First international seminar on new technologies in real time intralingual subtitling.

This event took place in place on 17th November 2006 in Forlì, a town about 80 kilometres from Bologna (Northern part of Italy), and was organised by a Department of Linguistic of the Bologna University, specifically devoted in education of real-time interpreters.

The announcement of this seminar was delivered in Italian and English on the web-site www.respeaking.net and I have previously informed all Members of the Scientific Committee and Board.

The seminar programme is reported here, and you can see that 18 speeches were released.

Seminar Programme

Greetings by Prandi (SITLeC), Lozano (SSLiMIT) e Bollettieri (Univ. Bologna)

Chair: Russo, university of Bologna, at Forlì **(panorama)**

Marsh, head of respeaking department at RedBee Media (subtitling for BBC) **Respeaking for the BBC**

Paglino, CEO of FBL, software house, Italy **Speech recognition technology: medical centres, school, university**

Muzii, L10n, GILT (Globalization, Internationalization, Localization and Translation) **Re-speaking and localization**

Chair: Bollettieri, university of Bologna, at Forlì **(professional setting)**

De Seriis, director of subtitling offices, RAI Teletext, Italy **RAI subtitling service: Teletext for the deaf**

Higgs, ITFC, subtitling agency, UK **Current UK activity over: the revision of guidelines**

Pea e Cannarozzo, RTSI (Swiss Italian speaking Broadcasting Corporation), Switzerland **Considerations on the use of ViaVoice at RTSI**

Chair: Pochhacker, University of Vienna **(training)**

Trivulzio, member of the Intersteno scientific committee ***Natura non facit saltus***

Chen, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology **Real time subtitling in Taiwan – a case study**

Remael-van der Veer, University of Antwerp, Belgium **Real time subtitling in Flanders: needs and teaching**

Baaring, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark **Respeaking-based subtitling in Denmark**

Chair: Mack, University of Bologna, at Forlì **(new developments)**

Lambourne, CEO of Sysmedia, software house, UK **Subtitle respeaking – a new skill for a new age**

Scotto di Carlo, National Association of the Deaf, Italy **MHP technology for the disabled**

Aliprandi-Verruso, Synthema srl and Sicilian Parliament, Italy **Speech recognition: state of the Art and the last Intersteno Championship**

Panel discussion, chairs: Pirelli, EC Joint Research Centre, Eugeni, university of Naples

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Speakers were coming from several european Countries, one speaker came from Taiwan. The name of this speaker is Doctor Sheng-Jie Chen - Assistant Professor at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology. (e-mail schengjie@mail.ntust.edu.tw). I specifically mention him, because he is investigating about speech recognition, but in English since there is no speech recognition software available for his language. Since Mr. Kaneko participated in the preparation of a steno machine for Taiwan (if I recall well) may be there is an interest for a contact, as well as our Chinese friends. I talk to him and he was very interested about our Congress in China.

In Europe subtitling activities are increasing due to specific laws and requests from the hard of hearing associations, which are pushing for them.

The biggest activity in Europe is concentrated in England: both BBC and private TV companies are covering a big percentage of real-time events with subtitling (close captioning). Technologies are stenotype and speech recognition. A spin-off company of BBC has about 50 stenographers and 60 voice writers. Due to shortage of stenographers, about 4000 hours per years are prepared in realtime with stenotype from Australia (e-working).

In Italy realtime subtitle of TV-news is limited to a transmission per day, and stenotype (Melani method) is used.

Other European countries have a much more limited approach, due to lack of culture about stenotype (as you know this technology is at the moment only available in Italy, France, Spain, Holland).

Consequently newcomers are mainly experiencing speech recognition. This creates interest in the preparation and education of voice-writers (or re-speakers as they were named on this occasion). Several Universities, specifically in the language faculties devoted to simultaneous interpretation, are preparing projects and learning paths.

All speeches at this Seminar were subtitled 'subtitled' directly or through simultaneous interpretation, by a very clever Italian stenographer who did an excellent work, highly appreciated by all attendants..

