Abstract

We present a revision of several theoretical and practical studies about the analysis of temporal features of speech. The most common methodology to analyze speech production include phenomena as the time, speech, time and length of pauses, among others. The results of these studies show that it is possible to associate the length of pauses with the time dedicated to cognitive processing associated with tasks of word searching and planning of discourse. In this article, we are interested in analyzing and discussing to comment on and discuss features of the analysis methodology of speech production, such as sample size, instrumental analysis and classification of types of pauses. Most of the studies we revised assume that the pauses may be associated with cognitive work. However, it is possible to note that the pauses have other functions, like the communicative function. When we analyze samples of natural speech, it is necessary to distinguish between one type of pauses and others in order to discriminate between the process which results from difficulties in the planning of discourse and the processes which give expression to discourse. A posteriori analysis of linguistic structures that are prepared during pauses and that are used after them could reveal how language works in the mind.