Linguistics and Technology Series

From Speech Synthesis by Analogy to Computational Simulations of Human Reading

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Friday November 26th, 4:00-5:00 pm
Sobey Building 260, SMU

Abstract

There is an apparent commonality between the computational problem of text-to-speech conversion in speech synthesis and the process of reading. On one hand, computer scientists are very interested in programming machines to read aloud with important applications in such diverse areas as telecommunications-based information services and aids for blind and non-speaking people. On another hand, educators and psycholinguistics have long been involved in studying this remarkable human ability to read aloud. Given this situation, it is surprising that there has been minimal synergy between the two fields. Against this background, the main goal of the talk is to show how Pronunciation by Analogy, a method that we have originally used for grapheme-to-phoneme conversion can also be a good candidate as a computational model of human reading.

Linguistics Circle of Halifax