Construction of linefeed insertion rules for lecture transcript and their evaluation

Masaki Murata*
Department of Systems and Social Informatics, Graduate School of Information Science, Nagoya University, Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, 464-8601, Japan
E-mail: murata@el.itc.nagoya-u.ac.jp
*Corresponding author

Tomohiro Ohno
Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University, Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, 464-8601, Japan
E-mail: ohno@nagoya-u.jp

Shigeki Matsubara
Information Technology Center, Nagoya University, Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, 464-8601, Japan
E-mail: matubara@nagoya-u.jp

Abstract: The development of a captioning system that supports the real-time understanding of monologue speech such as lectures and commentaries is required. In monologues, since a sentence tends to be long, each sentence is often displayed in multi lines on the screen. In the case, it is necessary to insert linefeeds into a text so that the text becomes easy to read. This paper proposes a rule-based technique for inserting linefeeds into a Japanese spoken monologue sentence as an elemental technique to generate the readable captions. Our method inserts linefeeds into a sentence by applying the rules based on morphemes, dependencies and clause boundaries. We established the rules by circumstantially investigating the corpus annotated with linefeeds. An experiment using Japanese monologue corpus has shown the effectiveness of our rules.

Keywords: spoken language; sentence analysis; real-time captioning; clause boundary; speech corpus.

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1 Introduction

Real-time captioning, which displays transcribed texts of monologue speech such as lectures, is a technique for supporting the speech understanding of deaf persons, elderly persons, or foreigners. In monologues, since a sentence tends to be long, each sentence is often displayed in multi lines on the screen. In the case, it is necessary to insert linefeeds into a text so that the text becomes easy to read.

This paper proposes a technique for inserting linefeeds into a Japanese spoken monologue sentence as an elemental technique to generate readable captions. We assume that a screen which displays only multiline captions to provide the caption information to the audience is placed on the site of lectures and commentaries. In our method, the linefeeds are assumed to be inserted into only the boundaries between *bunsetsus*. Our method applies the rules for inserting linefeeds to a sentence. The rules are created in consideration of the boundary into which a linefeed is not inserted, the boundary into which a linefeed should be inevitably inserted, and the boundary into which a linefeed can be inserted.

We established the rules based on the emerging pattern of morphemes, dependencies and clause boundaries by circumstantially investigating the corpus annotated with linefeeds. We conducted an experiment on inserting linefeeds by using a Japanese spoken monologue corpus. As the results, the precision and recall of our method was 80.2% and 67.4%, respectively. Our method improved the performance dramatically compared with the baseline method, which is implemented based on bunsetsu boundaries and the maximum number of characters per line, and has been confirmed to be effective.
Figure 1 Caption display of spoken monologue

For example, environmental problem, population problem, AIDS problem and so on, a lot of global-scale problems have occurred, and unfortunately, these problems seem to continue during 21st century or to become worse if we look through blue glasses.

Figure 3 Caption into which linefeeds are properly inserted

This paper is organized as follows: The next section describes our assumed caption. Section 3 shows the analysis to make the rules. Section 4 presents our linefeed insertion technique. The experiment and discussion are reported in Section 5.

2 Caption display of spoken monologue

2.1 Linefeeds insertion in monologue sentences

In our research, as an environment in which captions are displayed on the site of lectures, we assume that a screen for displaying only captions is used. Figure 1 shows our assumed environment in which captions are displayed. In the screen, multi lines are always displayed, being scrolled line by line.

As shown in Figure 2, if the transcribed text of monologue speech is simply displayed in accordance with only the width of the screen without considering the
proper points of linefeeds, the caption becomes hard to read. Especially, since the audience are forced to read the caption in accordance with the speaker’s utterance speed, it is important that linefeeds are properly inserted into the displayed text in consideration of the good readability as shown in Figure 3.

In our research, we set the following concepts as the proper points into which linefeeds are inserted on captioning.

- Linefeeds have to be inserted so that each line constitutes a semantically meaningful unit.
- The number of characters in each line has to be less than or equal to the maximum number of characters per line, which is established based on the width of a screen.

Here, since a bunsetsu is the smallest semantically meaningful language unit in Japanese, our method adopts the bunsetsu boundaries as the candidates of points into which linefeeds are inserted. In this paper, hereafter, we call a bunsetsu boundary into which a linefeed should be inserted a linefeed point.

