

ViSiCAST WP2 input for Annual Review report. Version 2

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Achievements to the end of July 2000

The WP2 work focused on developing an Internet browser plug-in (D2-1) for the (semi-)automatic translation of text into sign. The achievements of the partners up to the end of July were:

- Selected weather forecast reports as a suitable application domain.
- Ensured the collaboration of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute who provided a set of real-life weather forecast reports for each of the four seasons.
- Developed a model for formatting the information in these Dutch reports. This model is based on an analysis of the real-life reports and contains 248 'concepts' (words or phrases) and 20 'patterns' (corresponding to sentences).
- Translated these concepts into Sign Language of the Netherlands (SLN).
- Translated and adapted the weather forecast model into German Sign language (DGS).
- Defined a set of design specifications for the browser plug-in. The aim of these specifications was that the browser plug-in should be useful and useable for all deaf people, especially those who have difficulty in reading text and who do not yet use the Internet.

Achievements after end of July including next milestones and deliverables.

After the end of July, WP2 continued to focus on the development of the browser plug-in. The achievements were:

- Implemented the first version of the user interface (see example below).
- Scripting of the motion components needed for the translation of weather reports into DGS.
- Capturing of the motion components needed for the translation of weather reports into SLN.

Within the next months, motion capturing is planned for German Sign Language (DGS) and British Sign Language (BSL). In accordance with the project plan the browser plug-in (D2-1) will be completed at the end of year 1. It will provide (semi-)automatic translation of weather reports into SLN, DGS and BSL.

Progress against plan with any problems identified

For WP2 no delays have occurred or are expected. The only deviation from the Workplan was in the approach to developing the browser plug-in (D2-1). Because this is an early deliverable, it was initially planned to provide simple translation of arbitrary text into sign-supported language (i.e. following the word order of phonetic language). However, because feedback from experts on deaf communication indicated that this could diminish the acceptance of avatar-mediated sign language translation, it was decided to aim already early in the project for translation into real (i.e. grammatical) sign languages. This is also more consistent with the eventual aim of the project, which is translation into real sign language. The language domain chosen was that of weather reports, because it seems reasonable to assume that it will be of interest to most deaf people.

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Het weer in gebaren

Weerbericht van donderdag 17 augustus 2000, 17:34 uur

Vanavond en vannacht opklaringen, in het binnenland mogelijk een mistbank en aan de noordwestkust een kleine kans op onweer. Minimumtemperatuur rond 13 graden. Morgen geleidelijk meer bewolking en in de avond van het zuiden uit enkele regen- en onweersbuien. Middagtemperatuur morgen ongeveer 22 graden.

De wind: zuidwest, matig, kracht 4, aan de kust en op het IJsselmeer vrij krachtig, 5, de komende uren af en toe krachtig, 6. Vanavond afnemend en morgen draaiend naar zuid.



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Done Internet