Foreword PHONUS 3 (1997)

After the pronunciation workshop proceedings published in PHONUS 2, this third volume of PHONUS reports on research that has been on-going in 1996 and 1997. In intonation research, a contribution to the present volume looks at differences between read and spontaneous speech in Bari Italian (Grice et al.). The experience that has been built up in the application of ToBI to German has resulted in a set of training materials which have been produced as exemplification and for the use of any interested groups (Benzmüller & Grice). From the work into the German dialects of Lorraine, there is a discussion of the phonetic properties underlying the contrasting transcription symbols used for the fortis-lenis plosive categories in the north and the south of the province. The implications for transcribing a canton dialect in the transitional central area are considered (Pützer). Transcription is also considered in relation to the Logox speech synthesis system (Benzmüller), where some modifications to the standard SAMPA representation for German are suggested which are necessary for the microsegment concatenation system. In the other branch of speech technology pursued at the institute, automatic speech recognition, a study is presented which demonstrates the advantage for consonant identification of explicitly utilising the place-of-articulation information contained in vowel transitions (Koreman et al.). The paper by Rhie et al. analyses the durational properties underlying the rhythmic problems facing Korean learners of German. Finally, there are two contributions stemming from a new area of activity (voice pathology), one in which a database of normal and pathological voices is described (Pützer & Koreman) and a second in which the statistical analysis of the database materials is explored on the basis of a small selection of voices varying in their capacity for vocal fold adduction (Koreman & Pützer).

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