

English Abstract

From speech to written text. Domains, means and restrictions of the representation of spoken language in written form

Transferring speech into writing is an important task in many fields. It is demanding, since oral and literal modes differ in terms of many fundamental aspects, which results in a variety of differences regarding production, reception, conventional situations, typical grammatical features and available non-verbal resources. The book explores the possibilities and restrictions pertaining to the transformation process in various domains and professions.

In the first chapter, Liisa Tiittula and Eero Voutilainen discuss the relationship between speech and writing, as well as linguistic aspects of the transformation process. Differences are discussed from the point of view of several theoretical concepts. The following chapters demonstrate how the transformation process is dealt with in various fields. Johanna Ruusuvauro and Pirjo Nikander provide an overview of transcribing speech for different research purposes. Empirical examples are drawn from qualitative content analysis, discursive and conversation analysis as well as multimodal interaction analysis. Automatic speech recognition offers new possibilities for transforming speech into text. Mikko Kurimo gives an introduction to the field, and discusses accuracy and how performance can be improved by respeaking.

Speech-to-text interpreting is a communication aid for hard-of-hearing people. Päivi Rainò and Sirpa Laurén describe the emergence of the professionalization of this ‘real time typing’. They compare the quality requirements set by professionals vs. clients. The intralingual subtitling of TV programmes is another kind of accessibility service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. In her article, Minna Pöntys analyses how subtitles represent speech and sound effects.

Eero Voutilainen examines the written representation of plenary session speeches by Finnish MPs. The genre of plenary records, the concept of genre-conscious language planning and the practical work

processes of the Records Office of the Finnish Parliament are also discussed. Lauri Haapanen for his part explores direct quotations in written journalism. Although they are often thought to be word-for-word reproductions of interviews, the analysis of empirical data indicates that journalists primarily aim to make a good story, not to transform spoken utterances as verbatim as possible. The last article by Pirkko Nuolijärvi and Liisa Tiittula discusses the representation of speech in fiction. Using concrete examples from fiction, and interviews with authors and translators, they describe the creation of the illusion of spontaneous speech in written text.

This volume is intended for anyone transforming speech into writing, including researchers and students in linguistics, communication and translation studies as well as language technology. Furthermore, it will be of interest to journalists, writers, translators, interpreters and any reader interested in spoken and written language.