2.2 Related works

There exist a lot of researches about captioning, and the techniques of automatic speech recognition (ASR) aimed for captioning have been developed (Boulianne et al., 2006; Daelemans, Hothker and Sang, 2004; Holter et al., 2000; Imai et al., 2006; Munteanu, Penn and Baecker, 2007; Saraclar et al., 2002; Xue, Hu and Zhao, 2006). However, in order to generate captions which are easy to read, it is important not only to recognize speech with high recognition rate but also to properly display the transcribed text on a screen (Nakano et al., 2007). There are few conventional researches about inserting linefeeds on captioning except the following researches. Monma et al. (2003) proposed the method for inserting linefeeds based on patterns of a sequence of morphemes. They analyzed the point into which linefeeds were inserted on the closed-captions of Japanese TV shows, and then made the rules for inserting linefeeds. However, in this research, the linefeeds are inserted on the constraint that the text displayed in a screen all switches to the next text at a time, that is, the readability in case of our assumed caption display system is not considered.

Saiko, Takanashi and Kawahara (2005) proposed the method for captioning based on the gradual chunking. This method chunks morphemes into “constituents,” which corresponds to the nominative, predicates, case elements and so on in a sentence, and then chunks “constituents” into “phrases.” In the application of the chunking model to linefeed insertion, the concatenation of constituents is reiterated until the length of each line reaches 15 characters, and then, a linefeed is inserted just before the length of the line exceeds 15 characters. In this regard, however, a linefeed is unconditionally inserted between neighboring phrases. Although this method inserts linefeeds so that each line becomes a linguistic unit, the research did not verify the relation between linefeed points and the constituent or phrase.

Ohno, Murata and Matsubara (2009) proposed a linefeed insertion technique based on machine learning. The technique uses a monologue corpus annotated
with the information on proper linefeed insertion, and decides the linefeed points by adopting pauses, clause boundaries, dependencies, etc. as features for machine learning. Using a large-scale corpus enables the technique to insert the linefeeds with high accuracy. However, the performance of linefeeds insertion depends heavily on the size and the feature of the learning data. On the other hand, we are aiming at construction of general-purpose rules by manually investigating lecture transcripts. These rules suggest linguistic and acoustic factors which are related to the linefeed points, and are significant from the viewpoint of linguistics.

### 3 Linefeeds in monologue sentences

We investigated the actual spoken monologue data to make the rules for inserting linefeeds based on the concepts described in Section 2.1. In our investigation, we used Japanese monologue speech data in the simultaneous interpretation database (Matsubara et al., 2002). The morphological analysis, bunsetsu segmentation, clause boundary analysis and dependency analysis are performed automatically on this data, and then those information are modified by hand. Table 1 shows the size of the analysis data. In what follows, we organize bunsetsu boundaries by classifying them into the following three categories: the boundary into which a linefeed is not inserted, the boundary into which a linefeed should be inevitably inserted, and the boundary into which a linefeed can be inserted.

#### 3.1 Boundaries into which linefeeds are not inserted

As the result of the investigation, we observed that linefeeds were hardly inserted into the following bunsetsu boundaries.

- The end boundary of the bunsetsu of which the part-of-speech of the rightmost morpheme is “adnominal,” “adverb-particle_conjunction,” “particle-adnominalizer,” “noun-adverbial,” “adjective-main,” or, which the basic form of the rightmost morpheme is “あるいは (or),” “と (and)”.

- The start boundary of the bunsetsu of which the part-of-speech of the leftmost morpheme is “noun-affix-misc,” “noun-nai_adjective,” “noun-affix-adverbial,” or, which the basic form of the leftmost morpheme is “思う (think),” “問題 (problem),” “する (do),” “なる (become),” “必要 (necessary).”

For example, the bunsetsu “実際の (actual)” has the rightmost morpheme “の” of which part-of-speech is “adnominal particle.” Therefore, a linefeed is not
3.2 Boundaries into which linefeeds are inevitably inserted

In Japanese, a clause basically contains one verb phrase and consists of a sequence of bunsetsus. Since a clause constitutes a semantically meaningful language unit, bunsetsu boundaries which are clause boundaries can be widely-accepted as the candidate of a linefeed point. However, the role of each clause of a sentence is different by the type. This means that the likelihood that a linefeed is inserted into a clause boundary is different by the type of the clause boundary. As the result of the above-mentioned analysis, there existed 20 types of clause boundaries into which linefeeds should be inevitably inserted. Table 2 shows the clause boundary types into which linefeeds should be inevitably inserted. We call these types of clause boundaries the strong clause boundary as a whole hereafter. Figure 4 shows the relation between strong clause boundary and linefeed points. The strong clause boundary accounted for 47.6% of clause boundaries which appear in the analysis data.

