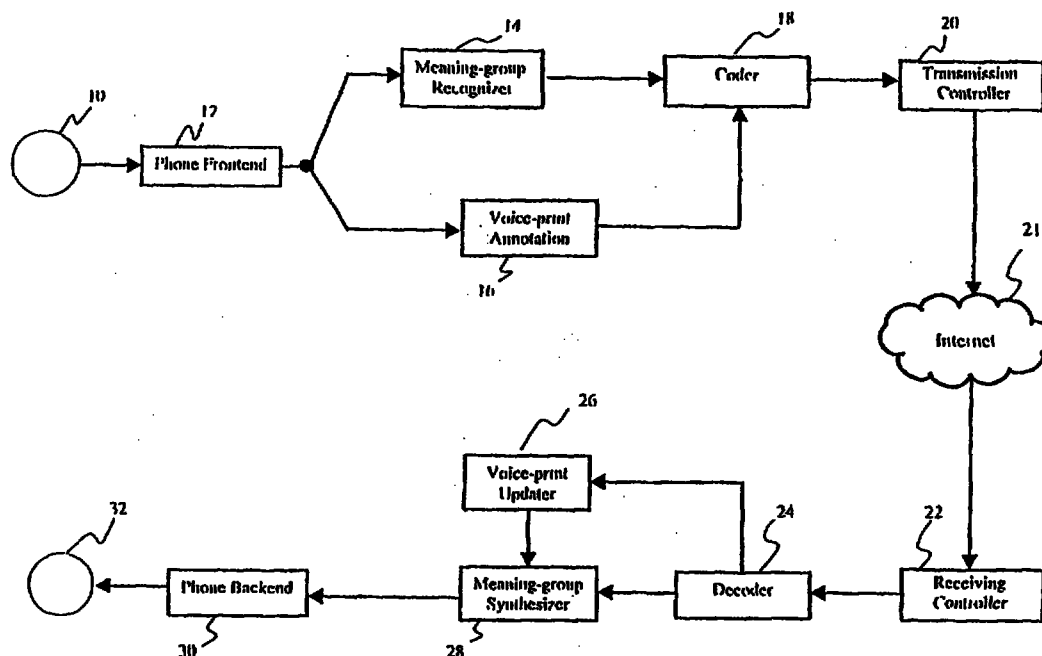




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(54) Title: **LOW DATA TRANSMISSION RATE AND INTELLIGIBLE SPEECH COMMUNICATION**

(57) Abstract

A method of processing speech representative of ideograms for speech communication using an asynchronous communication channel (21) is disclosed. The method includes the step of processing speech units of a speech and data indicative of the speech units. Each speech unit is representative of an ideogram or a plurality of semantically related ideograms (500-508). The data indicative of the speech units is discretely communicable on the asynchronous communication channel (21). By communicating the data indicative of the speech units, a substantially low data transmission rate and intelligible speech communication is achieved.