

# AI in CALL

Artificially Inflated  
or  
Almost Imminent?

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# Who are we talking about?

- Last, Rex William (1989) *Artificial Intelligence Techniques in Language Learning*. Chichester: Ellis Horwood Limited.
- Farrington, Brian (1989) AI: 'Grandeur' or 'Servitude'? In: Cameron, Keith (ed.) *Computer-Assisted Language Learning: Program Structure and Principles*. Oxford: Intellect Limited.

# Farrington (1989)

## ● His subheadings

- The End of a Phase for CALL
- Intelligent CALL
- Inadequacies of Present Intelligent Systems
- Possible Ways forward

## ● Some point he makes

- Novelty has worn off
- No more innovation from DIY CALL
- Linguistic knowledge had little impact on CALL
- Limit semantic universe to be able to deal with meaningful language
- Make common exercise types more flexible

# Last 1989

- **“The road to disillusionment” (7)**
- **Fails to understand NLP**
  - Comparison of NLP and his ‘German Strong Verbs’ (93ff)
  - Discussion of algorithms (106ff)
  - His own – ‘THE INEXPERT SYSTEM’
- **Struggles with the concept of intelligence**
- **Argues for expert system in CALL (134ff) and provides to examples (Gibber by Johnston 1988/89 and his own)**

# What have they been up to?

- General discussion  
(Matthews 1992a, 1992b)
- Trying a new grammar  
(Hagen 1995)
- Trying a new parsing approach  
(Schwind 1990)
- Using and evaluating a system  
(Nagata 1996, 1998; Heift 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003)
- Bringing people together  
(Schwartz & Yazdani 1992;  
Holland, Kaplan & Sams  
1995;  
Jager, Nerbonne & van Essen  
1998;  
Schulze, Hamel & Thompson  
1999)

# Why isn't there more?

- NLP is hard
- SLA, HCI, NLP, ITS, CL, HPSG, ...is it all too much?
- Grammar porting is still problematic (Uszkoreit & Zaenen 1996)
- Computing  $\supset$  CompLing  $\supset$  (AI)  $\supset$  CALL

# And on a more optimistic note ...

- Morphological processing (Nerbonne et al. 1998)
- Corpora (Dodd 2000, Wichmann et al. 1997)
- Speech technology
- Some syntactic processing (Heift ...)