

CS Masters' Thesis Defense

Title: *Facilitating Research with Learner Data in Online Speaking Test*
Speaker: RACHANA BEDEKAR
Date: Monday, October 10, 2011
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: GMCS 405
Thesis advisor: Dr Carl Eckberg

Abstract:

Language Acquisition Resource Center (LARC) is a Language Resource Center at the San Diego State University. LARC has an online speaking test called CAST. CAST tests the speaking proficiency of the test takers and can do so in many different languages. A language researcher at LARC uses this language corpus to study various different factors that help a language speaker achieve advanced level proficiency. He also uses the language corpus to evaluate the reliability and validity of the CAST test, to facilitate the feedback loop that gives the test-takers meaningful assistance, to figure out the elements that constitute successful communication, to study the rater's rating strategies, and to study the test taker's attitude towards the Computer Based Test.

The main objective of this thesis is to make the language researchers' lives easy at LARC by providing them with a Java based web interface that allows them to efficiently search and navigate through the research data. The web interface is a consolidated outlook to the test data, pre-assessment survey data, and post-assessment survey data stored in the back-end. The research data can be sorted and filtered to develop data patterns and it can be modified and downloaded into a workable format as required. The researcher has access to the test ratings & recordings as part of a quick menu.
