

SPEECH-RELATED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN KOREA

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INTRODUCTION

It might be said without loss of generality that speech researches in Korea were started only about ten years ago and it made about ten to fifteen years' gap from other advanced Western countries and Japan. Hence the immediate goal Korean speech engineers are aiming at is, as easily can be imagined, to narrow the gap as soon as possible. In order to achieve this goal, it is supposed that at least four or five years have to be spent even in the case of guaranteed sufficient research funds. One of the most promising ways to shorten the period needed to reach the goal would be to acquire advanced techniques and to carry out the studies simultaneously on the acoustic-phonetic and linguistic properties of spoken Korean.

This paper describes briefly speech-related research activities in Korea and covers speech recognition, speech synthesis, machine translation, and other areas such as speech database and industrial applications. And an important speech-related project, i.e., the development of a Korean-Japanese automatic interpreting telephone system, now being carried out will be shortly described with some expected problems.