Table 2  Strong clause boundary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clause Boundary Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compound clause</td>
<td>-ga, -shi, -keredomo, -de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition clause</td>
<td>-baai, -tokoro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time clause</td>
<td>-tokini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason clause</td>
<td>-kara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbial clause</td>
<td>-tameniha, -tameni, -yo, -temo, -tekara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>continuous clause, indirect interrogative, indirect interrogative -supplement, supplement clause -conjunction, subordinate sentence, quotational clause-particle, adnominal adjective clause</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4  Relation between strong clause boundary and a linefeed point

inserted between the sequence of two bunsetsus “実際の (actual)” and “説明会に (explanatory meeting).”
3.3 Boundaries into which linefeeds can be inserted

3.3.1 Linefeeds insertion based on clause boundaries

There exist clause boundaries into which linefeeds are not necessarily inserted but are inserted with high probability in a context. As such a clause boundary type, there are “condition clause -to,” “condition clause -ba,” “reason clause -node,” “compound clause -te,” “compound clause -toka,” “concessive clause -temo,” “indeclinable words stopping,” and “interjection.” In this paper, we call these 8 types of a clause boundaries the weak clause boundary. The weak clause boundary becomes the point into which linefeed is inserted, if there does not exist the strong clause boundary around it.

3.3.2 Linefeeds insertion based on pauses

It is thought that a pause corresponds to a syntactic boundary (Iwata, Mitome and Watanabe, 1990). Therefore, there are possibility that a linefeed becomes more easily inserted into a bunsetsu boundary in which a pause exists. In our research, a pause is defined as a silent interval equal to or longer than 200ms. Figure 5 shows the relation between a pause and a linefeed point. In the analysis data, among 748 bunsetsu boundaries in which a pause exists, linefeeds were inserted into 471 bunsetsu boundaries, that is, the ratio of linefeed insertion was 63.0%. This ratio is higher than that of bunsetsu boundaries, thus, we confirmed that linefeeds tend to be inserted into bunsetsu boundaries in which a pause exists.

3.3.3 Linefeeds insertion based on dependency relations

A dependency relation is a modification relation in which a modifier bunsetsu depends on a modified bunsetsu. A sequence of bunsetsus from the modifying bunsetsu to the modified bunsetsu constitutes a semantically meaningful unit. Therefore, linefeeds tend to be inserted into the end boundaries of modified bunsetsus although the tendency is not greater than that of clause boundaries.

Among the end boundaries of modified bunsetsus, the end boundaries of modified bunsetsus of adnominal clauses have the strongest tendency for a linefeed to be inserted into. Figure 6 shows an example of linefeed insertion into the end boundaries of a modified bunsetsu of an adnominal clause. Here, in Japanese, the rightmost morpheme of an adnominal clause is congruent with that of a sentence.
end. If a linefeed is inserted into the end boundary of adnominal clause, the end of the line may be misunderstood as a sentence end. Therefore a linefeed is inserted not there but into the end boundary of the modified bunsetsu of an adnominal clause.

Since a clause boundary labeled “topicalized element -wa” does not strictly represent a clause boundary but can be regarded as a syntactically independent element, it is the dominant candidate of the linefeed points (See Figure 7). However, when the number of characters from the start of a sentence to the clause boundary labeled “topicalized element -wa” is few, it is not appropriate to insert a linefeed into the boundary. If the length of the character string between the start of a line and the clause boundary labeled “topicalized element -wa” is long to some extent, a linefeed tends to be inserted into the clause boundary labeled “topicalized element -wa.”

In addition, the dependency structure of a line displayed as a caption tends to be closed. That is to say, all the bunsetsus, except the final bunsetsu, in a line tend to depend on one of bunsetsus in the line. Conversely, a linefeed tends to be inserted into the end boundary of the modified bunsetsu of which the dependency distance is long (See Figure 8).

4 Linefeeds insertion rules

In our method, a sentence, on which the morphological analysis, bunsetsu segmentation, clause boundary analysis and dependency analysis are performed, is considered as the input. Our method outputs the sentence into which linefeeds are inserted. The insertion of linefeeds is executed as follows by using the rules for deciding the linefeed points.

We made the rules for inserting linefeeds based on the analysis described in the previous section. Table 3 shows the rules. The number for each rule indicates the priority order in which each rule is applied, and the application of rules is performed in accordance with the priority order until the length of all lines becomes less than or equal to the maximum number of characters per line.
Figure 7  Linefeed insertion into the clause boundary labeled “topicalized element -wa”

The first rule detects the boundaries into which linefeeds are not inserted, and the second rule detects the boundaries into which linefeeds should be inevitably inserted. Furthermore, the rule 3 is the insertion based on clause boundaries, 4-5 and 7-8 are on dependency relations, 6 is on pauses, and 9 is on the number of characters of line.

