ACCURATE	AMONG	AMOUNT	AS	BETWEEN
FILLER	FIT	FLUENTLY	GIST	HOWEVER
HUGE	IGNORED	IN	MUCH	ON
QUANTITY	QUESTION	THAN	WONDER	WOULD
YET				

FILL IN THE GAPS WITH A MISSING WORD FROM THE BOX ABOVE. THERE ARE FOUR WORDS YOU WILL NOT NEED.

Lost in translation? The one-inch truth about Netflix's subtitle problem

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1 "When you accept subtitles, you can watch so many amazing films," said director Bong Joon-ho. The success of Netflix's Korean series *Squid Game* shows he is right. It is Netflix's number one show in 90 countries. But it has also started a debate about what gets lost in translation – and people are asking whether Netflix puts enough money into creating _____ versions of foreign-language scripts.

2 Even before *Squid Game*, some of Netflix's biggest hits were "foreign language" series, _____ them *Lupin* (France), *Elite* (Spain), *Dark* (Germany) and *Money Heist* (Spain).

3 The search question "Can I speak a language _____ just by watching TV?" gives 10.4 million Google results. However _____ we might wish this to be true, the debate around the subtitles to *Squid Game* suggests the answer is no. "If you don't understand Korean, you didn't watch the same show," says Youngmi Mayer. She explains that one of the lead female characters is represented in the subtitles as more subservient and less intelligent _____ in Korean.

4 Other complaints are: the first game is not properly translated, and the concept of "gganbu" (a link between two equals) is ignored. "How will people learn about our culture if the streamer is mistranslating the language?" wrote Sharon Kwon.

5 The debate around *Squid Game*'s subtitles has revealed the difference between subtitles, closed captions and dubbing. "Closed captions" were first written for deaf viewers and include audio description. ("A door slams.") The dialogue used _____ closed captions is usually a direct transcript of the dubbing script. Subtitles use a completely different script. In these, the translation has to _____ across the screen and match viewer's reading speed. Subtitles are often a more accurate translation than the dubbing script.

6 Viewers who are deaf or hearing impaired, however, don't have the choice _____ the subtitle script and the dubbing script. And many fans are annoyed that Netflix seems to be putting more money into dubbing than in subtitles.

7 A dubbing script translation is less accurate because it must translate a phrase so that it takes exactly the same _____ of time to say it out loud in both languages. And, the words should try to fit the actors' mouth movements.

8 Max Deryagin has been subtitling English to Russian for 11 years. But now, he says, there just aren't enough translators to do the work: "Netflix has so many programmes that they have changed our industry."

9 Deryagin explains how differences between different languages present challenges for translators. "English is compact, like Japanese and Chinese. Arabic and Spanish are not." These are _____ differences if you are trying to fit a translation into a few words on screen at the viewer's reading speed. The Scandinavians are the most experienced at all this, he says. "In Scandinavia, they have longer subtitles that stay for longer on the screen. But in other countries they want shorter subtitles that keep more of the dialogue and keep the _____." (If this sounds an impossible task, then that's pretty much because it is.) Subtitlers are constantly cutting out "_____ words" (um, er, you know).

10 Youmee Lee, a deaf Korean American artist, wishes that Netflix – and other streaming services – _____ check the translations more closely. "We, the deaf viewers, deserve the same information as hearing viewers so we all can share the experience."

11 With series like *Squid Game* so successful, some may _____ why people care so much about translation. Youngmi Mayer says, "I guess you could ask, do people really care about *Star Wars*? Some people would tell you they don't care about *Star Wars* at all. And other people would say that it's a big part of their lives. If one word was mistranslated, they would be incredibly angry."

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LIVEWORKSHEETS