"Preserving Self with Message Banking When Losing the Ability to Speak"

Thursday, November 10, 2016 @ 7:00 PM EST

John M. Costello, MA CCC-SLP
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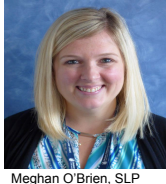
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Augmentative Communication Program

Amanda O'Brien, CFY   Alycia Berg, SLP   Jenny Abramson, SLP   Rachel Santiago, SLP   Jennifer Buxton, OTR, ATP

Katie O'Neill, SLP   Elizabeth Rose, SLP   Susanne Russell, OTR   John Costello, SLP   Rebecca McCarthy, SLP

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what i think   what i say

Mohamed Ghonemi

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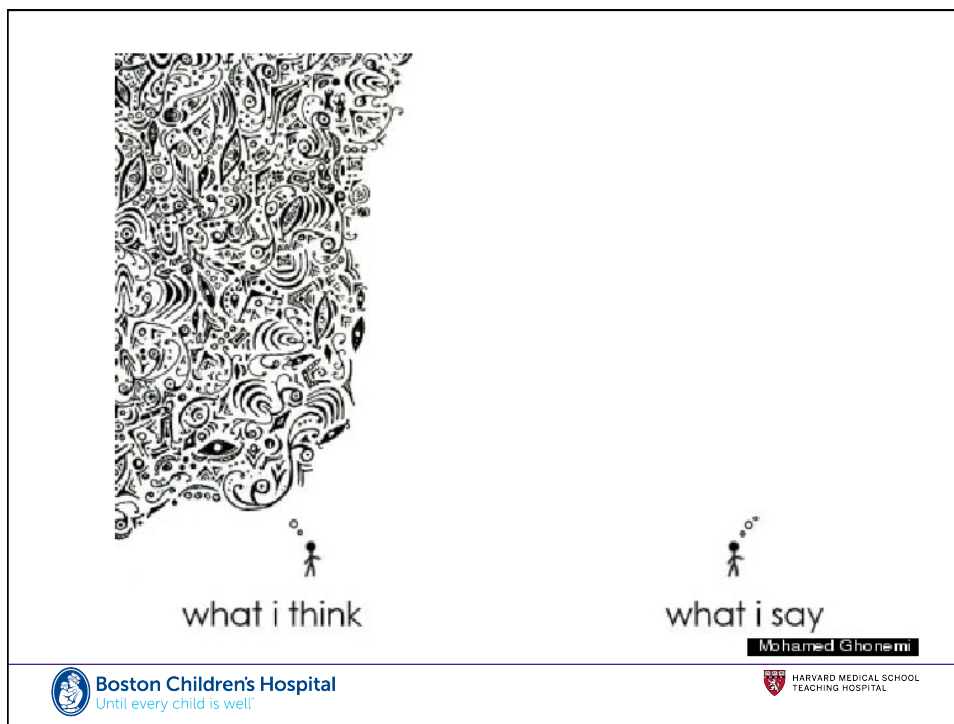
1994: CHB founded a model of AAC service delivery in the ICU including preoperative 'voice banking' –

At that time - We also Introduced the term
MESSAGE Banking.
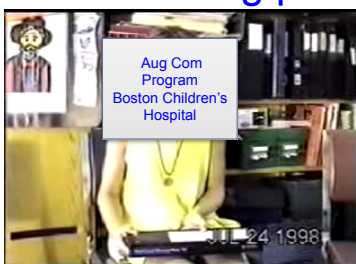
Aug Com Program
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JUL.24 1998

ALS
Augmentative Communication Program Boston Children's Hospital

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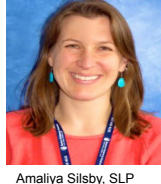# Sometimes I was tempted to 'reject' but I learned a valuable lesson from an 11 year old!

"Our voice is our ACOUSTICAL fingerprint"

Message Banking with your own voice *digitally record and store words, phrases, sentences, personally meaningful sounds and/or stories using your natural voice, inflection and intonation.*

These messages are catalogued as .wav files and may then be linked to messages in a variety of augmentative communication technologies or sound storage files. This will allow you to 'retrieve' a message and speak it in your own voice but does not allow you to create novel messages by spelling.   If you have recorded individual words, you may combine those words to create unique messages, although the output will sound more staccato than your natural speaking.