Intersteno was present with 3 speakers

Fausto Ramondelli who covered the following points:

1 - **What is Stenotype**. - Stenotype in Italy - The Michela method and other Italian methods (Melani). Intersteno competitions - Use of stenotype in public entities
2 - **Use of stenotype for subtitling** - the background of American experience. Impact of informatics on stenotyping. Stenotyping and real-time subtitling with speech recognition
3 - **Sub-titling in Italy** - Subtitling of TV news - Subtitling of University lessons - Tele-subtitling (i.e. subtitling from distant places - e-working)
4 - **New services** - Multimedia subtitling - Subtitling on demand - web casting.

Fabrizio Verruso (who could not attend due to a personal problem at the very last minute) presented a report devoted to the experience with speech recognition at Intersteno, therefore he

commented the results of Rome 2003 and Vienna 2005 along with a general overview of the competitions during our Congresses.

He stressed the importance of a **good education in speech recognition** in order to get professional results as well as the need of easiness for improving dictionaries which are highly needed for having a good result.

Gian Paolo Trivulzio presented a report with the title 'Natura non facit saltus'. The main contents of this report were:

- A short overview about the state of the arts (shorthand - stenotype and speech recognition) for reporting
- The Italian experience in speech recognition and the experiences in teaching and using this technology, made in the last 10 years by G.P. Trivulzio and Maria Luisa Corti.
- The situation in other European countries and United States
- Real time reporting and the education of new professionals
- Certification of technologies and professionals. Then role of Intersteno, as a bridge between advanced technologies and professionals
- Intersteno competitions as a benchmark for loyal comparisons between technologies. Real time competition will prove if professional speech-writers are able to put into reality what is announced since 10 years, ability to write up to 160 words per minute with an accuracy over 96 %.

Of course all "Intersteno speakers" invited audience to attend the next Intersteno Congress in Prague.

The texts and these 3 reports, are now available on www.intersteno.it - Events. The texts are in Italian language.

One main question arose from the discussion i.e. different points of view about the time needed for being able to use speech technology for a professional use, as it is the subtitling or CART. (the difference between the two definition is irrilevant from the professional abilities).

My personal point of view is that this difference is based on different evaluations about two points:

1 - the definition of goals
2 - the starting point

With **definition of goals** I mean what is the content of the subtitle. This can be a real verbatim transcription (as is absolutely needed for Court Reporting) for which a very fast and accurate text must be produced or a 'short transcription' with the aim to give a general idea and sense of what is said or happening. In this last case a summary and rephrasing is necessary but the quantity of words can be less and more independent from what it is said.

The **starting point** is the level of the student approaching speech-recognition. Of course a student with 2/3 years of studies in linguistic, (comprehension, rephrasing, respeaking) can better control her/his utterance and therefore reach good results in a shorter time-frame then the students beginning from scratch.

This first seminar proved to be very useful to all attendants, new acquaintances has been made, and Intersteno activity is now better known in these new channels of communication.

All reports of this event will be made available about the end of December on www.respeaking.net (English version).

Herebelow is the announcement of a training course held in May last. As you can see there is the wording 'Screen translation', which is in my opinion very impressive.

Gian Paolo Trivulzio

:: International Summer School in Screen Translation

(University Residential Centre Bertinoro, 22nd - 26th May 2006)

The Summer School offers a full immersion into the latest techniques offered by the European Screen Translation industry, taking the current state of production and work market as a specific point of reference.

Introduction Teaching on the course will be carried out by operators from Italy and other European countries from the fields of dubbing, subtitling and voice over, as well as by prominent researchers. The course is aimed at both those wishing to enter the field as professionals as well as postgraduates carrying out research in Screen Translation.

Teaching team:
Rachele Antonini, University of Bologna, at Forlì, Italy
Chiara Bucaria, University of Bologna, at Forlì, Italy.
Delia Chiaro, University of Bologna, at Forlì, Italy. Elena Di Giovanni, University of Bologna, at Forlì, Italy.
Eleonora di Fortunato, AIDAC, Italy. Henrik Gottlieb, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
Georg Michael Luyken, Studio L" GMBH, Berg, Germany. Mario Paolinelli, Chairman of AIDAC, Italy.
Maria Pavesi, Università di Pavia, Italy. Chris Rundle, University of Bologna, at Forlì, Italy.
 Other professionals will also be amongst the teaching team.

Requirements Excellent competence in spoken English.

Language: English

Fees 640,00 € tuition fees + half board single room accommodation / € 600 tuition fees + half board double room accommodation.

Deadline for application 30 places available therefore first come first served basis for application.