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Madrid. Lycos Search offers a text-to-speech synthesizer, as do SoftVoice, Inc., Eloquent Technology, Inc., and many other companies.

Lernout & Hauspie, which developed the technology of the IRISpen Executive™, described hereinabove, offers a multi-lingual, text-to-speech system in British English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian and Spanish.

HMM-Based Trainable Speech Synthesis has developed a speech synthesis which uses a set of decision-tree state-clustered Hidden Markov Models. The system automatically selects and segments a set of HMM-state sized sub-word units from a continuous-speech database of a single speaker for one hour for use in a concatenation synthesizer, to produce highly intelligible, fluent speech. It can be retrained on a new voice in less than 48 hours.

Automatic translation, additional to the technology of the IRISpen Translator, are known. For example, Language Teacher of Ectaco, 1205 E. Pike, Seattle, Wash. 98122, is a pocket, electronic dictionary and translator with 2 million words and phrases, which generally operates as a stand-alone unit. Some models may be connected to user's computers and interact with Windows 95 or 98. It is available for translation between English and any of the following languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese, and Yiddish.

The Language Teacher includes words as well as phrases, idioms, irregular verbs, and linguistic games and grammar. It further includes a built-in, voice synthesizer which produces an audio output in multiple languages. Additionally, the Language Teacher includes an organizer. A digital voice recorder stores up to 15 minutes of human speech. Its model Partner is designed to translate texts, and send and receive e-mail and faxes.

There is a wide selection of automatic translation software, for example, Deluxe Universal Translator, of LanguageForce, Easy Translator 3, of Transparent Language, L&H Power Translator Pro, of L&H Speech Products, and Translation Manager 2.0, of IBM.

Software for correcting the user's pronunciation is known. For example, "Talk to Me™, by Globalink, Inc., Fairfax, Va., is software, arranged for a PC computer. The user may use the software to listen to a dialogue and to try to reproduce it. The software records the user's voice and compares its signals with those which would be produced by a native speaker, displaying to the user the differences in signal forms.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to automatically presenting at least one definition in context, for a dictionary entry, based on a contextual analysis of the grammatical unit, such as the sentence, the clause, or the phrase, in which the dictionary entry is embedded. The dictionary entry may be single word, for example, "consideration," or a word combination, such as "due to," provided the word combination appears in an ordinary dictionary as a single entry. A definition in context will generally include a definition in accordance with the function of the word in the grammatical unit, and may further include a preferred definition from among several options for the same function, based on contextual clues within the grammatical unit. Similarly, a translation in context may be presented. The present invention further relates to a method of preparing automatic-translation viable

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documents, in a first language, adapted for accurate automatic translation, to a plurality of languages. Additionally, interactive automatic translation software is taught, for use in tandem with a human translator. These may be performed by a supercomputer, a personal computer, a laptop, a palmtop, a stand-alone hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, or over the web.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of presenting at least one definition for a dictionary entry, which includes:

- providing a dictionary entry, which has been encountered when embedded within a grammatical unit;
- providing the grammatical unit;
- performing a contextual analysis of the dictionary entry when embedded within the grammatical unit; and
- presenting the at least one definition for the dictionary entry, based on the contextual analysis.

Additionally, the grammatical unit is selected from the group consisting of a simple sentence, a compound sentence, a clause, a phrase, and a combination thereof.

Furthermore, the presenting the at least one definition includes presenting at least one definition in accordance with the function of the dictionary entry, when embedded within the grammatical unit.

Additionally, the presenting the at least one definition includes generating at least one definition, when the function of the dictionary entry when embedded within the grammatical unit is not listed in an ordinary dictionary.

Alternatively, the presenting the at least one definition includes narrowing down definition choices based on contextual clues.

Additionally, the presenting the at least one definition includes narrowing down definition choices based on a comparison with an exposure basis.

Additionally, the presenting the at least one definition includes presenting several definitions for the dictionary entry, and ranking the several definitions, in accordance with their likelihood when embedded within the grammatical unit, based on the contextual analysis.

Additionally, the method includes presenting additional definitions, not based on the contextual analysis, for general background knowledge, and denoting the additional definitions as not based on the contextual analysis.

Additionally or alternatively, the method includes presenting at least one translation to a second language, for the dictionary entry, based on the contextual analysis of the grammatical unit.

Additionally, the method is performed by a device selected from the group consisting of a supercomputer, a personal computer, a laptop, a palmtop, a stand-alone, hand-held computerized scanning apparatus, a hand-held scanning apparatus operative with a computerized device, and a microphone operative with a computerized device.

Additionally or alternatively, the method is performed by interacting with a web site.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, which includes:

- a body, having a proximal end with respect to a portion of text, in a first language;
- a scanner, located within the body, substantially at the proximal end, adapted for scanning the portion of text, in the first language, wherein the portion of text is selected from the group consisting of at least one phrase, at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof;

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a computerized system, located within the body, in communication with the scanner, adapted for performing:

OCR conversion of the scanned portion of text; and contextual analysis of phrases, clauses and sentences, in the first language; and

a user-interactive feature, in communication with the computerized system, adapted for marking a dictionary entry embedded within a grammatical unit, the grammatical unit being selected from the group consisting of a phrase, a clause and a sentence, in the portion of text.

Additionally, the apparatus includes at least one output system, in communication with the computerized system, for presenting at least one definition for the dictionary entry, based on a contextual analysis of the grammatical unit.

In accordance with still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, which includes:

a body, having a proximal end with respect to a portion of text, in a first language;

a scanner, located within the body, substantially at the proximal end, adapted for scanning the portion of text, in the first language, wherein the portion of text is selected from the group consisting of at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof; and

a computerized system, located within the body, in communication with the scanner, adapted for performing:

OCR conversion of the scanned portion of text; and automatic translation of a grammatical unit, selected from the group consisting of at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof, to a second language.

Additionally, the apparatus includes at least one output system, in communication with the computerized system, for providing the automatic translation.

Additionally, the automatic translation of the grammatical unit includes at least two versions of automatic translation of the grammatical unit, for a user to choose from.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of preparing an automatic-translation viable document, which includes:

providing a document in a first language, in a soft format;

pointing out, by a computerized device, ambiguities in the document in the first language, for an automatic translation software; and

removing the ambiguities.

Additionally, the pointing out includes pointing out by attempting an automatic translation of the document in a first language, and encountering the ambiguities.

Additionally, the removing includes adding hidden clues which are not seen by a reader.

Alternatively, the removing includes rephrasing.

In accordance with still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of translating a document, which includes:

providing a document in a first language, in a soft format; attempting an automatic translation of the document, using an automatic translation software;

allowing the automatic translation software to point out ambiguities in the document in the first language; and

removing each of the ambiguities, from the document in the first language; and

translating the document, to form a translated document in the second language.

Additionally, the attempting is performed in a stepwise manner, per grammatical unit.

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Additionally, the translating the document includes suggesting at least one translation, for each grammatical unit, for a human translator to approve.

Additionally, the translating the document includes suggesting at least two versions of translation, per grammatical unit, for a human translator to choose from.

Additionally, the method includes:

comparing the translated document in the second language against an exposure basis of the second language; and rephrasing the translated document in the second language, based on the comparing.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of translating documents, which includes:

providing a document in a first language;

translating the document, to produce a translated document in a second language;

comparing the translated document in the second language against an exposure basis of the second language; and rephrasing the translated document in the second language, based on the comparing.

Additionally, the translating the document includes automatically translating the document.

Additionally, the providing the document in the first language includes providing an automatic-translation viable document in the first language.

In accordance with still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a stand-alone, hand-held computerized scanning apparatus, which includes:

a body, having a proximal end with respect to a portion of music notes;

a scanner, located within the body, substantially at the proximal end, adapted for scanning the portion of music notes; and

a computerized system, located within the body, in communication with the scanner, adapted for converting the portion of music notes to music.

Additionally, the apparatus includes at least one sound output system, in communication with the computerized system, for providing an output of the music.

Additionally or alternatively, the apparatus is adapted for connecting to a sound system.

Additionally, the apparatus is adapted for producing the music in a sound of a desired instrument.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be more clearly understood from the accompanying detailed description and drawings, in which same number designations are generally maintained throughout the figures for similar elements and in which:

FIGS. 1A-1J schematically illustrate computerized devices for language acquisition, in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 2A and 2B schematically illustrate internal and external elements, respectively, of a stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a flowchart of a first reading protocol, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a flowchart of a second reading protocol, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a flowchart of a third reading protocol, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 6A is a flowchart of a fourth reading protocol, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 6B is a flowchart of a fifth reading protocol, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a flowchart of a sixth reading protocol, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a flowchart of a protocol for music synthesis, in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 9A-9C schematically illustrate different arrangements for scanner systems, in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 10A and 10B schematically illustrate a stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 schematically illustrates a stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, in accordance with still another embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 12A-12B are presented as tables, and illustrating the manner of breaking down a grammatical unit into functions, for contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 12C-12D are presented as tables, and illustrating the manner of constructing general templates of grammatical units, for contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 13A-13E are presented as tables, representing a partial listing of functions and attributes, which may be of help, when performing contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 14 schematically represents a segment of a language exposure basis, in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 15A-15C schematically illustrate the manner of breaking down grammatical units of the exposure basis to functional templates, specific to a language, and comparing the functional templates of different languages, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 16 schematically illustrates, in a flowchart form, a method of performing contextual analysis, using a functional template, in accordance with the present invention;

FIGS. 17A and 17B schematically illustrate, in flowchart forms, a method of performing automatic translation, utilizing functional templates, in accordance with the present invention; and

FIGS. 18A-18D schematically illustrate, in flowchart forms, interactive methods of translation, in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention relates to automatically presenting at least one definition in context, for a dictionary entry, based on a contextual analysis of the grammatical unit, such as the sentence, the clause, or the phrase, in which the dictionary entry is embedded. The dictionary entry may be single word, for example, "consideration," or a word combination, such as "due to," provided the word combination appears in an ordinary dictionary as a single entry. A definition in context will generally include a definition in accordance with the function of the word in the grammatical unit, and may further include a preferred definition from among several options for the same function, based on contextual clues within the grammatical unit. Similarly, a translation in context may be presented. The present invention further relates to a method of preparing automatic-translation viable documents, in a first language, adapted for accurate automatic translation, to a plurality of languages. Additionally, interactive automatic translation software is taught, for use in tandem with a human translator. These may be performed

by a supercomputer, a personal computer, a laptop, a palm-top, a stand-alone hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, or over the web.

The contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention, relates at least to an analysis of the basic functional components in a given grammatical unit. For example, a contextual analysis of, "The girl dances beautifully," relates at least to the following analysis: The—article; girl—noun; dances—verb; beautifully—adverb. Similarly, a contextual analysis of, "By the river, they built a fire," relates at least to the following analysis: By the river—adverbial phrase; they—noun; built—verb; a—article; fire—noun.

Thus, providing a definition based on the contextual analysis relates at least to providing a definition, in accordance with the function of the dictionary entry, in context.

Additionally, the contextual analysis may relate to further narrowing down the definition choices for a given function, by eliminating those choices that are probably inappropriate in a particular context.

On the other hand, the contextual analysis may relate to generating definitions for a dictionary entry, in accordance with the function, in context, when those are not available in an ordinary dictionary.

In general, contextual clues for these analyses are present within the grammatical units, since otherwise it would be impossible for humans to understand each other. The task, in requiring that they are performed automatically, is to define these clues, in a manner that can be translated to a computer language.

The contextual analysis in accordance with the present invention may be similar for example to a grammatical analysis performed by Word, when checking "Spelling and Grammar." Additionally or alternatively, it may be similar to the contextual analysis performed by automatic translation software, as known. Additionally or alternatively, other contextual analyses may be performed.

Reference is now made to FIGS. 1A-1J, which schematically illustrate a manner of presenting at least one definition in context, by computerized devices, in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 1A schematically illustrates an in-context dictionary 190, operating on a computer screen 272, and adapted to provide a definition by function for a dictionary entry, when embedded within a grammatical unit, in accordance with the present invention.

A dictionary entry 280, "result" may be entered in an entry box 273. An immediate grammatical unit 277 associated with it, "High health care costs result in poor health care availability," is entered in a grammatical unit entry box 279. A definition in context 286 may then be presented in a definition box 275, as follows: "result—intransitive verb, present simple: come about as a consequence," for example, based on the American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition, 2000, <http://www.bartleby.com/61/>.

Definition in context 286 was arrived at after performing a contextual analysis of immediate grammatical unit 277 and determining at least the following: High health care costs—noun phrase; result—verb; in—preposition; poor health care availability—noun phrase.

Some clues that in-context dictionary 190 may use, in order to arrive at the function for result are as follows:

i. as a starting point, Merriam-Webster OnLine Dictionary (<http://www.m-w.com>) offers two entries for "result," as an intransitive verb and as a noun, so these two choices must be considered;

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ii. if “result” were a noun, and since it is in the singular form, an article, such as “a” or “the,” or an adjective, for example, “your,” or “no” would precede it; and

iii. as a noun, “result” is generally associated with the preposition “of,” (“The results of our study were . . .”) while as a verb, result is generally associated with the preposition “in,” (“Our study resulted in the following:”), or with the preposition “from” (His success resulted from his hard work”).

It follows that in the present context, “result” functions as an intransitive verb.

Once it is determined that “result” is a verb, the other functional parts of grammatical unit 277 fall in place.

It will be appreciated that when grammatical unit 277 is a sentence, the contextual analysis preferably begins by identifying the predicate. Generally, the noun that precedes it is the subject, and the other parts of the sentence can then be identified. Other grammatical units have specific structures, and may similarly be analyzed in accordance with their structure, for example, as taught in conjunction with FIGS. 12A-12D, hereinbelow.

It will be appreciated that other contextual clues may similarly be used.

FIG. 1B schematically illustrates in-context dictionary 190 adapted to further narrow down definition choices, after the function has been determined, base on contextual clues in the immediate grammatical unit.

Dictionary entry 280, “order” may be entered in entry box 273. Immediate grammatical unit 277 associated with it, “We ordered the rug from a mail-order establishment,” is entered in a grammatical unit entry box 279. A definition in context 286 may then be presented in definition box 275, as follows: “order—transitive verb, past simple: requested to be supplied with,” for example, based on the American Heritage® Dictionary.

Some clues that in-context dictionary 190 may use, in order to narrow down the definition choices for “to order” as a transitive verb, may be the following:

i. when one orders humans, as in “The sergeant ordered the soldiers to clean the barracks,” then “to order” probably means to command, since in general, one does not order people, in the sense of requesting that the people be delivered;

ii. when one orders objects, as in “We would like to order some tea,” then, “to order” probably means to request that the objects be delivered, since in general, one does not order objects, in the sense of commanding the objects to perform a specific task;

iii. when “order” is followed by an action, it is a directive, as in “The judge ordered a recount of the ballot”;

iv. when “order” is followed by an adverb or an adverbial phrase which pertains to a specific arrangement, as in “Please order these files, alphabetically,” then, “to order” means to put in order, to organize;

v. when “order” is followed by the preposition “to,” it generally means to command, as in “The sergeant ordered the soldiers to clean the barracks”;

vi. when “order” is followed by the preposition “off,” it generally means to remove oneself, as in “The landlord ordered them off the property”;

vii. when “order” is followed by the preposition “from” it generally means to request that certain objects be delivered, as in “We ordered these from a mail order catalog”; and

viii. when “order” is followed by the preposition “according to,” it generally means to organize, put in order.

In the present example, both the fact that a rug in an object and the fact that “ordered” is followed by the preposition

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“from” may be used as contextual clues. Thus, the preferred definition choice, in context, for “ordered” was as shown in FIG. 1B.

As another example, adjective association may also be used for contextual clues, to narrow down definition choices. For example:

i. in “old order” and “social order,” the word “order” means “a sociopolitical system”; and

ii. in “working order” and “functioning order” the word “order” means a state or a condition.

As still another example, general word association in the grammatical unit may be used for contextual clues, to narrow down definition choices. For example, in the sentence:

“The anchoring element allows the surgeon to accurately secure the mesh in the desired position.”

One of the definitions of The American Heritage® Dictionary for “anchor” as a transitive verb, is, “To hold fast by or as if by an anchor.” Therefore, when choosing a definition for “secure” as a transitive verb, from among, the following:

i. “to guard from danger or risk of loss”;

ii. “to make firm or tight; fasten”;

iii. “to make certain; ensure”;

iv. “to guarantee payment of”;

v. “to guarantee payment to”;

vi. “to get possession of”;

vii. “to acquire”;

viii. “To capture or confine”;

ix. “to bring about”; and

x. “to protect or ensure the privacy or secrecy of”

the association between “anchor” and “secure,” will lead to choosing definition (ii) as the most likely, in the context of the present example.

Thus, contextual clues in the immediate grammatical unit, which may be used for automatically narrowing down the number of definition choices may relate to presenting at least one definition, as follows:

i. in accordance with the function in the grammatical unit;

ii. in accordance with a particular preposition;

iii. in accordance with a particular adjective or adjective phrase;

iv. in accordance with a particular adverb or adverbial phrase;

vi. based on a word association in the grammatical unit; and

vii. based on other contextual clues, for example, whether a specific noun is a human, an animal, a vegetable, an inanimate object, a time duration, a specific time, or an action.

On the other hand, automatically presenting at least one definition in context may require automatically generating definitions, when these are not available in ordinary dictionaries, as illustrated in FIGS. 1C-1E, hereinbelow.

FIG. 1C schematically illustrates in-context dictionary 190 adapted for generating at least one definition for a participle, when functioning as an adjective, in accordance with the present invention.

Dictionary entry 280, “added” may be entered in entry box 273. Immediate grammatical unit 277 associated with it, “The added costs must be accounted for,” is entered in grammatical unit entry box 279. A definition in context 286 may then be presented in a definition box 275, as follows: “added—transitive verb, used here as an adjective.” Additionally, in accordance with the present example two definitions 286A and 286B are presented in the order of their likelihood, as follows: “1. that which has been combined with, so as to increase the size of; and 2. additional.”

FIG. 1D schematically illustrates in-context dictionary **190** adapted for generating at least one definition for a gerund, when functioning as an adjective, in accordance with the present invention.

Dictionary entry **280**, “increasing” may be entered in entry box **273**. Immediate grammatical unit **277** associated with it, “increasing revenues,” is entered in grammatical unit entry box **279**. A definition in context **286** may then be presented in a definition box **275**, as follows: “increasing— intransitive verb, used here as an adjective: that which becomes progressively greater in size or amount.”

FIG. 1E schematically illustrates in-context dictionary **190** adapted for generating at least one definition for a verb in the passive form, in accordance with the present invention.

