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Foreword

This volume presents the contributions to a symposium on “Human and Machine Perception in Acoustic and Visual Communication” (HAMP) that took place on 13th to 15th November 2001 in the Evangelische Akademie, Tutzing. The organizers were the following members of the graduate programme “Speech, facial expression and gesture in technical information systems” of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität and the Technical University, Munich: Johannes Behrends, Anke Hannig, Manfred Harth, Klaus Mulzer, Karl Weilhammer and Ulrike Wrobel. The programme that they put together consisted of papers from guest scientists invited by the graduates, as well as of contributions from the graduates themselves.

The aim of the above-mentioned graduate programme, that was started in April 2000, is to promote interdisciplinary links between those fields of study that are relevant for human interaction with information systems, and thus to promote both an enhancement of fundamental knowledge as well as the development of innovative application concepts. It unites the following disciplines: German as a Foreign Language, German Linguistics, Philosophy, Phonetics, Psycholinguistics, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Information Technology.

The symposium provided a forum for transcending the traditional boundaries between Arts and Humanities on the one hand, and Natural Science and Engineering on the other, giving a background for wide-ranging discussion of fundamental similarities and differences in the perceptual and processing strategies of man and machine. In addition to spoken language, attention focussed in particular on sign language and gesture.

Manfred Harth

