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(54) **A text-to-speech system and method**

(57) A system and method for generating synthetic speech is disclosed. The invention operates in a computer implemented Text-To-Speech system comprising at least a speaker database that has been previously created from user recordings, a Front-End system to receive an input text and a Text-To-Speech engine. Particularly, the Front-End system generates multiple phonetic transcriptions for each word of the input text, and the TTS engine is using a cost function to select which phonetic transcription is the more appropriate for searching the speech segments within the speaker database to be concatenated and synthesized.

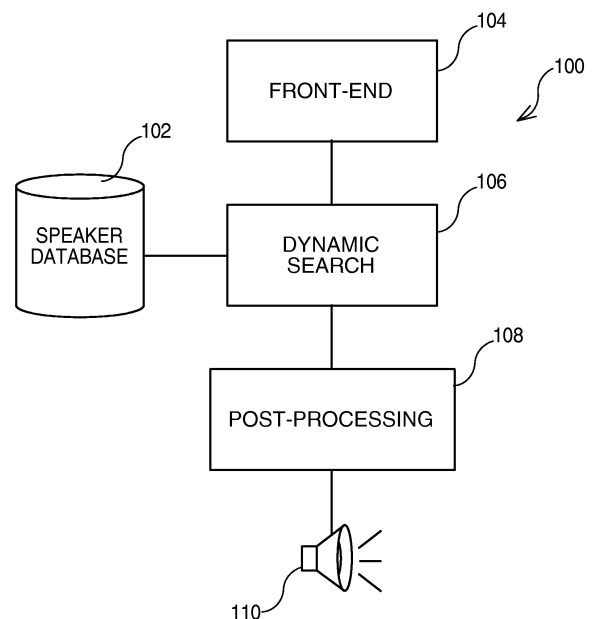


FIG. 1

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European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 7 June 2006	Examiner Krembel, L
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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