Motivation revisited: empirical and theoretical validation of the Distributed Language Learning model (project handout)
Frederik CORNILLIE & Jozef COLPAERT (jozef.colpaert@ua.ac.be) – Eurocall 2009, Gandia, 9-12 September

LINGUAPOLIS
INSTITUTE FOR LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
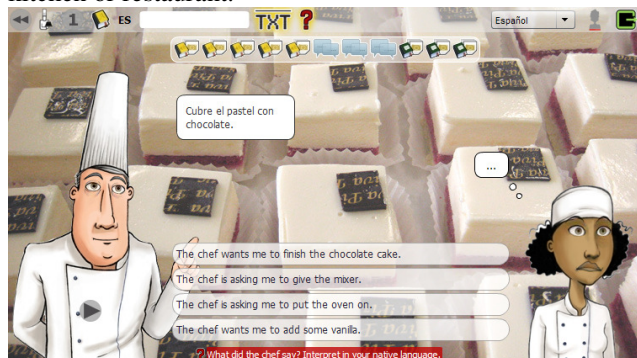
Eurocatering Language Training

Abstract
This project aimed to develop an on-line language learning tool for students and workers in the European hospitality sector, which can be used for preparation of a European work placement in a hotel or restaurant, or as a stand-alone tool for LSP. Emphasis is put on vocabulary, basic oral skills and pronunciation, rather than on the written language. Target level is A1 of the CEFR.

Results
The online courseware application (custom-designed and -built) and social platform (Moodle) are available for free from http://www.eurocatering.org. Current languages available are English, French, Spanish, Galician, Slovenian, Norwegian, and Dutch.

The courseware application ('The Cloche') consists of an interactive multimedia environment, in which the learner has to respond adequately in the target language to an authentic task set by a chef, maître d'hôtel or customer, by first going through a series of basic glossary and dialogue exercises. 68 similar tasks, together with hundreds of basic exercises, are available in 34 scenes in kitchen or restaurant.

The social part ('The Tray') contains additional material such as video for non-verbal communication and tools for collaboration and CMC (a blog, fora, picture album, ...).

We are currently investigating the usage of the application since its launch in March 2009. The results of this analysis will serve as input for a new design hypothesis and future research projects.

Partners
- Haute Ecole Roi Baudouin, Mons (BE) - promotor
- Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Galway (IE) - assistant-coordinator
- Sogn videregående skole, Oslo (NO) - assistant-coordinator
- Guidea (Knowledge Centre for Tourism and Catering in Flanders), Bruges (BE)
- Instituto de Educación Secundaria 'As Fontiñas', Santiago de Compostela (ES)
- Lycée Hôtelier, La Rochelle (FR)
- Srednja šola za gostinstvo in turizem, Celje (SI)
- Westwood Language College for Girls, Upper Norwood Croydon (UK)
- LINGUAPOLIS, University of Antwerp (BE) - pedagogical concept and software

DISCO – Development and Integration of Speech technology into COurseware for language learning

Abstract
DISCO aims to develop an ASR-based prototype of a CALL application for practicing speaking performance in Dutch as a second language (DL2). The application aims at optimizing learning through interaction in realistic communication situations and at providing intelligent feedback on important aspects of DL2 speaking, viz. pronunciation, morphology, and syntax. The application should be able to detect and give feedback on errors that are made by learners of DL2.

The speech technology modules are dedicated for non-native speech recognition and do not stand on their own, but have to be embedded in the whole system, and their suitability is related to the goals, the targeted users, and the feedback moves.

The results of this project are relevant for companies and institutions that conduct research and develop applications in educational speech and language technology, and also for publishers.

Results
The project approaches completion of the design. The design is item-based, and is situated in the genre of "interactive participatory drama" (Hubbard 2002), in which learners play an active role in a pre-programmed scenario by interacting with computerized characters or "agents", in this case through simulated conversation. Tailored feedback is given on mistakes, depending on learner choice: immediate corrective feedback, favouring self-correction, is given to learners who wish to receive frequent and overt correction; recasting is used as a corrective feedback strategy for learners who prefer to go on with the conversation even if they make mistakes. The application keeps track of learner mistakes and offers remediation exercises on discrete linguistic topics.

Partners
- Centre for Language & Speech Technology (CLST), Radboud University Nijmegen (NL) - coordinator
- Universitair Taal- en Communicatiecentrum (UTN), Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)
- Polderland Language & Speech Technology (NL)
- LINGUAPOLIS, University of Antwerp (BE)