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Voice Banking *is a process of recording a large inventory of your speech that is then used to create a synthetic voice that approximates your natural voice.*

Done successfully, this would allow one to spell and create unique messages and then speak them through a synthesizer that approximates one's natural speech. The science behind this process continues to be in development with beta-versions of available software. The ModelTalker is one such project from the University of Delaware Speech Research Lab. The website is:
www.asel.udel.edu/speech/ModelTalker.html

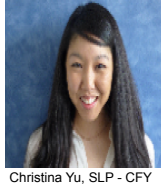**Boston Children's Hospital**
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0:00 / 4:47
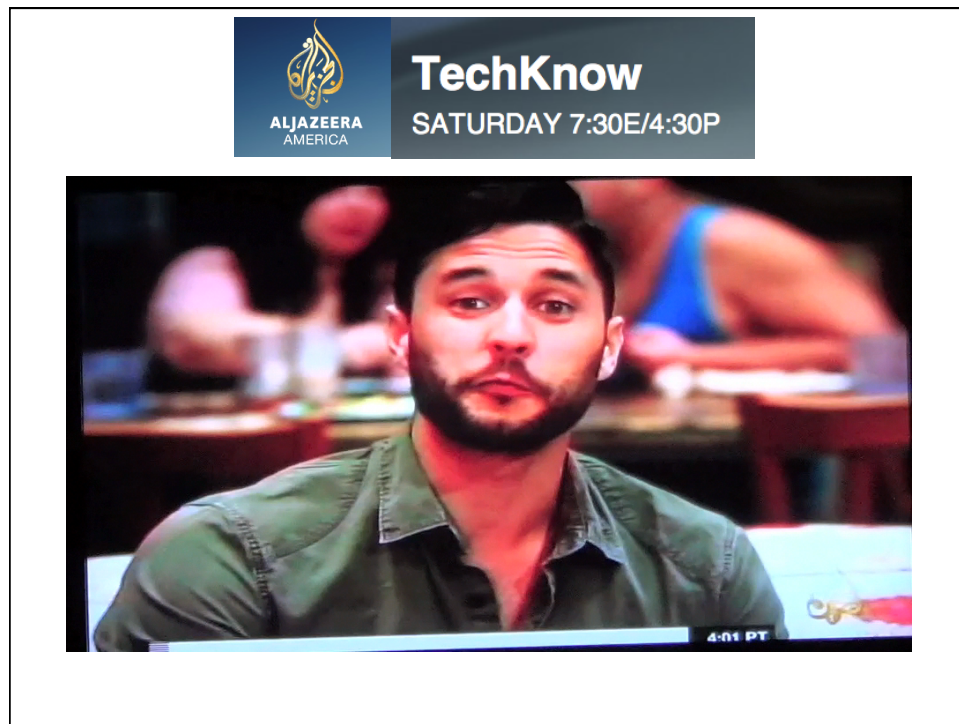
Message Banking

- Introduce concept/definitions and idea of *'technology agnostic'*
- Practice recording with a hand held recorder to support high quality recordings 'in the moment'.
- Share clinical stories and outcomes and provide concrete examples
- Provide full handout with definitions and
  thousands of examples from people with ALS
- Download, playback, label and store audio files, providing guidance for improving quality if needed.
- Review potential technologies that could accommodate message banking across varied platforms.
- Provide person with ALS with their own recorder to take home and use to functionally record.

Message Banking .wav technology given to people with ALS

- set at 16/44 baud rate
- Must use wind guard
- Hold close to mouth for best quality
- Practice timing of push - speak – push

Message Banking with your own voice *digitally*

record and store words, phrases, sentences, personally meaningful sounds and/or stories using your natural voice, inflection and intonation.

These messages are catalogued as .wav files and may then be linked to messages in a variety of augmentative communication technologies or sound storage files. This will allow you to 'retrieve' a message and speak it in your own voice but does not allow you to create novel messages by spelling. If you have recorded individual words, you may combine those words to create unique messages, although the output will sound more staccato than your natural speaking.

