WISPR

Welsh and Irish Speech Processing Resources: April 2005

Latest News: Recordings about to commence...

Auditions to choose primary informant were held during December 2004 and January 2005. These auditions have resulted in the selection of a suitable informant. The recording of the large corpus for unit selection synthesis is due to begin in May. The recording setup has been assessed and new equipment has been purchased to bring the studio up to the required standards for speech synthesis and voice quality work.

EVENTS

- Dec 04 : Visit by Nick Campbell, Speech Technology expert from ATR, Japan.
- 2nd/3rd March: Speech recognition knowledge sharing workshop held at Trinity College Dublin with participants from TCD, UCD, DCU, and University of Wales. John McKenna of DCU's Computer Science Department gave an in-depth introduction to HTK speech recognition software.
- April 9th : Comhdháil do Theangeolaíocht na Gaeilge 2004: Ailbhe, Áine and Brian to speak on WISPR at the 9th annual Irish conference on linguistics hosted in The Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies.
- Presentation to be given by John, Áine and Brian on TTS for Irish, Centre for Language and Communication Studies, TCD, 28-04-2005
- NAACLT workshop from 8th -12th June will be attended by representatives of WISPR Project.

Ar Oileán Eile...

Release of alpha version of the Welsh voice...

October last saw an important milestone in the development of Welsh speech technology as the first version of our Welsh text-to-speech voice was released. It works in Microsoft Windows through an MSAPI interface. The voice is available to be integrated into software systems as screen readers and spoken websites. The purpose of this early release is to obtain user feedback. In order to improve the product, a feedback form is distributed with the voice. Those who habitually use text-to-speech synthesis often like to speed up the voice so that they can read quickly through their documents. This version therefore includes the facility to vary the speed of the voice. Those who have already had the opportunity to hear the voice think that it sounds better when it is speeded up! The voice may be downloaded from
http://www.bangor.ac.uk/ar/cb/wispr/0.1/ReleaseNote.txt

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.

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