

Abstract

This text considers a communication aid that employs computer technology to construct and to speak electronically stored texts. Typing is combined with upper case letter codes, word prediction, a menu in the left margin to quote, and phrase prediction using the first letters of words. To test the system, two subjects both used the aid to communicate over a period of 18 hours. The system was found easy to learn but learning to communicate with it required a serious effort. After continued training, access by Morse Code was tried to test if the cognitive load of users is not too big. This resulted in ten characters being voiced for every thirteen dits and dahs entered (SD 0.028). In this last experiment rate four rate enhancements selected over 10% of the spoken text. Results of these studies with non-disabled users suggest that, for reading and speechless patients with severe motor problems, a combination of rate enhancements is worth considering.

This Abstract was erroneously left out by the publisher, the report is printed as

Verrips J. Test of a communication aid with stored text.
International Journal of Rehabilitation Research 23, 139-144 (2000).

A much larger text is available from the author and details design decisions, among others, but is currently outdated.