TERMINOLOGY:

Legacy Messages are those messages, often delivered with unique intonation and prosody that are unique or particular to you. It may be a 'trademark' message you say or it may be a trademark *delivery* of a message that many people say. A legacy message does not need to be meaningful to the general population instead it may have unique and personal meaning to only you and a loved one. Further, a legacy message does not need to be real words to be meaningful. It may be the way you clear your throat in a sarcastic manner to communicate "*I told you so*" or it might be the invented pet name you have for a loved one delivered with your unique voice, intonation and prosody. Similarly, legacy message may be that stereotypical thing you say after your favorite sports team scores or it may be a unique greeting you deliver to friends. Those close to you may be helpful with identifying these *Legacy Messages* because sometimes they are so naturally part of socially relating with others, you may not even be aware you are 'known' for them.

Currently: 64 page
Message bank handout

64 page handout will be on new ALS website but can be found now as the first comment under the announcement of this webinar (dated 11.9.17)
on our clinic facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ACPCHBoston/

September 2013

ALS Augmentative Communication Program
Boston Children's Hospital
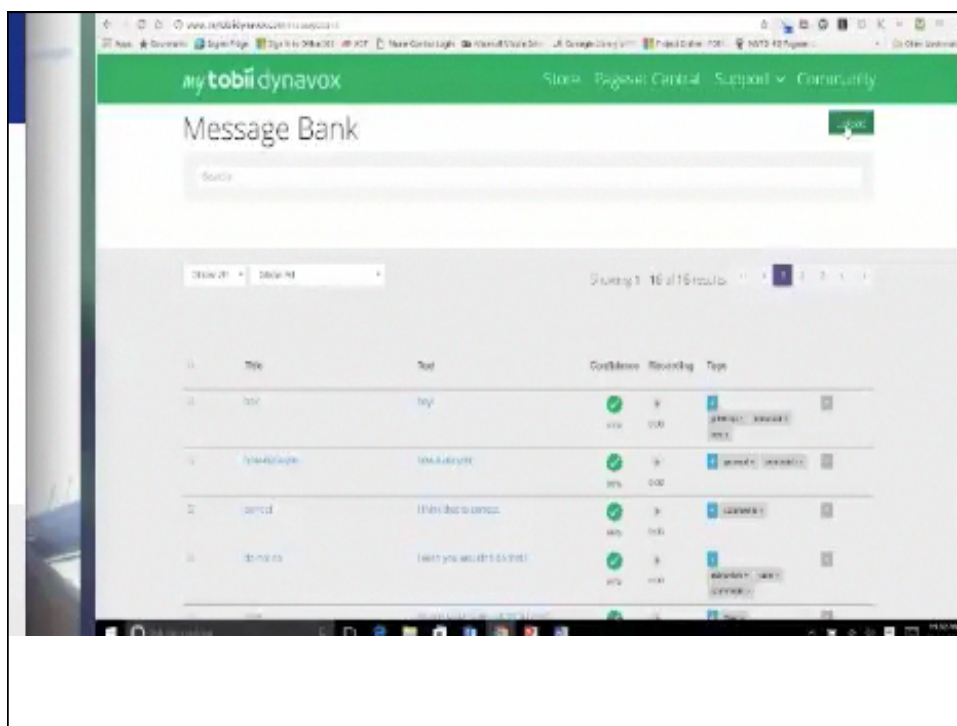
Voice Banking

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ModelTalker
http://www.modeltalker.com

The ModelTalker System was developed by the Nemours Speech Research Laboratory located at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children with funding from the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research, the National Institutes of Health, and Nemours Biomedical Research.

http://www.modeltalker.com/comparison.html

https://www.modeltalker.org/build-your-voice/

Model Talker
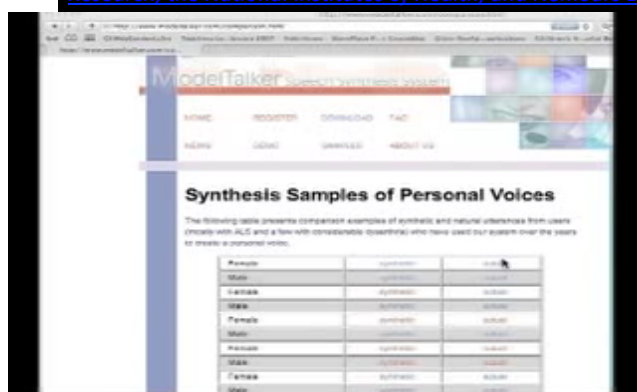
Build Your Voice

We're here to help you create a personal synthetic voice that you can use in your communication device or app. Here's what you will need to do:

