CORPUS of Technical Documentation

What is technical documentation?

- Technical communication
- Technical writing
- Technical documentation
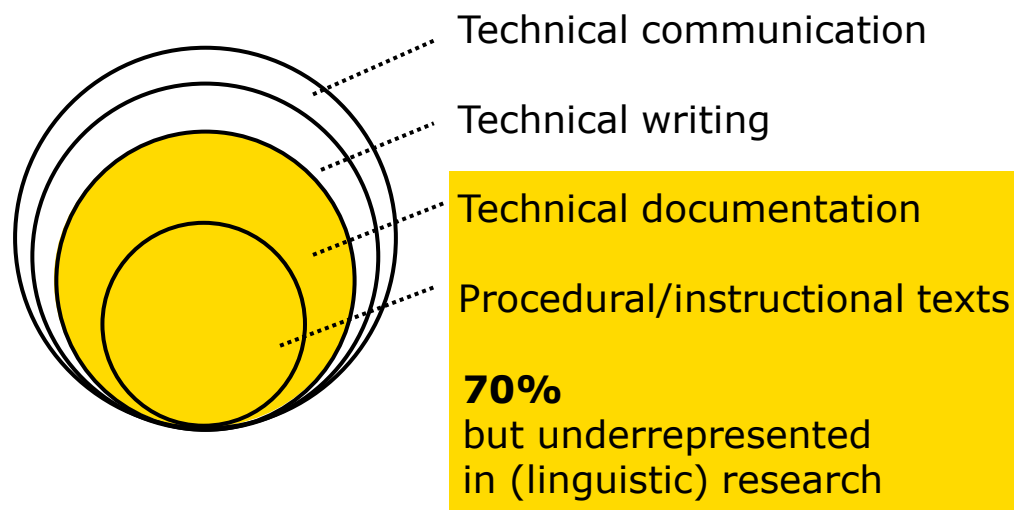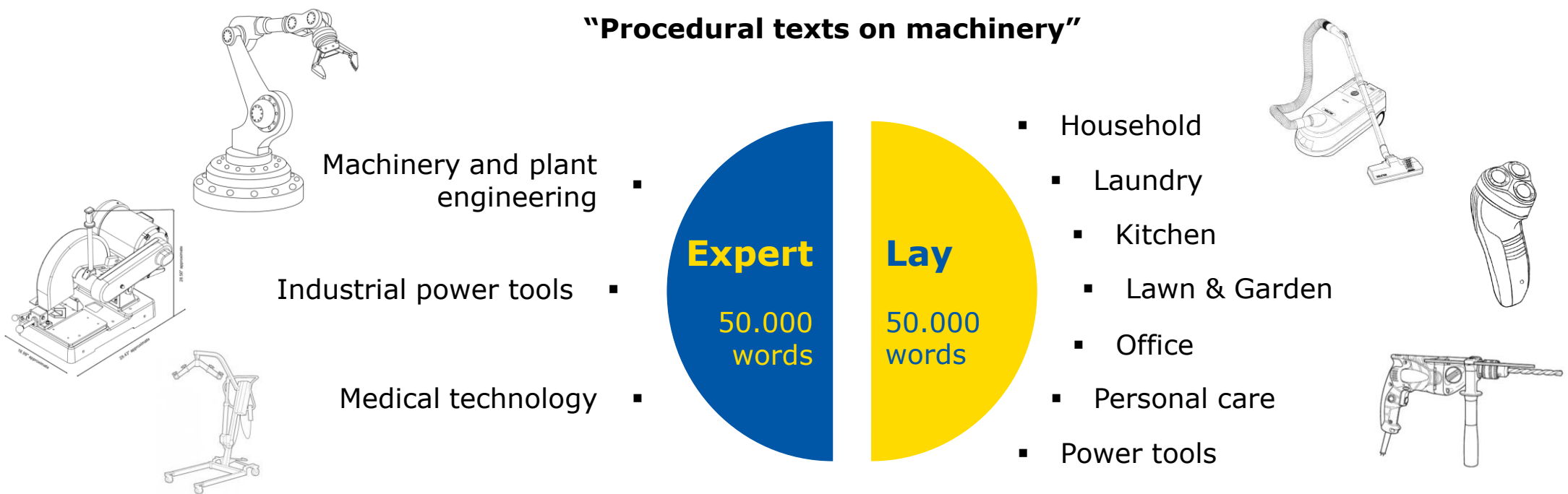- Procedural/instructional texts

70%
but underrepresented
in (linguistic) research

Characteristics
- Clear organisation and structure
- Limited variation on different linguistic levels
- High precision and unambiguity, consistent terminology, strong cohesion
- Multimodality
- Features from diverse text types

Corpus design and compilation

"Procedural texts on machinery"

- Machinery and plant engineering
- Industrial power tools
- Medical technology

Expert 50.000 words

Lay 50.000 words

- Household
  - Laundry
  - Kitchen
  - Lawn & Garden
  - Office
- Personal care
- Power tools

Corpus analysis

☑ **Corpus-based analysis**

Can existing claims about characteristics, such as limited **lexical richness** and low **syntactic complexity**, be confirmed?

Corpus-driven analysis

Can **new characteristics** be unearthed through keyword analysis, collocation analysis etc.?

Impact

- Technical documentation
- Genre-based language teaching
- Linguistics

Future goal

Bigger corpus to represent more areas of technical documentation

Kropf, Franziska. 2020. *Machine translation of technical documentation: Exploring the effects of writing rules on translation results.* Universität Regensburg: B.A. thesis.

Kropf, Franziska. Forthcoming. *Towards a linguistic consideration of technical documentation: Compilation and analysis of a representative corpus.* Universität Regensburg: M.A. thesis.

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