Dictionary entry **280**, “arranged” may be entered in entry box **273**. Immediate grammatical unit **277** associated with it, “These were arranged according to topic,” is entered in grammatical unit entry box **279**. A definition in context **286** may then be presented in a definition box **275**. In the present example, three definitions **286A**, **286B**, and **286C** are provided, ordered by likelihood, as follows: “were arranged— transitive verb, past simple, passive form: 1. were put into a proper order; 2. were prepared for; 3. were settled.” Additionally, three translations in context, **285A**, **285B** and **285C** may be provided.

Contextual analysis for the present example included the following steps:

- i. determining that the function of “arranged” is a transitive verb;
- ii. narrowing down the definition choices for “arranged” as a transitive verb;
- iii. generating a definition in the passive form; and
- iv. generating a definition in the past simple, plural form.

While items (i), (iii), and (iv) may be obtained from basic rules of grammar, item (ii) may not be straight forward. Merriam-Webster OnLine Dictionary includes four definitions for “arrange” as a transitive verb, as follows, to make preparations for, to put into a proper order, to adapt a musical composition form new voices or instruments, to settle.

The contextual clue that was used by in-context dictionary **190** to arrive at choice (ii) was the adverbial clause “according to topic.” However, even though to put into a proper order seemed the most likely definition choice, the other definition choices could not be ruled out, and were therefore maintained, but noted as less likely.

It will be appreciated that automatically generating definitions, when these are not available in ordinary dictionaries, may include the following:

- i. automatically generating definitions for the infinitive and gerund, when functioning as actions, for example, in “To smoke is hazardous,” and “Smoking is hazardous;
- ii. automatically generating definitions for the participle and gerund, when functioning as adjectives;
- iii. automatically generating definitions for the nouns, when operating as attributive nouns so a to function as adjectives, for example, in “city lights”;
- iv. automatically generating definitions for the passive form, for example, in “These were arranged according to topic”;
- v. automatically generating definitions for the specific tense; and
- vi. automatically generating definitions for specific forms, such as singular, plural, masculine or feminine (where appropriate).

In accordance with the present invention, in-context dictionary **190** may also be operative in the background, while working on a document, or when reading a document off screen **272**.

FIG. 1F schematically illustrates in-context dictionary **190** operating with a document **278**. When dictionary entry **180**, “were arranged,” is marked, contextual analysis of immediate grammatical unit **277**, “These were arranged according to topic,” is performed, and definition in context **286** and possibly also translation in context **285**, are presented in a window **279**, as before.

It will be appreciated that an in-context dictionary and an in-context analysis may apply to languages other than English. For example, in Hebrew, the literal translation of “the working man” is “the man the working.” Contextual analysis in Hebrew may determine that “working” functions as an adjective, because it is preceded by a definite article. In a similar manner other contextual clues may be used, for different languages, as applicable.

It will be further appreciated that other definitions, not based on the contextual analysis may also be provided, for general knowledge, wherein the definition or definitions, in accordance with the contextual analysis are marked or noted as preferred.

Contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention, may be performed on various computerized devices, including supercomputers, personal computers, laptops, palmtops, computerized stand-alone, hand-held scanning apparatus, scanning devices in combination with other computerized devices, and microphone devices in combination with other computerized devices.

Additionally, the contextual analysis may be provided as software, for example, on a CD, a diskette, or the like, or as software that may be downloaded from a web site. As another example, the contextual analysis may be performed by interacting with a web site.

Furthermore, in-context dictionary **190** may be provided as software, for example, on a CD, a diskette, or the like, or as software that may be downloaded from a web site. Additionally or alternatively, in-context dictionary **190** may be used via a web site.

The grammatical unit and the dictionary entry, which is embedded in it may be stored in the computer memory, input into the computer using a keyboard, read by a reading device, scanned by a scanning device, audibly fed by a microphone device, or otherwise input, as known.

As seen in FIG. 1G, display screen **272** may be associated with a personal computer **270**, wherein text may be input into computer **270**, for example, using a keyboard **274**, and marked, for example, using a mouse **276**. Alternatively, the test may be stored in the computer memory, read from a reading device, downloaded from the web, scanned onto the computer, input via a microphone, or input in any other known way.

Alternatively, as seen in FIGS. 1H and 1I, display screen **272** may be associated with a laptop **282**, or a palmtop **284**. Additionally or alternatively, a supercomputer or another computerized device may be used.

As seen in FIG. 1J, display screen **272** may be associated with a stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus **10**, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

In accordance with an alternative embodiment, apparatus **10** may be used in combination with a computer system, such as any of the systems of FIGS. 1G-1I, to scan a portion of text, and to mark a specific dictionary entry. The text may

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then be fed to a computer, and an analysis for a definition or a translation in context, for example, at least by function, may proceed as described.

FIG. 1J schematically illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention, in which definitions and translations in context, text-to-speech syntheses, and automatic translations are provided on the go, by stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus 10.

It will be appreciated that a distinction has to be made between translating automatically and automatic translation. Translating automatically relates to devices and methods that provide automatically a translation to a dictionary entry, a word or a word combination that appears as a single entry in a dictionary. These devices and methods cannot translate automatically a sentence, such as, "Please come home," since this sentence is not likely to appear in a dictionary, as a single entry.

On the other hand, automatic translation is accepted in the art as the name of software whose input is a syntactically correct phrase, clause or sentence in a first language and whose output is a syntactically correct translation of the phrase, clause or sentence, to a second language, by combining translations of several dictionary entries, in a syntactically correct manner.

Preferably, apparatus 10 provides audio outputs of automatic text-to-speech synthesis of a portion of text 14, in a first language, and preferably also automatic translation to a second language, while enabling a user 16 to maintain visual contact with text 14. Preferably, apparatus 10 includes a device 12, hand-held by user 16, a cable 20, and one or two earphones 18, which are worn by user 16, as a headgear 13. As user 16 moves hand-held device 12 across text 14, he hears text 14 read aloud to him and preferably also automatically translated, through earphones 18. However, in some embodiments of the present invention, cable 20 is not used, and communication between device 12 and earphones 18 is wireless.

Preferably, user 16 is a native speaker of the second language, eager to be exposed simultaneously to text 14 in its written and spoken forms, and to its interpretation. Preferably, apparatus 10 offers several reading and translation protocols for user 16 to choose from, as will be described hereinbelow, in conjunction with FIGS. 3-5.

Alternatively, user 16 is a native speaker of the language of text 14, learning to read the language of text 14 through simultaneous exposure to its written and spoken forms. Preferably, user 16 is aided by a built-in dictionary, for rephrasing unfamiliar words and phrases with familiar ones, upon request, as will be described hereinbelow, in conjunction with FIGS. 6A and 6B.

Alternatively or additionally, apparatus 10 may include a pronunciation teaching program and a microphone 15 into which user 16 reads aloud text 14, after hearing it read to him by apparatus 10, as will be described hereinbelow, in conjunction with FIG. 7. Microphone 15 may be mounted on headgear 13, and may be further used to communicate with apparatus 10, via voice commands.

Alternatively or additionally, apparatus 10 may include a notes-to-music synthesis, for providing an audio output of a written music passage. User 16 may be a music student, preparing to play a musical piece and assisted by listening to apparatus 10, as it produces an audio output of the written music, as will be described hereinbelow, in conjunction with FIG. 8.

Reference is now made to FIGS. 2A and 2B, which schematically illustrate internal and external structures, respectively, of hand-held device 12, in accordance with the

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present invention. Hand-held device 12 includes a body 21, preferably having an outer sheath, formed of a rigid material such as wood or plastic, having a proximal end 22 and a distal end 24, with respect to text 14, and a longitudinal axis L. Hand-held device 12 further includes a scanner 26, located at proximal end 22 and a computerized system 19. Scanner 26 is adapted for scanning a single line of text at a time. Preferably, user 16 scans text 14 in grammatical units such as a sentence, a clause, a phrase, or a word.

Additionally, hand-held device 12 may include a display drive 49 and a display panel 40 for providing communication between computerized system 19 and user 16. In essence, display panel 40 is equivalent to display screen 272 of FIG. 1A. Display panel 40 may be a touch panel, wherein user 16 may touch it with a soft tip (not shown) to activate certain features, or to respond to queries of computerized system 19. Additionally, device 12 may include at least one key 48, and preferably a plurality of keys 48, for supplementing the communication between computerized system 19 and user 16. Keys 48 may be used, for example, to specify a reading protocol, or to request a translation or rephrasing of a dictionary entry, when the reading protocol is based on a key request. Display panel 40 and keys 48 may have additional functions, as required.

Preferably, scanner 26 of hand-held device 12 includes an illumination system 28, for illuminating text 14, an optical system 34, for collecting and focusing light reflected from text 14, a photosensitive detector 25, preferably an array of CCD cells, for detecting the light collected and focused thereon by optical system 34, an analog amplifier 35, for amplifying the signals produced by photosensitive detector 25, and an analog-to-digital converter 37, for converting the amplified signals to digitized machine-readable data signals.

Illumination system 28 may be, for example, a fluorescent or incandescent lamp or an array of light emitting diodes (LEDs). Illumination system 28 may be arranged as substantially a point light source, or as a ring, surrounding optical system 34. In an embodiment of the present invention, light output and illumination angle are adjusted, for example, as taught by U.S. Pat. No. 5,996,895 to Heiman, et al, incorporated herein by reference. In an alternate embodiment of the present invention, a compact illumination system, for example, as taught by U.S. Pat. No. 6,033,086 to Bohn, incorporated herein by reference, is used. Preferably, the intensity of the illumination and the diameter of the illumination beam are controlled by knobs 27 and 29, respectively. Alternatively, the intensity of the illumination and the diameter of the illumination beam are controlled by at least one of keys 48, through computerized system 19, as will be described hereinbelow.

