



VOICE Project and Year 2003



Canada-Europe eInclusion Symposium

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Hallo from Italy !

Ispra on the Major Lake



- ◆ 25% of EU elderly or disabled
(hearing loss increasing with age)
- ◆ 5% of EU deaf or hard of hearing

Just imagine being one of Europe's...

- ◆ 300,000 deaf (0.1% of the population)
- ◆ 3,000,000 partially deaf (1%)
- ◆ 30,000,000 hard of hearing, disadvantaged and foreigners(10%)

...and try to *read* my lips.



Deafness



DEAFNESS: a disability concerning the **SPEAKER** and his control of the communication (*visual*) channel

We may help a person with physical impairment by pushing,
We may help a person with visual impairment in crossing the road,

We, the *able*, help him in **HIS** disability!

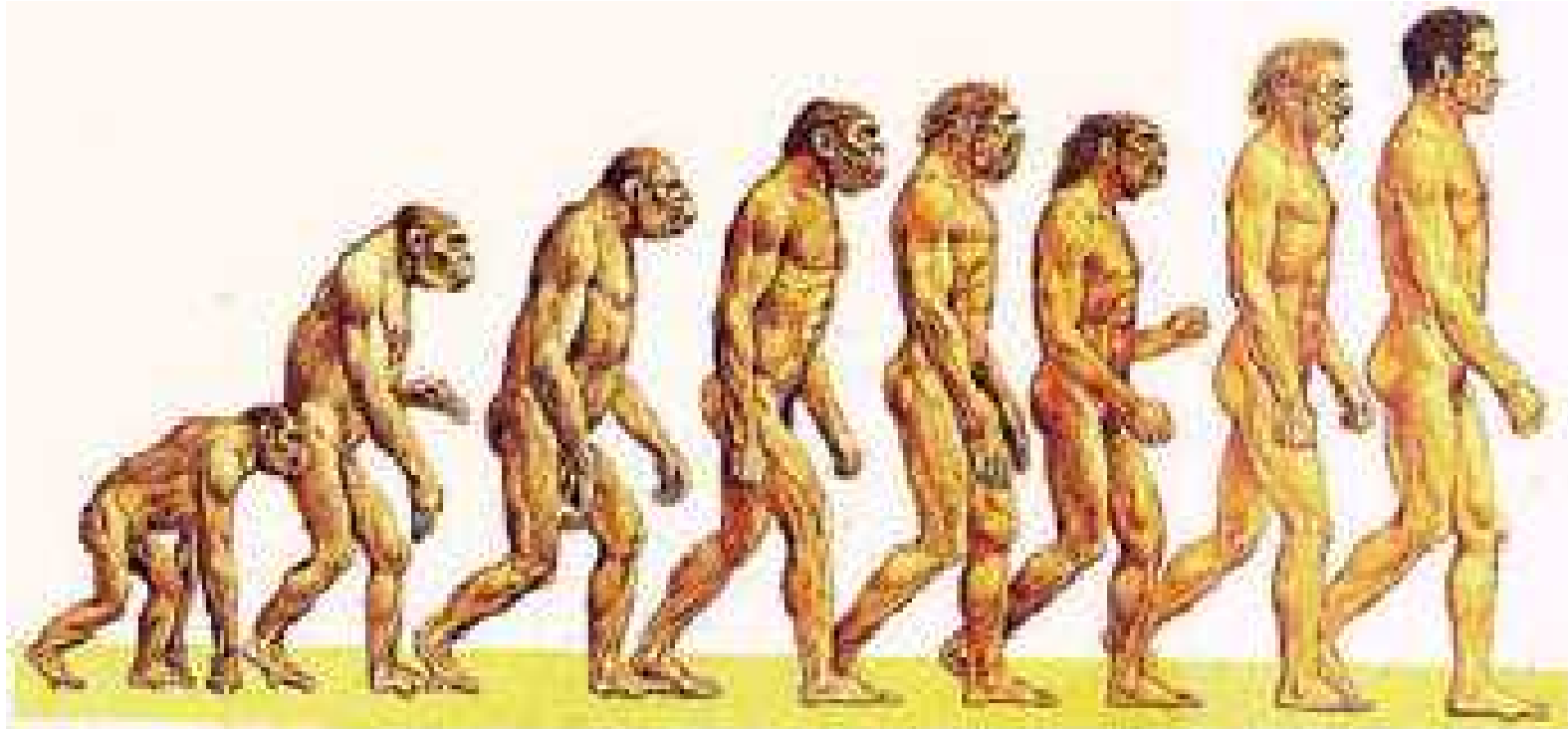
DEAFNESS implies a communication limit

We must help a person with hearing impairment in understanding our message:

