

Providing live transcripts of lessons and instant feedback to teachers

Australia – Access Innovation Media and the University of Melbourne: The Visible Classroom

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The Visible Classroom offers the possibility support students with disabilities – especially those who are deaf or hard of hearing – by providing them with live transcriptions and captions during lessons. It also equips teachers with real-time feedback and allows them to continuously improve their methods of teaching. The model can be implemented in various educational contexts.

“By digitizing classroom content, we are able to give students access to a live transcript of the lesson, which is powerful for disadvantaged students who often struggle with the rapid speed of instruction and extensive teacher talk time. Further, by presenting these simple metrics back to the teacher, we deliver instant feedback about their teaching practice.”

— Mr. Tony Abrahams, CEO, Ai-Media

FACTS & FIGURES

- The potential scope of the project is global, given that there are approximately 27 million teachers worldwide.
- Thousands of hours of submitted material have been transcribed so far, and another 5,000 hours will be transcribed in the rest of 2015 and 2016.
- About 1 child in 68 has been identified with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, and is thus in need of a tool to be fully included in an educational settings.

PROBLEMS TARGETED

There is a need to enhance the quality of teaching and to improve the learning processes of students from lower resourced and disadvantaged backgrounds as well as those who face barriers due to linguistic or

cultural competencies, such people who suffer from impaired hearing or are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder. These students often find it hard to get access to conventional educational settings.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

The project team has developed a solution that, on the one hand, offers the possibility of providing real-time transcriptions and captioning to facilitate the professional development of students with disabilities; and on the other hand, to provide feedback for teachers to improve their classroom techniques. Staff of Access Innovation Media transcribe and add timecodes to each word through the usage of web-enabled devices and a telephone line, thus providing the contents of a lesson to users within about five seconds. After the lessons have been transcribed, the staff members have a lot of data by which to understand important metrics of the teaching process, such as how many words a teacher said and over how long a period. This data can then be used to address two common mistakes in teaching: excessive lecturing and overly fast delivery. Further, teachers can submit an audio file to Access Innovation Media and receive a transcript (available in PDF or .doc/x) and an analysis without the need of a live connection. After the team has received five hours or more from one classroom, they pass it to experts from the University of Melbourne, who also analyses it and provide a personalized report containing a summary of their observations and recommended teaching strategies.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

The team is currently working on an offline option, to be available at the beginning of 2016, that offers the possibility to record lessons and upload them for transcription and timecoding. Also, a Visible Classroom application will be soon be released that allows teachers to record their lessons, upload the content, and receive a transcript, analytics, and feedback – all from one app. The goal is to implement The Visible Classroom on a global scale through awareness-rising of the product, with the support of global research projects at the University of Melbourne.



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tags: primary and secondary education, ICT, deaf and hearing impaired