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iSpraak for autonomous speech evaluation

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<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/47037>

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iSprak for Autonomous Speech Evaluation

NECTFL 2019

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[What is iSprak?]

- It is a web-based application developed at St. Louis University using the speech recognition tool.
- It allows instructors to create exercises that students can practice their pronunciation.

[How does it work?]

1. Instructor creates an activity from iSprak website (no account necessary). – <https://ispraak.com>

*currently works only on Chrome

*supports ASR for 26 languages:
Amharic, Arabic, Catalan, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Turkish, Vietnamese, and Zulu

submit

2. Instructor will receive two personalized links in your email, the student link to be shared with students for their practice and the instructor link to review student's result.

< Students' Interface >

students get immediate results

mispronounced words will appear as links to Forvo.com

click the mic icon and start to speak

< Teacher's Reviewing Page >

students' patterns of missed words

summary of students' scores and mispronunciations

click the email icon to send a comment or feedback to the student

iSpraak

Student Results for Activity 1547134898 | List All | Help

Model Text: はいリトルアジアです私ジョンワンと申しますアルバイト募集の広告を見たんですがそ
うですかじゃあ会って話しましょうか今日店に来られますか今日はちょっと行けないんですがあした
なら行けると思いますそうですか今日はダメですかじゃああしたの1時頃はどうですか1時ですな分
かりました

Error Frequency Analysis

Student: eokita (eokita@bu.edu) | Score: 92 | Missed Word Count: 2
Text submitted: ヨカ m/ アジアです私ジョンワンと申しますアルバイト募集の広告を見たん
ですがそうですかじゃあ会って話しましょうか今日店に来られますか今日はちょっと行けな
いんですが明日なら行けると思いますそうですか今日はダメですかじゃあ明日の1時頃はどうか
いいですねわかりました
Date: 01/18/2019

Student: okita (eos@bu.edu) | Score: 94 | Missed Word Count: 5
Text submitted: はいリトルアジアです私はと申しますアルバイト募集の広告を見たんです
がそうですかじゃあ会って話しましょうか今日店に来られますか今日はちょっと行けない
んですが明日なら行けると思いますそうですか今日はダメですかじゃあ明日の1時頃はどうか1時
ですなわかりました
Date: 01/22/2019

[How are we using it?]

- Dialogue Check (3rd & 4th semester Japanese)

In the past, students were required to memorize and/or recite the chapter dialogues in class.



- × waste of class meeting time
- × student's anxiety performing in class



iSpraak as an assignment at home

- students will get an immediate result
- students can see their patterns of mispronunciation
- unlimited attempts for better pronunciation
- stress-free and fun!

- Speaking Practice (4th semester Japanese)

Besides Dialogue Check (in-class or as iSpraak assignment depending on the instructor), students were asked to practice eight to ten sentences per chapter. Sentences were specifically made by the instructors and they consist of grammar patterns and new vocabulary in each chapter.

- Students will only receive “Passing” grade if scored more than 90% of accuracy.

[Future Use]

- 1st semester class – character learning
- more use in lower level courses before mispronunciation gets fossilized

iSpraak Tutorial Video: <https://www.ispraak.com/about.html>