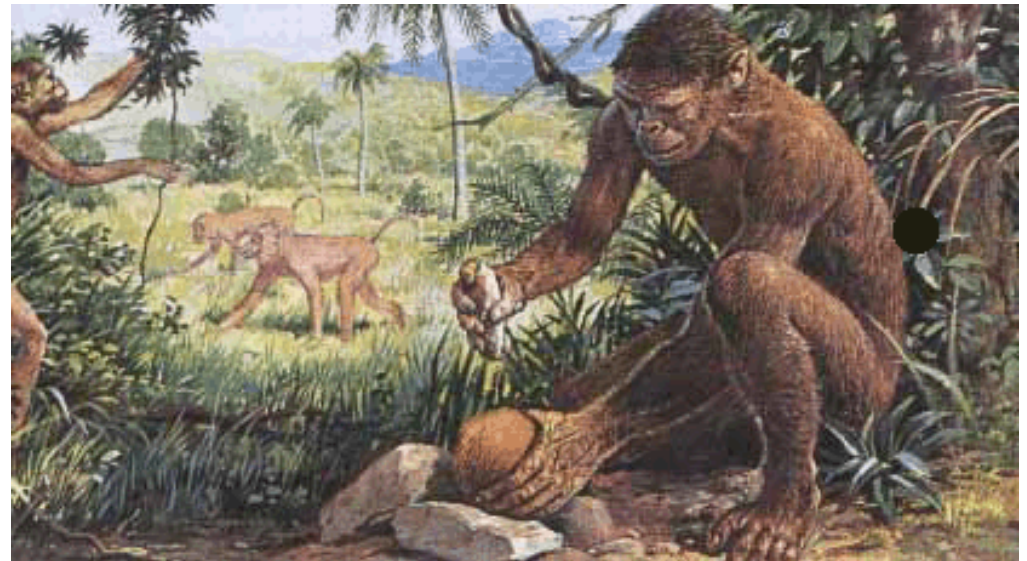
from spoken **VOICE** to visual **TEXT**

HIS communication problem becomes **OUR** disability

The origins



The first sounds



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The written language



Sounds and cadence





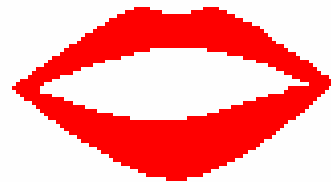


To promote the use of voice to text recognition systems for the deaf.

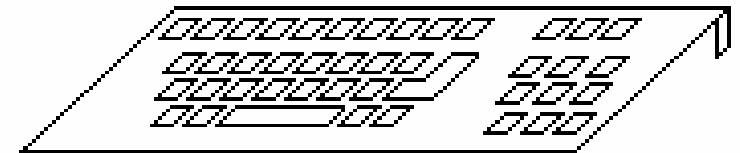
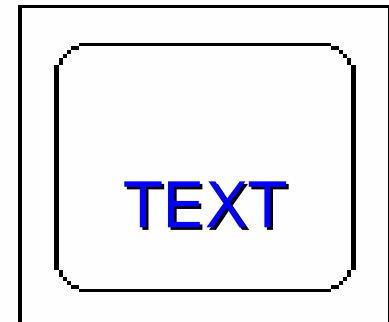
Example: words may be recognised by a PC and converted into text, enabling a deaf person to *read* off a monitor what is being *said*.

