

# **A Spreading Activation Model of Word Selection**

**Maria Ovens (1999)**

A three-layer spreading activation model of word selection was developed within the framework established by Dell's 1988 connectionist model of speech production. The model uses either semantic or phonological information, or a combination of the two, to select a word for production. A proposed mechanism for word priming, residual activation in the phonological and semantic layers, was investigated. Experiments were carried out which demonstrate that the model is capable of reproducing facilitation and inhibition effects found in human subjects, but only at the expense of setting a large number of arbitrary parameters. In addition, further work is suggested, which might go some way towards alleviating this problem, and which might allow the model to be used for stimulating other psycholinguistic phenomena.