Optical system 34 may include a lens or a lens-and-mirror assembly. Optical system 34 defines an optical axis X, which may be parallel with longitudinal axis L, or arranged at an angle to it, depending on the specific arrangements of the other elements of device 12. For example, optical axis X may be perpendicular to longitudinal axis L, as taught by U.S. Pat. No. 5,767,494 to Matsueda, et al., incorporated herein by reference.

Preferably, optical system 34 has a focusing capability, for operation over a range of distances. Preferably, optical system 34 has an automatic focusing capability, in a manner similar, for example, to U.S. Pat. No. 5,841,121 to Koenck, incorporated herein by reference. Alternatively, user 16 may use a focusing ring 36 to bring an image of text 14, on photosensitive detector 25, into focus. Preferably, display panel 40 may be adapted for displaying text 14 as photosensitive detector 25 sees it, via at least one key 48, thus

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enabling user 16 to bring an image of text 14 into focus. In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, focusing is controlled by one of keys 48, through computerized system 19. In a further alternative embodiment of the present invention, optical system 34 is arranged as a fixed, free focus optical system, having a depth of field that maintains text 14 within focus for most applications.

Preferably, optical system 34 further includes a zooming capability, for operation over a range of print sizes of text 14. Preferably, user 16 may use a zooming ring 38 to zoom optical system 34 in and out, assisted by display panel 40. Alternatively, zooming may be performed automatically. Alternatively, zooming may be controlled by at least one of keys 48, through computerized system 19.

In an alternate embodiment of the present invention, optical system 34 is not used. Rather, photosensitive detector 25 includes a CIS array of photosensitive cells, arranged in close proximity to text 14, so as to catch the reflected light directly.

Computerized system 19 includes a processor 30, which preferably includes a control unit, a logic unit (ALU) and memory. Additionally, computerized system 19 may include a fixed data storage device 32, such as a hard disk.

Additionally, computerized system 19 includes an operating system, such as windows 95, windows 98, or windows 2000. Preferably, computerized system 19 further includes an object-oriented compiler, such as C++ or Java, which includes a linker for compiling an exec. file for several known applications. Alternatively, multithreading is used for running several applications in parallel.

Furthermore, computerized system 19 includes an OCR program of a first language and a text-to-speech synthesizer of the first language. Preferably, computerized system 19 further includes automatic translation software between the first language and a second language. Additionally in accordance with the present invention, computerized system 19 includes a dictionary in the first language, for rephrasing words or phrases in the first language to more common or more familiar words and phrases. Preferably, the applications are associated as necessary, for providing sequential outputs. Alternatively multithreading may be used for providing an audio output, in parallel with a visual display.

In some embodiments of the present invention, apparatus 10 may be adapted for automatic translation to more than one second languages, for example, from English to French and from English to Spanish. Computerized system 19 will include automatic translation software from English to each of the second languages. Additionally, apparatus 10 may be arranged as a two-way language-acquisition aide, for example, performing OCR conversion and text-to-speech synthesis in a first language and automatic translation to a second language, or OCR conversion and text-to-speech synthesis in the second language, and automatic translation to the first language. Thus, computerized system 19 may include more than one OCR programs, text-to-speech syntheses and automatic translation software. Furthermore, a combination of the above may be provided.

Additionally, OCR conversions and text-to-speech syntheses of different languages, dictionaries of these languages, pronunciation teaching software of these languages, and automatic translation software from these languages to other languages, as requested by the user, may be incorporated to computerized system 19. Preferably, when apparatus 10 is arranged to read more than one language, computerized system 19 recognizes a language it is arranged to read automatically.

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In accordance with the present invention, a plurality of dictionaries may be provided, for example, a dictionary of the first language, a dictionary of the second language, a dictionary from the first language to the second, a dictionary from the second language to the first, and similarly, at least one dictionary of professional terms, and at least one dictionary of special idioms. Additionally, the user may augment and modify the dictionaries. The dictionaries may be used to support the automatic translation, or the rephrasing of difficult words. It will be appreciated that user 16 may add words to the dictionaries, where necessary.

Preferably, the dictionaries are in-context dictionaries, similar to dictionary 190, described hereinabove, in conjunction with FIGS. 1A-1F.

In accordance with the present invention, the user may specify the first and second languages from a library of first and second languages for which computerized system 19 is arranged. Additionally, computerized system 19 may be augmented for additional first and second languages.

Preferably, computerized system 19 is arranged to recognize printed matter of various fonts, as well as hand-written matter, in pen, pencil, and other writing instruments. Additionally, computerized system 19 may be arranged to recognize text on a display screen, such as a computer screen.

In accordance with the present invention, hand-held device 12 includes an audio-output system 17, which preferably includes a sound card 46, for producing the audio outputs, and may further include an amplifier 42, for amplifying the audio outputs, and a volume control knob 44, for controlling the volume of the audio outputs. Alternatively, the volume is controlled by at least one of keys 48, through computerized system 19. Audio output system 17 further includes an audio connector 45, for connecting cable 20 of earphones 18 to device 12.

In accordance with the present invention, keys 48 may be used to select a desired protocol from a library of at least one reading protocol.

Reference is now made to FIG. 3, which is a flowchart 100 of a first reading protocol using apparatus 10, in accordance with the present invention. The first reading protocol provides reading in the first language—the language of text 14, translation to a second language, and when desired, a repeat of the reading in the first language, as follows:

in a box 110, a portion of text is scanned by user 16, preferably, in grammatical units such as by sentence, by clause, or by phrase;

in a box 112, computerized system 19 performs OCR conversion to the scanned text portion;

in a box 114, computerized system 19 performs text-to-speech synthesis of the scanned text;

in a box 116, computerized system 19 provides an audio output of text-to-speech synthesis;

in a box 118, computerized system 19 performs automatic translation of the scanned text;

in a box 120, computerized system 19 provides an audio output of the automatic translation; and

in a box 122, computerized system 19 repeats the audio output of the text-to-speech synthesis, if desired.

Reference is now made to FIG. 4, which is a flowchart 130 of a second reading protocol, using apparatus 10, in accordance with the present invention. The second reading protocol provides reading in the language of text 14, and translation upon request, as follows:

in a box 140, a portion of text is scanned by user 16, preferably, in grammatical units such as by sentence, by clause, or by phrase;

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in a box 142, computerized system 19 performs OCR conversion to the scanned text portion;

in a box 144, computerized system 19 performs text-to-speech synthesis of the scanned text;

in a box 146, computerized system 19 provides an audio output of the text-to-speech synthesis; and

in a box 148, computerized system 19 performs automatic translation of the scanned text, when user 16 requests it, for example, with a stroke of at least one of keys 48.

Reference is now made to FIG. 5, which is a flowchart 160 of a third reading protocol, using apparatus 10, in accordance with the present invention. The third reading protocol provides reading in the language of text 14, and translation by display, using multithreading to run text-to-speech synthesis and automatic translation, in parallel, as follows:

in a box 150, a portion of text is scanned by user 16, preferably, in grammatical units such as by sentence, by clause, or by phrase;

in a box 152, computerized system 19 performs OCR conversion to the scanned text portion;

in a box 154, computerized system 19 performs text-to-speech synthesis of the scanned text;

in a box 156, computerized system 19 provides an audio output of the text-to-speech synthesis; and

in a box 158, computerized system 19 performs automatic translation of the scanned text, in parallel with the text-to-speech synthesis, and displays the translation of display panel 40.

Reference is now made to FIG. 6A, which is a flowchart of a fourth reading protocol 240, for merely presenting at least one definition or a translation in context, without other features, such as text-to-speech synthesis, or automatic translation, in accordance with the present invention.

in a box 242, a portion of text is scanned by user 16, preferably, in grammatical units such as by sentence, by clause, or by phrase;

in a box 244, computerized system 19 performs OCR conversion to the scanned text portion;

in a box 246, a dictionary entry of the scanned text is marked, wherein marking may take place by scanning the dictionary entry again, by selecting it on display panel 40, or by another feature, provided by apparatus 10;

in a box 248, computerized system 19 performs a contextual analysis of the portion of text;

in a box 250, computerized system 19 presents a definition or a translation to the dictionary entry, based on its function in the immediate grammatical unit within the portion of text, for example, as a verb;

in a box 252, computerized system 19 may further presents a more specific definition or translation to the dictionary entry, based on contextual clues.

Reference is now made to FIG. 6B, which is a flowchart of a fifth reading protocol 260, which is performed by computer 270 (FIG. 1G), and involves no scanning, in accordance with the present invention.

in a box 262, user 16 enters to computer 270 or marks on screen 272 a dictionary entry, embedded within a grammatical unit, as has been described hereinabove, in conjunction with FIGS. 1A-1F;

in a box 264, computer 270 performs a contextual analysis of the grammatical unit;

in a box 266, computer 270 provides a definition or a translation to the dictionary entry, based on the function in the grammatical unit, for example, as a verb;

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in a box 268, computer 270 may further provide a more specific definition or translation to the dictionary entry, based on contextual clues.

Reference is now made to FIG. 7, which is a flowchart 190 of a sixth reading protocol, for teaching correct pronunciation using apparatus 10, in accordance with the present invention. Preferably, user 16 is a native speaker of the second language, eager to learn correct pronunciation of the language of text 14.