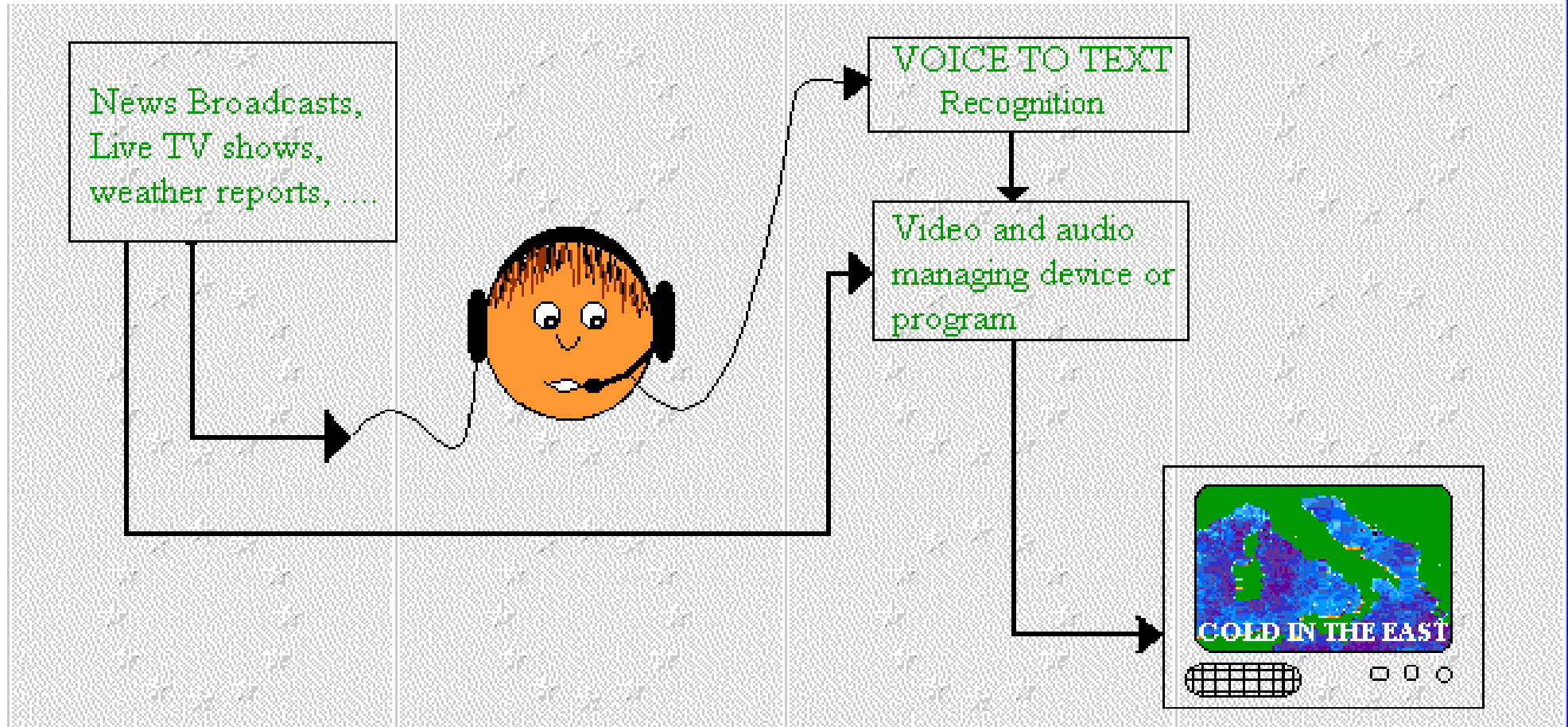
Subtitles for:

- ❖ school
- ❖ conferences
- ❖ TV transmissions
- ❖ telephone conversations

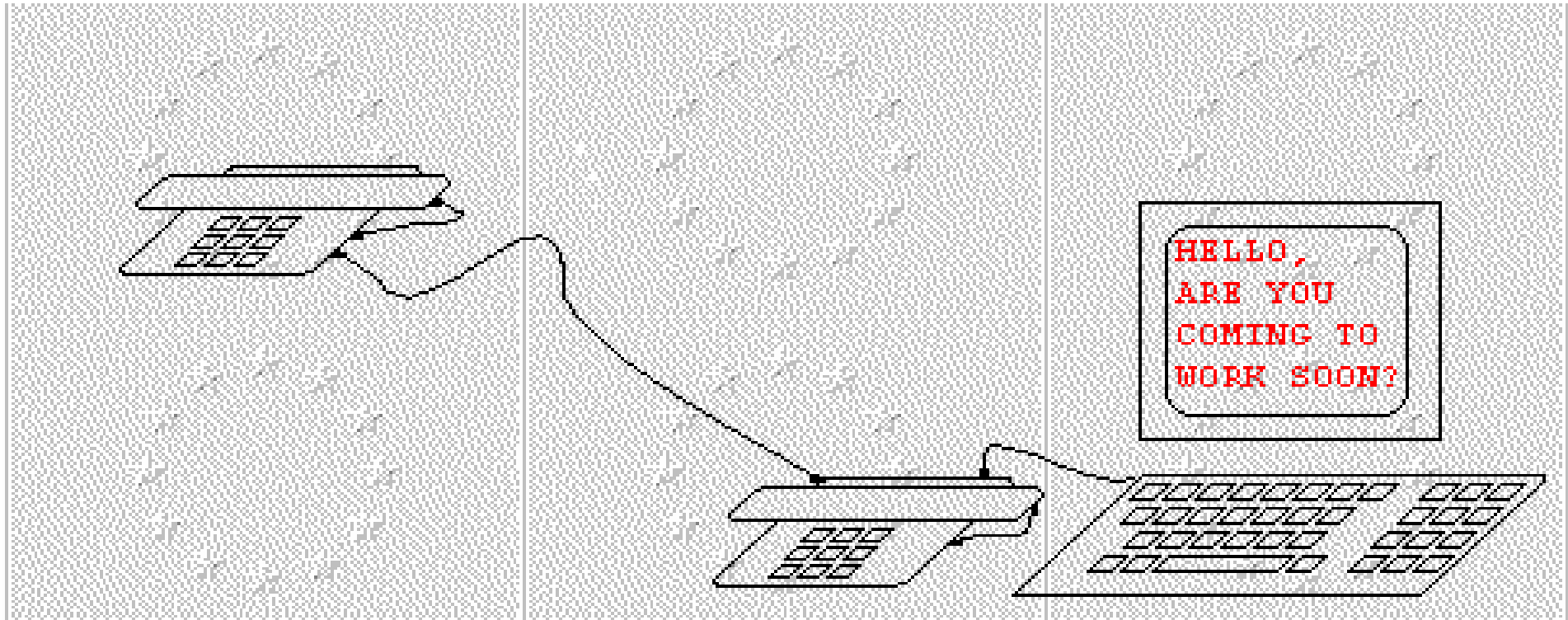


VOICE





Telephone Recognition





*VOICE Accompanying Measure:
Giving a VOICE to the deaf, by developing awareness
of VOICE to text recognition capabilities*

◆ Objectives:

- develop prototypes of voice systems for the deaf
- demonstrate the prototypes to relevant organisations
- use a VOICE Forum on the Internet as a Project tool
- organise meetings / workshops using the prototypes

◆ Partners

- JRC-ISIS, Kepler University of Linz, SoftSol-FBL, ALFA, CECEOEV, IHSB

◆ Duration: 2 years (1998-2000)

■

A slide is projected on the left screen by the speaker: the text generated by the speech recognition system is converted into subtitling lines and projected on the right wall-screen, under the speaker's image taken by a video-camera.



■

A deaf user communicates with a colleague: the text generated by the speech recognition system is converted into subtitling lines and overlaid onto the correspondent's video image.





The VOICE Project's results



Subtitled videoconference



voice@jrc.it

<http://voice.jrc.it>

- 100 workshops, 6000 participants, Web Site & Associations Forum
- Tests at schools
- Broadcasts RAI, RTBF, TV5, contacts TV Europe and Canada.
- Portable PC with glasses



Subtitled workshop



Montreal 2000



RQST
Richard Mc Nicoll

