Supporting Personal Narrative for School Children with Communication Disorders - the Development of a Prototype

Authors: Rolf Black*, Annalu Waller*, Ehud Reiter**, Ross Turner**

Abstract

Conversations amongst family members about the events of the day, during meal times for instance, are a well established occurrence for children. Research suggests that these conversations can have an effect on language development and even literacy acquisition (Peterson et al., 1999). However, children with communication disorders can find it difficult to tell stories about their day.

In a one year feasibility study we are exploring the potential of a system which provides children with a draft story of the main events of their school day. The story is based on different input sources such as location sensors, interaction sensors, the school timetable and human voice recordings and is drafted using natural language generation (NLG). A visual interface will allow the children to edit the story, embellish the events if desired and then tell the story to a communication partner.

We will discuss the different aspects of data acquisition for the story generation and report on the stage of development of a prototype of the system.

References


Affiliations:

* School of Computing, University of Dundee
** Computer Science Department, University of Aberdeen