

Preface

This book contains the collection of papers presented at the *Second Workshop on Text, Speech and Dialogue — TSD'99* held in Plzeň and Mariánské Lázně (Czech Republic) on 13–17 September 1999. The general objective of the workshop was to present state-of-the-art technology and recent achievements in the field of natural language processing.

A total of 57 papers and 19 posters contributed by 128 authors (63 from Central Europe, 11 from Eastern Europe, 33 from Western Europe, 2 from Africa, 13 from America, and 6 from Asia) were included in the workshop proceedings.

The workshop is an interdisciplinary forum, which brings together research in speech and language processing as well as research in the Eastern and Western hemisphere. We feel that the mixture of different approaches and applications gives all of us a great opportunity to benefit and learn from each other.

We would like to gratefully thank the invited speakers and the authors of the papers for their valuable contributions, the Medav GmbH (Uttenreuth, GER) and the SpeechWorks (Boston, USA) for their financial support, and Prof. Votrcký for greeting the workshop on behalf of the University of West Bohemia.

Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to the authors for their efforts to provide the papers on time, to members of the program committee for their careful reviews, to the editors for their hard work in preparing these proceedings, and to the members of the local committee for their efforts in organising the workshop.

Baltimore and Erlangen, June 1999

F. Jelinek (General Chair)

E. Nöth (Executive Chair)

Organization

TSD'99 was organized by the Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň in cooperation with Masaryk University in Brno. The workshop's Web page is <http://www-kiv.zcu.cz/events/tsd99>.

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