Figure 9 shows the processing flow of linefeed insertion. The candidates of points into which linefeeds are inserted are denoted by a slash “/.” First, the end boundaries of the bunsetsus into which linefeeds are not inserted are excluded from the candidates of linefeed points. Next, linefeeds are inserted into the end boundary of the bunsetsu “生じておりますが (have occurred),” and “継続し (seem to continue),” which are respectively the strong clause boundary labeled “compound clause -ga” and “compound clause -shi.” As mentioned above, the rules for linefeed insertion are applied in accordance with the priority order. The texts of the caption are finally generated so that the length of each line is less than or equal to the maximum number of characters per line.
Table 3  Rules for inserting linefeeds

1. Exclude bunsetsus boundaries into which linefeeds are not inserted from the candidates.
2. Insert into the strong clause boundary.
3. Insert into the weak clause boundary.
4. Insert into the end boundary of a modifier bunsetsu of “adnominal clause.”
5. Insert into the clause boundary labeled “topicalized element-wa,” if the number of characters between the start of a line and “wa” is over 30% of the maximum number of characters per line.
6. Insert into the bunsetsu boundary in which a pause exists.
7. Insert into the end boundary of the long dependency distance bunsetsu* in case that there exits only one long dependency distance bunsetsu within the maximum number of characters from the start of the line.
8. Insert into the end boundary of the leftmost bunsetsu among long dependency distance bunsetsus of which the modified bunsetsu is different from that of the next one.
9. Insert into the rightmost bunsetsu boundary within the maximum number of characters.

*A bunsetsu which is located within the maximum number of characters from the start of the line and which depends on a bunsetsu located outside the maximum number of characters from the start of the line is called long dependency distance bunsetsu.

5  Experiment

To evaluate the effectiveness of our method, we conducted an experiment on inserting linefeeds by using Japanese spoken monologue data.

5.1 Outline of experiment

As the test data, we used the transcribed data of Japanese lecture speech (1,714 sentences, 18,993 bunsetsus, which were disjointed with 221 sentences in Section 3) in the simultaneous interpretation database (Matsubara et al., 2002). The all data are annotated by hand with information on the morphological analysis, clause boundary detection and dependency analysis.

We applied our method to the test data. In addition, we compared our method with the baseline one, which inserts linefeeds into the rightmost bunsetsu boundary among the bunsetsu boundaries into which linefeeds can be inserted so that the length of the line does not exceed the maximum number of characters. In the evaluation, we obtained the recall, the precision and the F-measure. The recall, precision and F-measure are respectively defined as follows.

\[ \text{recall} = \frac{\# \text{ of correctly inserted linefeeds}}{\# \text{ of linefeeds in the correct data}} \]
Construction of linefeed insertion rules for lecture transcript

Figure 9  Processing flow of linefeed insertion

\[ \text{precision} = \frac{\text{# of correctly inserted linefeeds}}{\text{# of inserted linefeeds}} \]

\[ F\text{-measure} = \frac{2 \times \text{recall} \times \text{precision}}{\text{recall} + \text{precision}} \]
それから二番目に先程伊藤さんからもお話ございましたように今年は終戦五十年ということで特別の年でございますのでそれに関することを若干話させて頂きたいと思います
（Second, as Mr. Ito has just talked about that this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War Two. As this is a special year, I’d like to address that event briefly.）
そして最後に二十一世紀の日本外交なんて言ってしまって若干後悔しているんですが二十一世紀といっても五十年百年後というところは予測が不可能でございますが二十一世紀の初めの方はどうなるのだろうかとまたその二十一世紀に入って我々としてはどうすべきかということについて私の考えを話させて頂たいと思います
（Lastly, I've already said “the Japanese diplomacy during the twenty-first century” and I'm now regretting that a bit. Although I mention “the twenty-first century” in one word, no one can predict what the world will be like after fifty or a hundred years from now. As for the early part of the twenty-first century, how do we predict will happen? And after having entered the twenty-first century, how should we behave? I’d like to express my opinion in answer to these questions.）
Table 4  Experimental results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>recall</th>
<th>precision</th>
<th>F-measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>our method</strong></td>
<td>80.2% (4,407/5,497)</td>
<td>67.4% (4,407/6,541)</td>
<td>73.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>baseline</strong></td>
<td>27.5% (1,510/5,497)</td>
<td>34.5% (1,510/4,376)</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 11  Examples of linefeed insertion by our method and baseline

(1) (our method)

