

University (NTU) and TutorABC, a company located in Taipei focusing on language education. Chinese Learners around the world can have real-time interaction with professional Chinese teachers through TutorABC's online learning platform, and VCT offers after-class practice or homework for the students.

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### **D2.5 Automatic assessment of non-native prosody**

*Florian Hönig, Anton Batliner, Karl Weilhammer, Elmar Nöth*

#### **Abstract**

Wrong placement of word accents as well as any 'non-native' prosody such as the transfer of 'syllable-timed' rhythm onto English which is 'stress-timed' can have a strong impact on (native) listeners and should be avoided. Thus, they should be addressed in CAPT applications.

To this aim, we present a demonstrator that is able to estimate the position of the word accent and the probability of an erroneous word accent position. Moreover, the quality of intonation and rhythm is estimated; the system is trained with annotations obtained from American and British natives.

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### **D2.6 A Spoken Dialog System for Learners of English**

*Karl Weilhammer, Catharine Oertel, Robin Siegemund, Ricardo Sá, Anton Batliner, Florian Hönig und Elmar Nöth*

#### **Abstract**

Current E-Learning software presents texts, pictures, audio sounds and videos to the learner, but in many cases the user interface only allows writing or clicking on items. Some more elaborate systems for foreign-language learning allow the user to interact via speech,

but only provide reading or repeating pre-specified sentences.

We present a spoken-dialog system for learners of English, which is designed for conversational training. The research prototype will demonstrate a hotel-reception scenario. The system plays the role of the receptionist and the user, the hotel guest at check-in. With a system like this, learners of English can prepare themselves for real-life situations before actually travelling to Britain or the US.

Current speech dialog systems (e.g. for telephone banking or flight information) are tailored to perform a task very efficiently, using a fixed policy that guides the user along a strict path through the task. In foreign language learning this approach works well only for beginners. Our system is targeted towards more advanced learners and implements a different dialog strategy. In each system state the dialog manager randomly selects one of many plausible, but different system actions. This keeps the task variable and interesting for the learner, even when repeated several times.

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### **D2.7 CLIMB LEVEL 4 – teaching English for aviation safety**

*Maxine Eskenazi, Gary Pelton*

*Carnegie Speech Company*

#### **Abstract**

Many aviation accidents and near misses have been caused by mis-communications between pilots and air traffic controllers. As part of their efforts to remediate this situation, the international air safety organization, ICAO, has mandated that all pilots and air traffic controllers pass English fluency tests by the end of 2011. Due to the nomadic nature of their job, pilots need non-classroom English training to pass these tests. Carnegie Speech Company has released, in cooperation with Mayflower