1. Register with us to create a secure account.
2. Choose the recording method you want to use: MTVR (Windows only) or our web-based recording tool.
   - If using MTVR, install it, go through the tutorial, and get set up to record.
   - If using the web recorder, follow our interactive online training.
3. Record 10 screening sentences, upload them to our server, and wait for an email from us.
   - If everything is fine, we will provide instructions for moving on to step 4.
   - If we see any problems, we can suggest ways to fix them and may ask you to repeat step 3.
4. Record the full inventory of 1600 sentences and upload them to our server.
5. Request your voice in a downloadable form for your computer, mobile device, or speech generating device.

If you are ready to have us walk you through the steps, let's [**Get Started**]

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acapela group

Let's Talk :-)

Home Login Record Listen

Home

Acapela group is proud to offer you a unique chance to create your own text-to-speech voice. Usually to your text in a small handful of "standard" voices. This website will offer you a computer voice that yourself, flavoured with all the personal mood and voice colour that you put into it.

Acapela's **MyOwnVoice.com** is for you if you are:

- a professional voice talent curious to explore the endless possibilities of text-to-speech
- an amateur voice talent willing to show the world how nice your text-to-speech voice sounds
- a curious user wanting to play with the mesmerizing features of building synthetic voices
- an individual in need to preserve your voice for later

This website will guide you through the whole process of creating and reproducing the sound of your voice from A to Z. All you need to do is get a good quality microphone and record the text materials offered through MyOwnVoice online interface. The recordings will be automatically analyzed on this server using our state-of-the art unit selection algorithms. You will get access to your own personalized and secure text-to-speech demo, while you enjoy your dinner. By the time you finish the recordings, you will have completed a perfect speech workout having pronounced most possible sound combinations in your language.

We hope you enjoy this vocal exercise, and the resulting text-to-speech version of yourself.

For more information about the company's, please visit Acapela's website.

Thank you for your interest!

Note: This site is still under construction. The interface has been beta-tested and is in full operation, but please bare with us for any remaining typo's and interface inconsistencies.
Please, consult the list of "Frequently asked questions" and the User documentation for instructions and tips.
For general questions, contact the Project Administrator.
To report an interface issue, contact the Site Administrator.

AssistiveWare Video July 2012

AssistiveWare Video July 2012

Custom voice created by Scottish company 'Cereproc'
http://www.cereproc.com/en/home

Language	Completion Percentage	Create my voice!
English (US)	100.0%	Done
English (UK)	0.0%	Not enough recorded sentences
French (Canada)	0.0%	Not enough recorded sentences
North American Spanish	0.0%	Not enough recorded sentences
English (Australia)	0.0%	Not enough recorded sentences

Language: English (US)

Text to pronounce:

Speed: ___ %
Shaping: ___ %

Go!

acapela group

Dr. Rupal Patel, VOCALiD

http://www.vocalid.co/how

◆ Model Talker
◆ Cereproc (Edinburgh Scotland)
◆ OKI Electronic Industry Co Japan
◆ Edinburgh Voice Banking and Reconstruction project
◆ Acapela project
◆ VOCALiD

Communication is the thread that connects us all

Costello, j.m. 1999

From: Nora
Date: Monday, August 8, 2016 at 11:56 AM
To: John Costello <john.costello@childrens.harvard.edu>

Subject: update

It is no exaggeration to say that having MY VOICE in my Tobii board makes me want to live!

I sang Happy Birthday to my one year old grandchildren on Saturday. I cracked some hysterical jokes.

I made my husband weep for joy on our anniversary.

It works well enough outside at church. Here I mostly say I love you over and over.

Keep up the good work,

Nora

For lots of related resources, Join us on facebook at:

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