a scientific text to be linguistically complex? (I mean the grammatical structures and the non-technical vocabulary. I do not mean the technical content.)
- Do you have objections to simple text in scientific documents? If yes, why?

#### Phrasal verbs cause confusion

Phrasal verbs cause problems for non-native readers (Thrush, 2001).

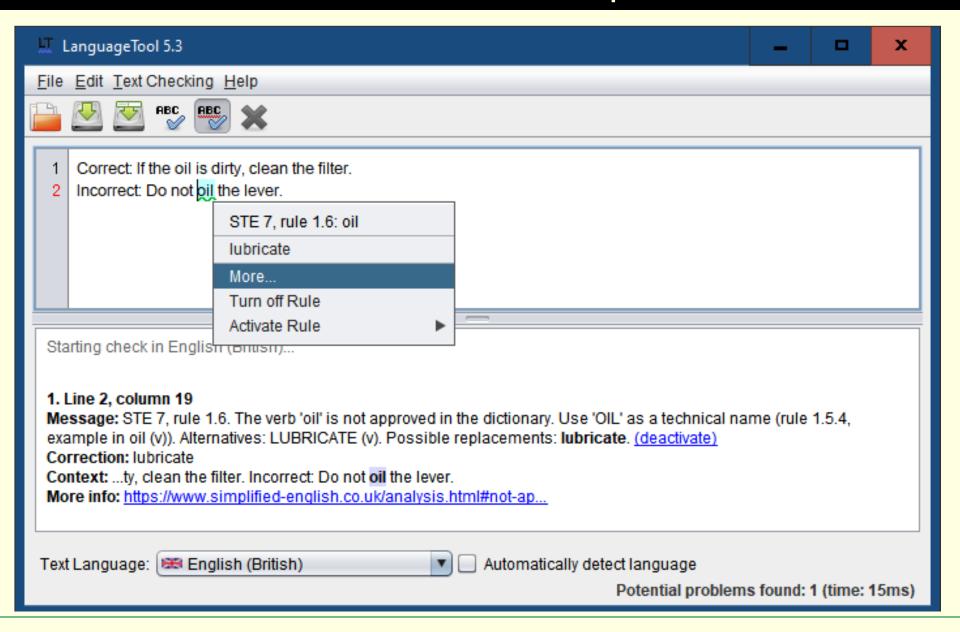
"At moderate fields and temperatures a lattice of triangular symmetry is observed, **crossing over** to a lattice of square symmetry with increasing field and temperature." (https://arxiv.org/abs/1403.1767)

## One word can have different parts of speech

#### As (conjunction/preposition)

- Push the switch as you move the lever. > Conjunction = when/while
- Be careful, as the material is poisonous. > Conjunction = because
- Do not use the pipe as a support. > Preposition

#### STE checker example



### The structure of a grammar rule

```
<rule id="DEMO POS OIL" name="Noun approved: oil">
 <pattern>
   <token>oil<exception postag="IS NOUN"/></token>
  </pattern>
  <message>Make sure that '<match no="1"/>' is a noun.
  <example type="incorrect"><marker>Oil</marker> the valve.</example>
  <example type="correct">Put <marker>oil</marker> on the
valve.</example>
</rule>
```

## Ambiguous parts of speech

Ambiguous POS in standard English (the examples are not STE)

- Let's stop getting this biweekly.
   Noun or adverb?
- ... purchased from Ukraine in 2006 and II-76 transport aircraft.
   Noun in a noun cluster or a verb?
   In BrE, we can treat company names as collective nouns.
- ... with the former **being** manufactured by Acme Industries and the latter...
   Noun or present participle?
   Our world knowledge tells us 'probably a verb'.