Welsh and Irish Speech Processing Resources: April 2004

Latest News: WISPR meeting, 9th March, 2004: Phonetics Lab, Trinity College Dublin
- Brian Ó Raghallaigh has been recruited to work full-time on the Irish speech corpus and will be based in the phonetics lab in the CLCS in TCD. Máire Ní Mhurchadha has also been recruited to work part-time on the Irish speech corpus while based in Galway.
- John Wogan, also of the Phonetics lab in TCD, will be assisting on the project also and will become an employee of the project in September, 2004.
- Irena Yanushevskaya has been recruited to train in on phonetic transcription those working on the Irish speech corpus.
- Segmentation and annotation work has begun on a sample corpus recorded in the Phonetics Lab. This sample corpus (annotated using Praat) will be used as a test-bed when Ailbhe, Christer, and Mika visit ATR Labs in Japan in the near future (18th March - 10th April). It is hoped that compatibility with the CHATR speech synthesis engine can be assessed.

UPCOMING EVENTS
- Comhdháil do Theangeolaíocht na Gaeilge 2004: Ailbhe and Brian will speak on WISPR at the 8th annual Irish conference on linguistics hosted in St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra.
- Lisbon LREC/workshop: Ailbhe and Brian will travel to Lisbon to present a Poster on WISPR at the International Conference on Language Resources and evaluation at the end of May.
- Rob Clarke of CSTR at Edinburgh University will be giving a Festival Speech Synthesis workshop from 17th to 19th May in Trinity College.

For who?
- People who need to hear text being read e.g. those with impaired vision, dyslexia, or other reading problems
- Students following e-learning courses and second language learning
- SMEs who want to include speech technology in their products
- The public in general as speech synthesis systems become more common.

For further details contact
Phonetics & Speech Lab on –
Phone: +353-(0)1-6081348
Email: anichsid@tcd.ie

Team members…

Ireland:
Ailbhe Ní Chasaide
Christer Gobl
John Wogan
Brian Ó Raghaillaigh
Irena Yanushevskaya
Mika Ito
Fred Cummins
Julie Berndsen
Máire Ní Chiosáin
Rónán Scaife

Wales:
Delyth Prys
Briony Williams
Bill Hicks
Dewi Jones

Ar Oileán Eile…
- Bill Hicks and Dewi Jones have been employed on the project, both of whom have a background in Computer Science, in particular Welsh Proofing Tools (i.e. Spelling and Grammar checkers).
- More recently, Briony Williams has been recruited to work on the project also.
- Other positions relating to the corpus of spoken Welsh have been advertised and considerable interest has been shown. Seven very promising applications have been received and are currently being reviewed.
- Much liaising has taken place with the visually impaired lobby in Wales with regard to the project. In particular The Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB).
The WISPR project is funded by the EU Interreg IIIA Community Initiative. It is also sponsored by TCD, UCD, DCU and ITÉ who provide additional resources to support the project’s work.