

ISCA distinguished lecturer 2018-2019: Daniel Hirst

DL tour 1 2018-11-14:22

Bandung, Indonesia; Singapore

Professor Haizhou LI from Singapore National University invited me to give ISCA lectures at the IALP conference in Bandung and at Singapore National University in November 2018.

My hosts:



Professor Haizhou LI
*National University
of Singapore*

Professor Minghui DONG
*Institute for Infocomm
Research, Singapore*

Professor Siong Chng ENG
*Nanyang Technological
University, Singapore*

I left Marseille airport on November 14, 9am, and arrived in Singapore (via Munich) on November 15 at 7 am.

At Singapore airport, I met Professors Minghui Dong and Siong Chng Eng, with whom I travelled to Bandung. We arrived at 9:15 am and they accompanied me to the *Ibis Trans Studio* hotel where professor Dong was also staying.

The next morning, a car picked us up to take us to Telekom University where the IALP conference (*International Conference on Asian Language Processing*) was to take place.

<http://inacl.id/conferences/ialp2018/>

After the opening ceremony, I gave the first keynote lecture, entitled:

The automatic display, analysis and evaluation of speech prosody,

which was introduced as a special ISCA Distinguished Lecture.



Abstract

The automatic display, annotation and evaluation of speech prosody.

The automatic annotation of speech prosody is an indispensable step towards better understanding the prosodic structure of languages.

The last few decades has witnessed a search for "metrics", measurements derived automatically from the acoustic signal, which can be used for the typological classification of languages in the domain of speech prosody, in particular for rhythm and melody.

This presentation will discuss the general question of the automatic analysis of speech melody, with results from studies using melody metrics for the discrimination of languages, applied to a multilingual corpus, OMProDat, which contains comparable recordings of read speech in English, French, Mandarin Chinese, and Cantonese as well as L2 recordings of English by both French and Chinese speakers.

Some specific proposals will be made for the automatic visualisation of speech prosody which could be used to provide a visual and auditory feedback as an aid to improve the prosody of L2 speakers.



I included the slides from the DL presentation template and, before my talk, gave a brief introduction to ISCA, in which I insisted on the resources made available on the website including the ISCA archive with the complete proceedings of all Interspeech and Speech Prosody conferences as well as of numerous workshops. There was some interesting discussion after my talk with members of the audience.

On the second day of the conference, I gave a demonstration of the software I had presented in my lecture to a small group of professors from Bandung and Singapore who had expressed interest in seeing how to install and run the software.

The closing ceremony took place on Saturday November 17 at 5 pm.



On Sunday November 18, the conference organised a guided tour of Bandung including a visit to a site where traditional Sundanese music and dancing were performed:



After the performances, the audience was invited to try their hand at playing the *Anklung*, a traditional Indonesian instrument, and to take part in some traditional dances.



The tour concluded with a visit to the KAA museum in Bandung, which is the site of the famous first Asian-African conference held in Bandung in 1955.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandung_Conference



On Monday November 19, I travelled with Professors Minghui Dong and Siong Chng Eng back to Singapore, where I stayed in the *Park Avenue Rochester Hotel*.

On Tuesday November 20, I gave my second ISCA Distinguished Lecture, entitled: *Introducing Speech Prosody: its Functions and Forms*, at Singapore National University.



Abstract

An Introduction to Speech Prosody. Its Forms and functions.

Speech is not only made up of words. The way we say something is often just as important as what we say. Speech prosody is the study of the way things are said.

In this presentation I try to illustrate how we can study the forms and the functions which are described in this exciting and fast developing area of speech science.

Modern technology allows us to display and analyse the prosodic form of an utterance - the length, pitch and loudness of individual speech sounds. Today much of this can be carried out automatically or semi-automatically using software which is freely available and can be run on lap-top computers.

A more systematic study of the prosody of different languages will lead to a better knowledge of the ways in which these languages make use of prosodic forms.

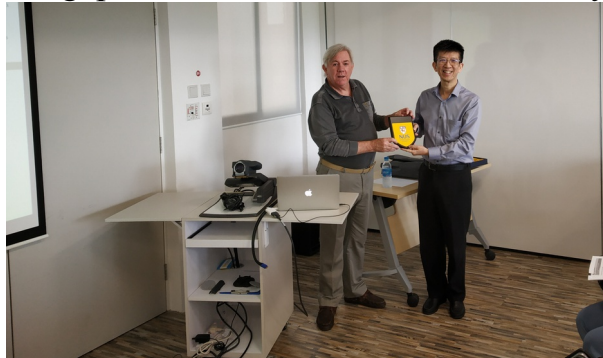
This, in turn, will no doubt bring us closer to understanding the still quite elusive ways in which these prosodic forms function in different languages and how they contribute to our understanding of an utterance.

For this lecture I added a slide to the ISCA DL Presentation Template, giving the link to the ISCA website and the archives, which were of particular interest to the public.



The lecture was well received and provoked several questions from the students who were mainly from an engineering background and who, for the majority, had not had much experience in the area of speech analysis.

At the close of my lecture, Professor Haizhou LI presented me with a plaque from the National University of Singapore, as a valuable souvenir of my visit.



After a pleasant day of sightseeing in Singapore on Wednesday November 21, I travelled back to France via Frankfurt.

The cost of my travel to Bandung and Singapore was covered by ISCA and the local cost of accomodation was covered by the local hosts.

I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking my hosts for all their considerable help during my stay in Bandung and Singapore and to thank ISCA for giving me this unique opportunity of travelling to Indonesia and Singapore.