Often, when a person who was raised in a specific system of sounds and vowels moves into a different system of sounds and vowels, his difficulty is twofold: not only can he not pronounce the new sounds and vowels, but often, he does not hear their distinguishing features. For example, if an adult who was raised in a language system of six basic vowels moves into a language system of 12 or 20 vowels, then for a long time, he will only hear six basic vowels in the new language system.

The sixth reading protocol of apparatus 10 is designed to teach user 16 to hear and distinguish the sounds of the language system of text 14, and pronounce them correctly. Preferably, user 16 learns correct pronunciation through hearing his own pronunciation played back to him, by apparatus 10, and through comparing it with the text-to-speech synthesis. Alternatively, apparatus 10 may use a signal evaluator of computerized system 19 to compare the pronunciation of user 16 with its own text-to-speech synthesis, and to correct user 16, when necessary. Flowchart 190 of the sixth reading protocol includes the following steps:

in a box 170, a portion of text is scanned by user 16, preferably, in grammatical units such as by sentence, by clause, or by phrase;

in a box 172, computerized system 19 performs OCR conversion to the scanned text portion;

in a box 174, computerized system 19 performs text-to-speech synthesis of the scanned text;

in a box 176, computerized system 19 provides an audio output of the text-to-speech synthesis;

in a box 178, user 16 records his pronunciation of the portion of text;

in a box 180, computerized system 19 plays back the recorded speech of user 16;

in a box 182 computerized system 19 compares the recorded speech of user 16 with its own text-to-speech synthesis, possibly using a signal evaluator of computerized system 19;

in a box 184, computerized system 19 repeats its audio output of mispronounced words, and directs user 16 to try again; or in a box 186, computerized system 19 signals an approves the user's pronunciation.

Alternatively, in a box 184 apparatus 10 displays for the user the signal forms of its own text-to-speech synthesis and of the user's speech, for the user to compare.

In this manner, user 16 may practice his pronunciation on any text, including text that he may prepare, unlike known pronunciation systems, which rely on pronunciation practice of words and sentences preselected by the makers of the programs. For example, if user 16 is preparing to give a talk in a foreign language, he may practice his pronunciation beforehand.

Audio outputs of text-to-speech synthesis and automatic translation may be provided at different rates, such as a slow rate, a normal rate, and a fast rate, in a manner similar to the technology of Bell Labs Lucent Technologies, described

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hereinabove, in conjunction with the survey of prior art. Preferably, the user may select a desired rate, using at least one of keys **48**.

Preferably, apparatus **10** includes a library of voices, stored for example in fixed data storage device **32**. Audio outputs of text-to-speech synthesis and automatic translation may be provided in different voices, such as a man's voice, a woman's voice, or a child's voice. Additionally, audio outputs may be provided in specific voices, which a user may request, for example, in the voice of Burl Ives or in the voice of Whoopi Goldberg. Preferably, user **16** may select a desired voice, using at least one of keys **48**.

Alternatively or alternatively, user **16** may train apparatus **10** to a desired voice, using for example, the technology of HMM-Based Trainable Speech Synthesis, which uses a set of decision-tree state-clustered Hidden Markov Models, described hereinabove, in conjunction with the survey of prior art.

Alternatively, user **16** may buy apparatus **10** with a specific voice.

In accordance with the present invention, apparatus **10** is further adapted for scanning written music, preferably with the accompanying tempo notations, cords, and other relevant information. Apparatus **10** is further arranged to produce an audio output of the written music, via a music synthesizer. Preferably, the music synthesizer may selectively produce the sound of a desired instrument, for example, a cello or organ. Preferably, at least one of keys **48** is used to select music synthesis as well as a synthesizer sound. Preferably, user **16** maintains visual contact with the written music, as it is produced, for example, in preparation for playing it.

Reference is now made to FIG. **8**, which is a flowchart **230** of a protocol for using apparatus **10** as a music synthesizer, in accordance with the present invention, as follows:

in a box **232**, a section of written music, which may include music notes in a specific key, accompanying cords, tempo and other relevant information is scanned by user **16**, preferably in sections of musical passages;

in a box **234**, computerized system **19** performs OCR conversion to the scanned section of written music;

in a box **236**, computerized system **19** performs a music synthesis of the scanned section, preferably including a synthesis of cords, tempo and other musical information; and

in a box **238**, computerized system **19** provides an audio output of the scanned section, preferably, in the sound of a selected instrument, for example, a piano or a flute. Additionally, a combination of instrumental sounds may be used, for example, a piano and a guitar, or a piano, a saxophone, and a trumpet.

Reference is again made to FIGS. **1J**, **2A** and **2B**, in order to illustrate additional features of apparatus **10**, in accordance with the present invention. Preferably, hand-held device **12** includes a pen **64**, having a writing tip **65**, located in a channel **66**. Pen **64** may be selectively deployed and retracted by a slide **68** in a slit **70**. Pen **64** may be used for marking up text **14**, or for adding comments to text **14** by user **16**, as he sees fit. Preferably, writing tip **65** is a conventional, easily obtained writing tip, for example, a graphite rod in a conventional size. In an alternate embodiment, pen **64** may be external to body **21**. Preferably, apparatus **10** is further arranged to read the writing of its own writing tip **65**, when desired.

Additionally, in accordance with the present invention, hand-held device **12** includes a storing component **76**, adapted for receiving a removable data storage component **74** such as a diskette, a CD, a minidisk, a cassette tape, or

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a similar lightweight data storage component, for storing information that was scanned, translated or otherwise produced by computerized system **19**. Preferably, components **76** and **74** are miniature, and may be tailor fitted for device **12**. User **16** may use microphone **15** to record other messages, which he would like stored with the text, on removable data storage component **74**.

Further in accordance with the present invention, hand-held device **12** may include a connector **72** for connecting it to a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a palmtop, a notebook, a mobile telephone, an organizer, and other computerized devices, when desired.

Additionally or alternatively, hand-held device **12** may be arranged as an integral unit with another hand-held computerized device such as a palmtop, a CD player, a cassette player, a mobile telephone, a radio, an organizer, and other computerized devices.

Additionally, in accordance with the present invention, hand-held device **12** may include a clock **84**, to help user **16** pace himself.

Further in accordance with the present invention, hand-held device includes a rechargeable battery **50**, fitted onto body **21** through a battery fitting **52**. Additionally or alternatively, hand-held device **12** may be connected to the grid, via a power connector **54** and an electric cable (not shown).

Preferably, hand-held device **12** includes an on/off switch **60**, to selectively turn apparatus **10** on and off. Preferably, apparatus **10** automatically shuts itself off after a predetermined length of time in which it is not used, for example, 3 or 5 minutes. Alternatively, hand-held device **12** includes a heat-sensor **57**, in communication with computerized system **19**, for automatically turning apparatus **10** on, when it is hand-held, and for automatically shutting apparatus **10** off, when it is laid down. Alternatively, another known system for automatically turning apparatus **10** on and off may be used.

Preferably, hand-held device **12** includes a gyroscope **86**, adapted for gliding across text **14**. Gyroscope **86** is in communication with computerized system **19**, and informs computerized system **19** when the scanning of a portion of text **14**, such as a sentence, has been completed, and OCR conversion should be performed. Alternatively, gyroscope **86** is not used, and computerized system **19** determines when the scanning of a portion of text has been completed, by discerning a pause in the inflow of scanned information. Gyroscope **86** may also be used to automatically turn apparatus **10** on, when it begins to glide across text **14**, and to automatically shut apparatus **10** off, when it is not being used for a predetermined length of time.

Alternatively or additionally, a wheel **86**, in communication with a counter that counts each revolution, may be used, in place of gyroscope **86**. The number of revolutions may be indicative of a length that has been scanned.

Preferably, body **21** of hand-held device **12** may be opened by unscrewing screws **58**, that fit into screw holes **62**, for repair or for the installation or replacement of hardware.

In accordance with some embodiments of the present invention, device **12** is held at an oblique angle to text **14**, in order to enable user **16** to maintain visual contact with text **14**. Preferably, scanning at an oblique angle is achieved through any of the methods taught by U.S. Pat. No. 5,019,699 to Koenck and U.S. Pat. No. 5,834,749 to Durbin, both incorporated herein by reference and described hereinabove, in conjunction with the survey of prior art.

In accordance with the present invention, device **12** is arranged so that the oblique angle at which it is held with

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respect to text **14** may be varied, to suit user **16**. Preferably, correction for the variation in the oblique angle may be performed by computerized system **19**, for example, as taught by Koenck and Durbin. Alternatively, photosensitive detector **25** is arranged on a hinge **82** and may be selectively swung to a certain degree to the left or to the right, by moving a notch **78** in a semicircular slit **80**. Preferably, photosensitive detector **25** is thus maintained parallel to text **14**, regardless of the angle at which device **12** is held with respect to text **14**.

However, device **12** may be held so that optical axis X is perpendicular to text **14**, without interfering with the ability of user **16** to maintain eye contact with text **14** as it is read aloud by apparatus **10**. Since the text-to-speech synthesis is performed after scanning, user **16** may first scan the text, than listen to the text-to-speech synthesis and follow the text with his eyes.

Reference is now made to FIG. **9A**, which schematically illustrates a scanner **61**, in accordance with the present invention, as taught by U.S. Pat. No. 5,200,793, to Ulich et al., and by U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,057,909, 6,091,905, and 6,100,517 to Yahav et al., incorporated herein by reference. Illumination system **28** includes a substantially point light source, arranged behind optical system **34**, at a distance from the optical system **F'**, which is substantially equal to the focal distance, **F**, but off optical axis X, wherein light is bore-sighted with optical axis X with a beam-splitter **39**, for producing collimated, even illumination of text **14**.

