
Abstract

Spoken language is the most natural and common form of human-human communication, whether face to face, over the telephone, or through various communication media such as radio and television. In contrast, human-machine interaction is currently achieved largely through keyboard strokes, pointing, or other mechanical means, using highly stylized languages. Communication, whether human-human or human-machine, suffers greatly when the two communicating agents do not "speak" the same language. The ultimate goal of work on spoken language systems is to overcome this language barrier by building systems that provide the necessary interpretive function between various languages, thus establishing spoken language as a versatile and natural communication medium between humans and machines and among humans speaking different languages.