（And on the way to the class, this friend pedaled a bicycle in swaying from side to side in fun. Then, I fell down on my face on the ground and I remember that I howled, yet it seems like just yesterday.）

（And the before-mentioned required me some time to explain, by looking back on those fifty years after World War Two, and by dividing them into three epochs for convenience of discussion, I expressed my view on history.）

（Though the before-mentioned required me some time to explain, by looking back on those fifty years after World War Two, and into three epochs by dividing them for convenience of discussion, I expressed my view on history.）

(2) (our method)

（And on the way to the class, this friend pedaled a bicycle in swaying from side to side in fun. Then, I fell down on my face on the ground and I remember that I howled, yet it seems like just yesterday.）

（And the before-mentioned required me some time to explain, by looking back on those fifty years after World War Two, and by dividing them into three epochs for convenience of discussion, I expressed my view on history.）

（Though the before-mentioned required me some time to explain, by looking back on those fifty years after World War Two, and into three epochs by dividing them for convenience of discussion, I expressed my view on history.）

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Compared with the baseline, our method could insert linefeeds into proper points. As mentioned above, we confirmed the effectiveness of our method.

Here, we discuss the causes of incorrect linefeed insertion occurred in our method. First, Table 5 shows the causes of unnecessary linefeed insertion into the incorrect points. The largest cause is the linefeed insertion based on pauses. There were a lot of cases that the length of a line becomes too short by inserting a linefeed into the bunsetsu boundary in which a pause exists. We need to establish detailed rules based on not only the existence of a pause but also the number of characters in a line and the morphological information such as the part-of-speech of a particle.
Table 5 Causes of incorrect linefeed insertion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>causes</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>insertion into the strong clause boundary</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insertion into the weak clause boundary</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insertion based on adnominal clause</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insertion based on clause boundary labeled “topicalized element -wa”</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insertion based on pauses</td>
<td>891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insertion based on dependency distance</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insertion based on the number of characters of line</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>others</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>2,134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second, we discuss the case that our method could not insert linefeeds into the correct points. One of the reasons is the existence of the clause boundaries which did not appear in the analysis data. Figure 12 shows an example. In this example, the clause boundary labeled “compound clause -tari” is a linefeed point. However, there did not exist the clause boundary labeled “compound clause -tari” in the learning data. Therefore, the linefeed was incorrectly inserted into the end boundary of a modifier bunsetsu of the adnominal clause. Since the coverage of the current rules are not enough, we need to increase the size of the learning data.
6 Conclusions

This paper proposed a method for inserting linefeeds into Japanese monologue sentences to support the understanding of monologue speech by the deaf persons, elderly persons or foreigners. Our method can insert linefeeds so that captions become easy to be read by applying the rules which are established based on the emerging pattern of morphemes, dependencies, clause boundaries, pauses, fillers and so on. An experiment on inserting linefeeds by using a monologue corpus showed the recall and precision was 80.2% and 67.4%, respectively, and we confirmed the effectiveness of our method.

In applying the linefeed insertion technique to practical real-time captioning, we have to consider not only the readability but also the simultaneity. Since the input of our method is a sentence which tends to be long in spoken monologue, in the future, we will develop a more simultaneous technique of which the input is shorter than a sentence.

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References


Construction of linefeed insertion rules for lecture transcript


Notes

1 Bunsetsu is a linguistic unit in Japanese that roughly corresponds to a basic phrase in English. A bunsetsu consists of one independent word and zero or more ancillary words. A dependency is a modification relation in which a modifier bunsetsu depends on a modified bunsetsu. That is, the modifier bunsetsu and the modified bunsetsu work as modifier and modifies, respectively.

2 We used ChaSen (Matsumoto et al., 1999) as morphological analyzer, CBAP (Kashioka and Maruyama, 2004) as clause boundary analyzer and CaboCha (Kudo and Matsumoto, 2002) with default learning data as dependency parser.

3 The specification of the parts-of-speech is in accordance with that of IPA parts-of-speech (Matsumoto and Asahara, 2001) in a morphological analyzer called ChaSen (Matsumoto et al., 1999), the rules of the bunsetsu segmentation with those of CSJ (Maekawa et al., 2000), and the dependency grammar is in accordance with that of the Kyoto Text Corpus (Kurohashi and Nagao, 1997)

4 We used the types of clause boundaries defined by the Clause Boundary Annotation Program (Kashioka and Maruyama, 2004). The type of a clause boundary is decided by the clause of which the end boundary is the clause boundary. There exist 147 types of clause boundaries, and the types of clause boundaries are represented by annotation labels such as “compound clause” and “adnominal clause.”