Tactical Language and Culture Training Systems: Using AI to Teach Foreign Languages and Cultures

W. Lewis Johnson
Alelo

Andre Valente
Alelo

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Abstract

The Tactical Language and Culture Training System (TLCTS) helps people quickly acquire communicative skills in foreign languages and cultures. More than 40,000 learners worldwide have used TLCTS courses. TLCTS utilizes artificial intelligence technologies during the authoring process, and at run time to process learner speech, engage in dialog, and evaluate and assess learner performance. This paper describes the architecture of TLCTS and the artificial intelligence technologies that it employs, and presents results from multiple evaluation studies that demonstrate the benefits of learning foreign language and culture using this approach.

Author Biographies

W. Lewis Johnson, Alelo
President and Chief Scientist

Andre Valente, Alelo
Chief Executive Officer
The Tactical Language and Culture Training System (TLCTS) helps people quickly acquire communicative skills in foreign languages and cultures. It focuses on the language and cultural skills needed to accomplish particular types of tasks and gives learners rich, realistic opportunities to practice achieving those tasks. Several TLCTS courses have been developed so far. Tactical Iraqi, Tactical Pashto, and Tactical French are in widespread use by U.S. marines and soldiers, and increasingly by military service members in other countries.