**Requirements**

The SOPHIST set of rules is based on developments in the sphere of neuro-liguistic programming (NLP), which a method used in psychotherapy that tries to uncover people's thoughts through a targeted questioning technique. One major assumption behind NPS is that people perceive their environment selectively. Through a process called transformation people create a simplified model of their mental imagination to create their personal reality.

A new transformation processes is triggered if people are promoted or asked about their perception. This is referred to as linguistic effects. Three mechanism can occur in both transformation-dimension: Deletion, Generalization and Distortion:

* Deletion is an indicator of incomplete information. This happens, for example, when we subconsciously withhold information that we take for granted.
* Generalization is an indicator of faulty generalizations. It often happens that we generalize unique experiences and draw wrong conclusions from them.
* Distortion indicates a statement of falsified reality. It is a tactic to better fit reality to our imagination.

Each of these mechanisms lead to consequences that personal reality or linguistic expression does not correspond with reality. The NLP approach ais to the transformation of the linguistic utterance and thus to determine personal reality. The SOPHIST set of rules applies this knowledge to requirements engineering in order to determine requirements in their true nature.

The SOPHIST set of rules comprises 25 rules with which requirements can be examined. The rules are structured according to the three transformation categories, with additional linguistic rules added to ensure that requirements are understandable and unambiguous.

In the context of requirement engineering and according to material covered during lectures, the following rules are most fitting for this purpose:

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| **Rule Nr.** | **Essence** |
| 1 | Write every requirement in active voice |
| 2,3,4 | Analyze processes and express them using main verbs |
| 6 | Analyze missing information on the process verb |
| 10,12 | Clarify amounts and frequencies |
| 17 | Clarify missing conditions |

*Further information regarding rules can be found here:* [*https://de.scribd.com/document/204207076/6-Requirements-Engineering-and-Management-the-SOPHIST-Set-of-REgulations*](https://de.scribd.com/document/204207076/6-Requirements-Engineering-and-Management-the-SOPHIST-Set-of-REgulations)