Reference is now made to FIG. **9B**, which schematically illustrates a scanner **63**, in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, as taught by Yahav et al. Illumination system **28** includes an area light source whose dimensions are substantially the same as those of photosensitive detector **25**, arranged behind optical system **34**, at a distance from optical system **34** which is substantially equal to the distance between optical system **34** and photosensitive detector **25**, but off optical axis X, wherein light is bore-sighted with optical axis X with beam-splitter **39**, for producing a field of illumination which is substantially equal to the field of view. Alternatively, area light source **28** may be of dimensions smaller than those of photosensitive detector **25**, but closer to optical system **34**, or of dimensions greater than those of photosensitive detector **25**, but farther away from optical system **34**, while maintaining the condition that the field of view is substantially, or generally the same as the field of illumination. The advantage of this arrangement is that user **16** may easily control the field of view, by varying the field of illumination, which is visible to him.

Reference is now made to FIG. **9C**, which schematically illustrates a scanner **65**, in accordance with still another embodiment of the present invention. User **16** views text **14** through beamsplitter **39**, wherein half the reflected illumination reaches user **16** and half is directed to optical system **34** and photosensitive array **25**. Alternatively, no optical system is used, and half the reflected illumination reaches user **16** and half is directed to photosensitive array **25**, formed as a CIS array.

Preferably hand-held device **12** is pen-like so as to fit comfortably in a hand. Alternatively, another preferably ergonomic design may be used. Preferably, earphones **18** are lightweight so as not to cause a strain on the wearer.

Reference is now made to FIGS. **10A** and **10B**, which schematically illustrate a stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus **101**, in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention. Apparatus **101** includes a first portion **94**, which is pen-like, and a second portion **92**, which is generally horizontal over the hand

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holding first portion **94** and which includes display panel **40** (analogous to display screen **272** of FIGS. **1A-1J**), keys **48** and on/off switch **60**. In this way, user **16** has a better view of display panel **40**, as he scans text **14**. Preferably, apparatus **101** further includes a flexible portion **93**, formed for example, of resilient plastic, for allowing first and second portions **94** and **92** to fold against each other, so apparatus **101** can be easily inserted into a pocket. Alternatively, another folding means may be provided, for example, a hinge.

Apparatus **101** may include a built-in microphone **15**, and a built-in speaker **111**, which may be used in place of headgear **13**.

Additionally audio connector **45**, may be used for connecting cable **20** to earphones **18**, a cable **105** to an electric organ, or a cable **107** to an amplifier, a music station, a tape deck, a CD player, or a mobile phone.

Furthermore, apparatus **101** preferably includes a video connector **121**, for connecting apparatus **101** to an external display screen, such as a computer display screen, a television, or an oscilloscope via a cable **103**.

Additionally or alternatively, connector **121** may be computer connector, for example, a USB connector.

Apparatus **101** may be arranged to display text **14**, as it is scanned, for example, for use in a classroom. Text **14** may be in Hebrew, as shown by a portion of text **14A**, or in English, as shown by a portion of text **14B**. Additionally or alternatively, it may be in any other language.

Additionally, or alternatively, apparatus **101** may be adapted for reading a portion of music notes **95**. Portion of music notes **95** may include music symbols as known, such as a key **113**, a beat **115**, accompanying cords **97**, a playing direction **91**, and notes **99**.

As seen in FIG. **10B**, apparatus **101** is adapted to scan portion of text **14** in the first language, such as English, and produce an automatic translation **117**, for example, audibly, via built-in speaker **111**, or via earphones **18** (FIG. **1J**).

Thus, text **14**, "The anchoring element allows the surgeon to accurately secure the mesh in the desired position" may be audibly produced as a syntactically correct sentence in a second language, for example, Hebrew, as automatic translation **117**.

Additionally, a definition in context **119**, for a dictionary entry **127** of portion of text **14**, for example, to the word "secure" may be displayed on display panel **40** (display screen **272** of FIG. **1A**). Thus, although, the American Heritage Dictionary, for example, defines "secure" first as an adjective, and second, as a transitive verb, and although, as a transitive verb, the first definition is "guard from danger," and only the second definition is fasten, apparatus **101** offers in display panel **40** the transitive verb definition, and preferably, the appropriate transitive verb definition, "fasten." Additionally, a translation in context **129** may be provided.

The contextual clue from the immediate grammatical unit, in the present example, may be provided by word association between the words "anchor" and "secure," as has been described hereinabove, in conjunction with FIG. **1B**.

Furthermore, apparatus **101** may include a connector **72** for connecting it to any of a desktop computer, a laptop, a palmtop, a mobile telephone, an organizer, and other computerized devices, via a cable **109**, when desired.

Reference is now made to FIG. **11**, which schematically illustrates a stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus **131**, in accordance with still another embodiment of the present invention. Apparatus **131** is similar in design to apparatus **101**, but its second portion **92** is arranged to be worn around the wrist of user **16** with a wristband **125**. The

purpose of wristband **125** is to reduce the weight that is carried by the hand of user **16** as he scans a portion of text.

Apparatus **101** and **131** may be used with FIGS. **3-8**, in a manner similar to apparatus **10**.

As has been noted hereinabove, in conjunction with FIG. **2B**, preferably, optical system **34** includes focusing and zooming capabilities, to increase the accuracy of the scanning.

A spell check may be employed on the scanned text, to identify and possibly also correct words that may have been scanned incorrectly. The spell check may interact with user **16** before correcting any scanning errors.

Additionally or alternatively, an image processing software may be employed, to identify and possibly also correct words that may have been scanned incorrectly. The image processing software may also interact with user **16** before correcting any scanning errors.

Returning now to contextual analysis, Reference is made to FIGS. **12A-12B**, presented as tables and illustrating the manner of breaking down a grammatical unit into functions, for contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention.

Preferably, a fractal-like approach to contextual analysis of a grammatical unit is applied, by breaking down a grammatical unit to major functional components, formed of simple sentences, clauses and phrases, and breaking down each major functional component to smaller components, until all the components are at a dictionary-entry level.

As seen in FIG. **12A**, contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention, includes:

i. breaking down a grammatical unit **340** "The local ski resort was opened to visitors on Saturday morning" to major functional components **342, 344, 346, 348, and 350**; and

ii characterizing major functional components **342, 344, 346, 348, and 350**, according to their respective functions **352, 354, 356, 358, and 360**, for example, characterizing, major functional component **342**, "The local ski resort" as noun phrase **352**, forming the subject, and characterizing major functional component **344**, "was opened" as verb phrase **354**, forming the predicate.

As seen in FIG. **12B**, contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention, further includes:

i. breaking down major functional component **342**, "The local ski resort" to basic functional components **362, 364, 366, and 368**, of a dictionary-entry level;

ii. characterizing basic functional components **362, 364, 366, and 368**, by their respective functions **372, 374, 376, and 378**, for example, characterizing basic functional component **362**, "the" as article **372**, and characterizing basic functional component **364**, "local" as first adjective **374**;

iii. further characterizing basic functional components **362, 364, 366, and 368**, by their respective attributes **382, 384, 386, and 388**, for example, characterizing basic functional component **362**, "the" by attribute **382**—definite, characterizing basic functional component **364**, "local" by attribute **384**—adjective form, characterizing basic functional component **366**, "ski" by attribute **386** attributive-noun form, and characterizing basic functional component **368**, "resort" by attribute **388**—tangible, inanimate, singular. The purpose of the attributes is to provide as many contextual clues as possible.

Reference is made to FIGS. **12C-12D**, presented as tables and illustrating basic structures of sample grammatical units, for contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention.

As seen in FIG. **12C**, a general adverbial-phrase template **390** may be constructed, which may apply to a large number of adverbial phrases. The general template may include for example:

preposition—article—adjective phrases(s)—noun—prepositional phrase.

To fall into this category, portions of template **390** may remain unoccupied, provided the phrase begins with a preposition and contains a dictionary entry, which functions as a noun. The present template encompasses many different adverbial phrases, for example, "By the river," "After dinner," "By his wisdom," "With some luck," "In a minute," "With a piercingly loud and screeching scream," "By the rivers of Babylon," and "In consequence of my smoking."

General template **390** may be used for the contextual analysis, as illustrated in conjunction with FIG. **1A**, hereinabove, for the determination of the functions of dictionary entries in a grammatical unit that falls within template **390**.

It will be appreciated that template **390** may be used as a contextual clue. For example, since "In consequence of my smoking," falls within it, one may determine that "smoking" functions as a noun.

FIG. **12C** further illustrates the fractal-like approach to the contextual analysis, by breaking down the grammatical unit to major functional components, and breaking down each major functional component to smaller components. In the present example, "piercingly loud and screeching scream" is defined simply as an adjective phrase, that may be broken down at a later stage.

It will be appreciated that general templates may also be constructed for other forms of adverbial phrases, for example, for the participial phrase, such as "walking down the street," "singing to my baby," and "coming home from work."

As seen in FIG. **12D**, a general imperative-sentence template **392** may be constructed, which may apply to a large number of imperative sentences. General imperative-sentence template **392** may include for example:

imperative verb—preposition—article—adjective phrase (s)—noun phrase

To fall into this category, portions of template **392** may remain unoccupied, provided the sentence begins an imperative verb. The present template encompasses many different imperative sentences, for example, "Fast forward a decade," "Return to sender," "Write down your great ideas about your book," "Bring in your friend," and "Go!"

