



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.

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 liasing 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).

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

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Team members...

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John Wogan	
Brian Ó Raghallaigh	<u>Wales:</u>
Irena Yanushevskaya	Delyth Prys
Mika Ito	Briony Williams
Fred Cummins	Bill Hicks
Julie Berndsen	Dewi Jones
Máire Ní Chiosáin	
Rónán Scaife	



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