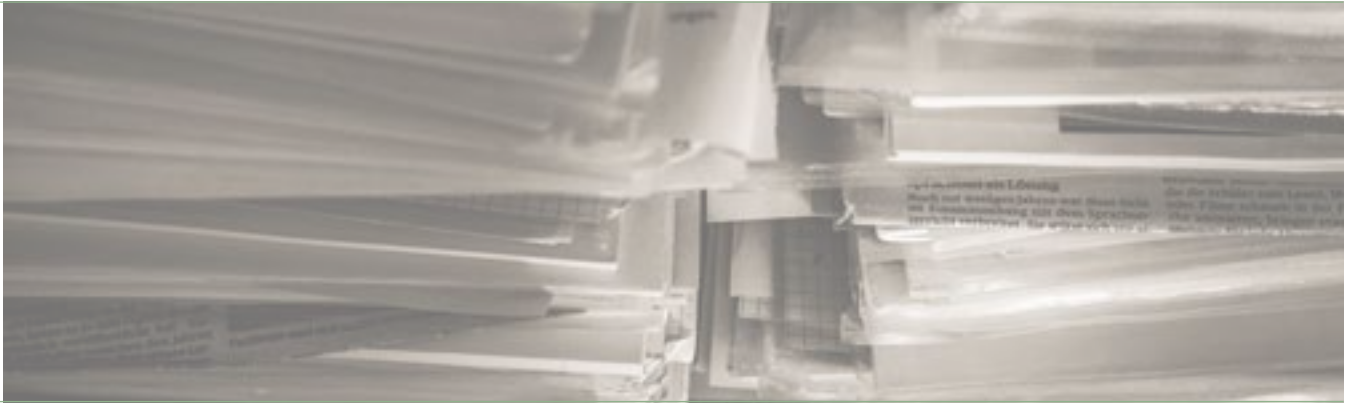


# What could we expect from automatic transcription of L2 speech?



## Lunch talk & Workshop

**Dr. Srikanth Madikeri**  
University of Zurich

Chair: Prof. Dr. Raphael Berthele, UNIFR

Wednesday 26/3/2025

Lunch Talk: Université de Fribourg, Avenue de l'Europe 20, MIS 04 → Salle 4122

Workshop: Institut de plurilinguisme, Rue de Morat 24, Fribourg → Salle K1.03

Automatic transcription of French, German, or Swiss German as a second language (L2) produces texts that are almost unrelated to the spoken words. Automatically generated transcriptions are incorrect for more than 50% of the spoken words on data the AI models have not encountered during their training, and this word error rate increases rapidly when the L2 speaker has poor pronunciation, is a child, or when the speech is accompanied by a noisy background. Moreover, L2 French resources that can refine the functioning of automatic transcription are scarce.

### Lunch Talk (12.00-13.00)

The talk will be about the possibilities with present-day technologies. What could we expect from automatic transcription of L2 speech? Which tools are best suited for it? What are the most common errors in automatic speech recognition systems? How can linguists enhance the accuracy of automatic transcription?

### PhD-Workshop (14.30-16.30)

Participants will be shown how to install free, open-source software and run the best speech/non-speech detection, speech-to-text, and dia-

rization technologies (who spoke when) on their laptops.

### Biography

Dr. Srikanth Madikeri is a computer engineer specializing in automatic speech recognition for low-resource languages. He is interested in the current challenges of automatic transcription of second languages.

### PhD programme on Multilingualism

The event is part of the doctoral programme Multilingualism: Acquisition, Education, and Society (more information here: <https://institut-plurilinguisme.ch/en/programme-doctoral>)

### Workshop Participation

Students and PhD students from Swiss universities are eligible to participate. Travel expenses will be reimbursed under certain conditions.

### Contact & Registration

To register, please contact Dr. Marie-Anne Morand ([marie-anne.morand@unifr.ch](mailto:marie-anne.morand@unifr.ch)) by **March 14, 2025**.

Please note that the talk and the workshop do not take place in the same building.