General template **392** may be used for the contextual analysis, as illustrated in conjunction with FIG. **1A**, hereinabove, for the determination of the functions of dictionary entries in a grammatical unit that falls within it.

It will be appreciated that other general templates, which may be more general still, may similarly be used.

Reference is now made to FIGS. **13A-13E**, presented as tables representing a partial listing of functions and attributes, which may be of help, when performing contextual analysis, in accordance with the present invention. It will be appreciated that FIGS. **13A-13E** serve as examples of the types of attributes that may be considered.

Preferably, the attributes are divided by level. For example, at a first level, nouns may be divided to intangible and tangible. At a lower level, intangible nouns may be divided to abstract nouns and nouns representing actions. At a lower level still, nouns representing actions may be further divided to active and passive actions. Other attributes for nouns may include, human, animal, vegetable, inanimate, time, as well as singular, plural, male, and female.

The following are examples of the manner of using the attributes of FIGS. 13A-13E for contextual analysis:

- i. to order a noun (human) generally means to command the noun (human);
- ii. to order a noun (inanimate) generally means to request that the noun (inanimate) be delivered;
- iii. to order a noun (inanimate) preposition (from) generally means to request that the noun (inanimate) be delivered from a specific place; and
- iv. to order a noun (inanimate) preposition (in) generally means to request that the noun (inanimate) be put in a specific order.

Reference is now made to FIG. 14, representing a segment of an exposure basis 430, in accordance with the present invention. Exposure basis 430 is founded on the idea that language formulation is generally a matter of memory and exposure, rather than of logical creations. Therefore, a database of acceptable forms and expressions, in any particular language, is required.

Preferably, exposure basis 430 is constructed at least as a first-language exposure basis 440, formed as a very large collection of written material, such as books, journals, papers, patents, newspapers, movie scripts, and the like, for providing an exposure database for the first language.

First-language exposure basis 440 may be used both for contextual analysis of existing grammatical units, and for the generation of new grammatical units, when writing in the language, or when translating to the language of exposure basis 440. First-language exposure basis 440 may be used by individuals, preferably with the help of a computerized device, or automatically, by computerized devices.

Preferably, first-language exposure basis 440 is formed of material already available in a soft format, and may be further available on the web. It will be appreciated that first-language exposure basis 440 need not be stored at a single place; rather links or addresses may be provided to various articles and other textual matter, which may remain stored at its original address.

Preferably, first-language exposure basis 440 may attempt to reconstruct at least several months of language exposure, preferably, of a high school or college student, and may further reconstruct several years of language exposure.

Additionally, first-language exposure basis 440 may be subdivided according to fields, for example, literature, science, engineering, law.

Furthermore, first-language exposure basis 440 may be subdivided according to periods, for example, 20th century, Victorian period, and the like.

Moreover, first-language exposure basis 440 may be subdivided according to age group, for example, teenage, college age, adult, and the like.

It will be appreciated that first-language exposure basis 440 may be subdivided according to other language styles.

Some examples of the use of first-language exposure basis 440 are as follows:

1. For contextual analyses of the sentence, when the functions of the word is not obvious, for example, as in "High health care costs result in poor health care availability." First-language exposure basis 440 may be searched for the followings:

- i. Does "result" as a noun in singular generally appear in exposure basis 440 preceded by an article? Some nouns do not, for example, "peace," or "apparatus." Yet, the contextual analysis of the present example, hereinabove, in conjunction with FIG. 1A, was based on the absence of the article, and would be accurate if an article is indeed required for the noun form.

- ii. Does "result" as a noun appear in exposure basis 440 followed by the preposition "in"? Some nouns do, for example, "success," or "order." Yet, the contextual analysis of the present example, hereinabove, in conjunction with FIG. 1A, was further based on the association of "result" as a noun with the preposition "of," and would be accurate if that indeed is found to be the case.

- iii. Does the word combination "costs" as a verb followed by "result" as a noun appear in first-language exposure basis 440. If not, then "costs" is probably not the predicate of the present example.

2. When writing in or translating to the language of exposure basis 440, it may be searched for proper usage, for example, to determine the proper use of prepositions:

- i. Is it "He looked at the window," or "He looked on the window"?

- ii. Is it "He is angry with his friend," or "He is angry about his friend"?

- iii. Is it "It relates to the study," or "It relates with the study"?

3. Additionally, when writing in or translating to the language of exposure basis 440, it may be searched for proper usage, for example, to identify specific expressions not common to other languages, such as:

- i. to fall asleep; and

- ii. to take a photograph.

4. Furthermore, when writing in or translating to the language of exposure basis 440, it may be searched for proper usage, for example, when translating a specific term from another language, such as,

- i. Literally, "ski's resort," which is a literal translation from Hebrew.

- ii. Literally, "a resort of ski," which is a literal translation from French.

By searching first-language exposure basis 440 both for "a ski's resort" and "a resort of ski" one may discover, that in English, the more common expression is "a ski resort," with "ski" as an attributive noun.

In accordance with the present invention, exposure basis 430 (FIG. 14) further includes a second-language exposure basis 450, constructed similarly to first-language exposure basis 440, and similarly formed as a very large collection of written material, such as books, journals, papers, patents, newspapers, movie scripts, and the like, for providing an exposure database for the second language. second-language exposure basis 450 may also be subdivided according to fields, for example, literature, science, engineering, law, according to periods, for example, 20th century, Victorian period, and the like, according to age group, for example, teenage, college age, adult, and the like, or according to other language styles.

In accordance with the present invention, portions of, or all of second-language exposure basis 450 may be translations of portions of, or all of first-language exposure basis 440, as seen in FIG. 14. Preferably, a manual translation or an automatic translation, which preferably has been verified, is used, so as to represent correct usage, in the translation.

Similarly, portions of first-language exposure basis 440 may be translated from second-language exposure basis 450, preferably, manually, or with verification.

It will be appreciated that first-language exposure basis 440 and second-language exposure basis 450 may be largely based on material that has already been translated manually, for example, the Bible, Shakespearian plays, Jane Austin books, Harry Potter books, Douglas Adams books, Amos Oz books, newspapers, National Geographic magazines and the like.

It will be further appreciated that when corresponding material is available in more than one language, the correspondence is maintained in exposure basis **430**, as shown in FIG. **14**, to derive the utmost from that correspondence.

The correspondence may provide changes in the translation, beyond a literal translation, for example:

1. Literally, "He looked on the window" in Hebrew should be translated to literally, "He looked at the window," in English.

2. Literally, "Ski's resort" in Hebrew should be translated to literally, "A ski resort," in English.

3. Literally, "A resort of ski" in French should be translated to literally, "A ski resort," in English.

4. Literally, "to photograph" in Hebrew should be translated to literally, "to take a photograph," in English.

It will be appreciated that exposure basis **430** may further include other languages and translations to other languages.

It will be appreciated that exposure basis **430** may be constructed as a web site. Additionally or alternatively, it may be constructed on a diskette, a CD, a minidisk, or the like.

In accordance with the present invention, exposure basis **430** may be broken down to grammatical units, each analyzed for its function, as has been illustrated hereinabove, in conjunction with FIGS. **12A** and **12B**. In this way, the function and attributes of each dictionary entry in exposure basis **430** may be noted.

Reference is now made to FIGS. **15A-15C**, which schematically illustrate the manner of breaking down grammatical units of exposure basis **430** to functional templates, specific to a language, and comparing the functional templates of different languages, in accordance with the present invention.

It will be recalled that a contextual analysis relates at least to an analysis of the function of each dictionary entry in a given grammatical unit. For example, a contextual analysis of "The girl dances beautifully," relates at least to the following analysis: The—article; girl—noun; dances—verb; beautifully—adverb. The functional template of the above sentence is defined as the functional order of the words in the sentence, in the present example: Article; noun; verb; adverb.

The functional templates of the different languages may show differences in usage, specific to each language, and how these usages are converted from one language to another. For example, attributive nouns, such as "city lights" may be unique to English. In other languages, prepositional phrases, for example, "lights of the city" may be used.

As seen in FIG. **15A**, a grammatical unit **442**, from first-language exposure basis **440**, is broken down to a first-language functional template **444** of basic functional components, and compared with a second-language functional template **454** of basic functional components, of a corresponding grammatical unit **452** from second-language exposure basis **450**.

As seen in FIG. **15B**, grammatical unit **442**, from first-language exposure basis **440**, is broken down to first-language functional template **444** of basic functional components, and compared with a third-language functional template **464** of basic functional components, of a corresponding grammatical unit **462** from a third-language exposure basis.

It will be noted that where a correspondence exists between two grammatical units in a first and a second languages, and between two grammatical units in the first and a third languages, then a correspondence may be

obtained, indirectly, between the two grammatical units in the second and the third languages.

This indirect correspondence is illustrated in FIG. **15C**, between grammatical unit **452**, from second-language exposure basis **450** and grammatical unit **462** from a third-language exposure basis.

It will be appreciated that the functional templates need not be used, and grammatical unit **442**, **452** and **462** may be compared directly, for example, **442** vis a vis **452**, **442** vis a vis **462**, and **452** vis a vis **462**.

