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generating a confidence estimate for each string of text that corresponds to an utterance, the generating including:  
 selecting one or more predictors for the string of text based on the large-vocabulary continuous speech recognition; and  
 training a confidence model for the string of text using the one or more predictors;  
 calculating a message confidence estimate based on the confidence estimates for the strings of text generated for the message;  
 comparing the message confidence estimate to a predetermined threshold;  
 if the message confidence estimate satisfies the predetermined threshold, forwarding the strings of text generated for the message to the system; and  
 if the message confidence estimate does not satisfy the predetermined threshold, forwarding information relating to the message to a transcriptionist.

**28.** The method of claim **27** in which a confidence estimate for a string of text indicates a probability that the string of text is an acceptable representation of the corresponding utterance.

**29.** The method of claim **27** further comprising, if the message confidence estimate does not satisfy the predetermined threshold, having the transcriptionist determine one or more acceptable strings of text and for the utterances of the message, forwarding the acceptable strings of text for the message to the system.

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**30.** The method of claim **27** in which information relating to the message comprises one or more of: the message, the string of text for each utterance in the message, and the message confidence estimate.

**31.** The method of claim **27** in which generating the confidence estimate for a string of text comprises:  
 extracting values of the one or more predictors for the string of text based on the corresponding utterance; and  
 providing the extracted values for the utterance to the confidence model to generate the confidence estimate for the string of text.

**32.** The method of claim **27** further comprising:  
 comparing the message confidence estimate to a second predetermined threshold; and  
 if the message confidence estimate does not satisfy the first predetermined threshold and it satisfies the second predetermined threshold;  
 forwarding the information relating to the message to the user who spoke the message, and  
 permitting the user to act in response to the forwarded information.

**33.** The method of claim **27** in which the transcriptionist is a human transcriptionist.

**34.** The method of claim **27** in which the system includes a human recipient.

**35.** The method of claim **27** in which at least one utterance in the message comprises two or more words.

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