Reference is now made to FIG. **16**, which schematically illustrates, in a flowchart form, a method **300** of performing contextual analysis, using a functional template, in accordance with the present invention. Method **300** includes,

in a box **302**, selecting a dictionary entry, embedded within a sentence, or another grammatical unit;

in a box **304**, performing a contextual analysis on the sentence;

in a box **306**, determining the functional template for the sentence or the grammatical unit, based on the contextual analysis; and

in a box **308**, providing a definition for the dictionary entry, in accordance with its function.

It will be appreciated that determining the functional template for the whole sentence or grammatical unit may be necessary to ensure that the contextual analysis is reasonable, for example, that the sentence in question indeed contains a subject and a predicate, and is not formed only of adjectives.

Reference is now made to FIGS. **17A** and **17B**, which schematically illustrate, in flowchart forms, a method **320** of performing automatic translation, utilizing the concept of functional templates, in accordance with the present invention. As has been pointed out, the functional templates of the different languages, for example, functional templates **444**, **454**, and **464** (FIGS. **15A-15C**) may show differences in usage, specific to each language, and how these usages are converted from one language to another. For example, since a functional template **324** of a first language corresponds with a functional template **326** of a second language, as well as with a functional template **330** of the third language and with a functional template **334** of a fourth language, a correspondence between functional template **330** of the third language and functional template **334** of the fourth language is noted, without having to perform a translation between them, but indirectly, through their mutual correspondence with functional template **324** of first language.

The concept of obtaining correspondence between languages, indirectly, through their mutual correspondence with another language, is illustrated graphically, in FIG. **17B**.

As has been pointed out, automatic translation is software whose input is a syntactically correct phrase, clause or sentence in a first language and whose output is a syntactically correct translation of the phrase, clause or sentence, to a second language, by combining translations of several dictionary entries, in a syntactically correct manner.

The main difficulty to the application of widespread automatic translation is that words tend to have multiple meanings, so the original document, in the first language, is ambiguous. The interactive automatic translation software hereinbelow, described in conjunction with FIGS. **18A-18D**, offers several solutions.

Reference is now made to FIGS. **18A-18D**, which schematically illustrate, in flowchart forms, interactive methods of translation, in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 18A schematically illustrates an interactive method 400 of preparing automatic-translation viable documents, preferably by a person, in tandem with an interactive automatic translation program. In a sense, method 400 is analogous to the setting of a printing press, which may be time consuming and tedious. Yet it provides for many copies to be reproduced, quickly and automatically. Method 400 relates to the preparation of an original document in a first language, as an "automatic-translation viable document," so as to be unequivocal to automatic translation. Later, automatic translation to a plurality of languages may be performed, quickly, from this document.

It will be appreciated that the automatic-translation viable document may include hidden clues, which are not printed and are generally invisible to a reader but linked to the soft copy of the document.

Interactive method 400 may proceed as follows:

In a box 402, a document in a first language is provided. As an example, the sentence, "Please order these files," may be included in it.

In a box 404, automatic translation to a second language is attempted, preferably, in a stepwise manner, by grammatical units.

In a box 406, an ambiguity in the first language is identified by the automatic translation.

In a box 408, the ambiguity in the first language is referred to the person, for consultation, for example, with the following questions:

"Regarding: "Please order these files,"

1. Do you wish these files requested? If so, change to "Please order (hidden clue: request) these files,"

2. Do you wish these files put in order? If so, change to "Please order (hidden clue: put in order) these files,"

In a box 410, the person may accept the suggestion for hidden clues. Alternatively or additionally, the person may rephrase the sentence so as to read any one of the following: "Please order these files from the file room," "Please order these files alphabetically," "Please order, or arrange these files," or "Please put these files in order." Thus the correction may include a change of wording as well as an addition of adjectives, adverbs, adjective and adverbial phrases or clauses, and an addition of synonyms. Alternatively, it may include hidden clues, which may be invisible to a reader.

In a box 412, the automatic translation confirms that the ambiguity in the first language has been removed.

The steps in boxes 406-412 may be repeated until the whole document in the first language has been examined for ambiguities and corrected.

In a box 414, the document is finalized as an automatic-translation viable document in the first language.

It will be appreciated that the ambiguities may be identified by a contextual analysis rather than by the automatic translation software. However, in accordance with the preferred embodiment, the automatic translation software that is later used for the actual translation is used for pointing out the ambiguities, for consistency's sake.

It will be appreciated that this method is especially useful in the preparation of teaching material, to be used in association with automatic translation, for example, with stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus 10 of the present invention. However, in this case, preferably hidden clues will not be used. Alternatively, the hidden clues may be written in an ink, which is invisible to a person, but visible to a scanner.

FIG. 18B schematically illustrates an interactive method 480 of translating a document, for example, by a person who

is versed primarily in the first language, in tandem with an interactive automatic translation program.

Interactive method 480 may proceed as follows:

In a box 482, a document in a first language is provided.

In a box 484, automatic translation to a second language is attempted, preferably, in a stepwise manner, by grammatical units.

In a box 486, an ambiguity in the first language is identified by the automatic translation.

In a box 488, the ambiguity in the first language is referred to the person, for consultation.

In a box 490, the ambiguity in the first language is corrected by the person.

In a box 492, the automatic translation confirms that the ambiguity in the first language has been removed.

The steps in boxes 486-492 may be repeated until the whole document in the first language has been examined for ambiguities and corrected.

In a box 494, the automatic translation translates the unequivocal document in the first language to a second language.

It will be appreciated that the ambiguities may be identified by a contextual analysis rather than by the automatic translation software.

FIG. 18C schematically illustrates an interactive method 500 of translating a document, for example, by a person who is versed both in the first and second languages, but wishes to speed up his work, by using an interactive automatic translation program.

Interactive method 500 may proceed as follows:

In a box 502, a document in a first language is provided.

In a box 504, automatic translation is attempted, in a stepwise manner, by grammatical units.

In a box 506, the automatic translation suggests one or several options for a corresponding grammatical unit in the second language.

In a box 508, the person may accept one of the suggestions, or may produce his own translation.

In a box 510, the person may polish up the selection.

Steps 504-510 may be performed for each grammatical unit.

In a box 512, the complete document is translated.

FIG. 18D schematically illustrates an interactive method 520 of translating a document, using an exposure basis, in the second language.

Interactive method 520 may proceed as follows:

In a box 522, a document in a first language is provided. The document may be an automatic-translation viable document, in the first language, or any other document.

In a box 524, translation to a second language is performed, manually or by automatic translation.

In a box 526 a comparison is made between the translated document, in the second language and the exposure basis in the second language.

In a box 528, the translated document, in the second language is polished, based on the comparison with the exposure basis.

It will be appreciated that polishing may include replacing translated words, phrases, clauses, and sentences, with those of substantially identical meanings, which appear to be more common. For example, if a document, which has been translated into English includes the term "science's fair," that term may be replaced with "science fair" by a comparison with exposure basis 440.

It will be appreciated that a method of proofreading on a contextual level may also be performed. Interactive proofreading software may be employed, to scan a document, in

a stepwise manner, per grammatical unit, and rephrase each grammatical unit. Where the rephrasing is wrong, it may be due to an ambiguity in the language, or due to an error on the part of the writer, which he may then correct.

It is expected that during the life of this patent many relevant apparatus and methods will be developed and the scope of the present invention is intended to include all such new technologies a priori.

As used herein the term "about" refers to ±10%.

It is appreciated that certain features of the invention, which are, for clarity, described in the context of separate embodiments, may also be provided in combination in a single embodiment. Conversely, various features of the invention, which are, for brevity, described in the context of a single embodiment, may also be provided separately or in any suitable subcombination.

Although the invention has been described in conjunction with specific embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications and variations that fall within the spirit and broad scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed:

1. A stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, which includes:

- a body, having a proximal end with respect to a portion of text, in a first language;
- a scanner, located within the body, substantially at the proximal end, adapted for scanning the portion of text, in the first language, wherein the portion of text is selected from the group consisting of at least one phrase, at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof;
- a computerized system, located within the body, in communication with the scanner, adapted for performing: OCR conversion of the scanned portion of text; and contextual analysis of phrases, clauses and sentences, in the first language; and
- a user-interactive feature, in communication with the computerized system, adapted for marking a dictionary entry embedded within a grammatical unit, the grammatical unit being selected from the group consisting of a phrase, a clause and a sentence, in the portion of text.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, and further including at least one output system, in communication with the computerized system, for presenting at least one definition for the dictionary entry, based on a contextual analysis of the grammatical unit.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one definition includes at least one definition in accordance with the function of the dictionary entry, when embedded within the grammatical unit.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one definition includes several definitions for the dictionary entry, ranked in accordance with their likelihood, when embedded in the grammatical unit, based on the contextual analysis.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one definition includes at least one translation to a second language, for the dictionary entry, based on the contextual analysis of the grammatical unit.

6. The apparatus of claim 2, adapted for presenting additional definitions, not based on the contextual analysis, for general background knowledge, and further adapted for denoting the additional definitions as not based on the contextual analysis.

7. A stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, which includes:

- a body, having a proximal end with respect to a portion of text, in a first language;
- a scanner, located within the body, substantially at the proximal end, adapted for scanning the portion of text, in the first language, wherein the portion of text is selected from the group consisting of at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof; and
- a computerized system, located within the body, in communication with the scanner, adapted for performing: OCR conversion of the scanned portion of text; and automatic translation of a grammatical unit, selected from the group consisting of at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof, to a second language.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, and further including at least one output system, in communication with the computerized system, for providing the automatic translation.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the automatic translation of the grammatical unit further includes at least two versions of automatic translation of the grammatical unit, for a user to choose from.

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