MALT
Language Translator

The Idea

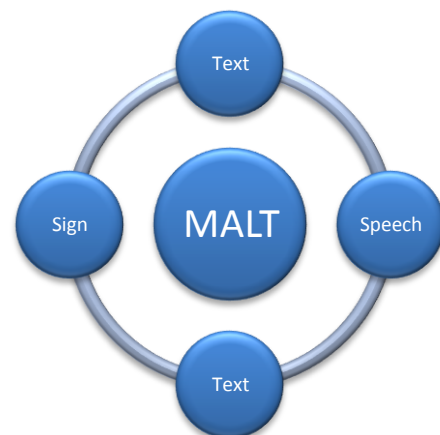*Easy-to-use real-time translation tool for a real need.*

There are approximately 5.000 Finnish people whose primary language is Finnish sign language. In addition, about 9.000 people use sign language in their daily life. They are hearing impaired or relatives of a deaf person. Worldwide, there are 36 million people who communicate using sign language every day.

Often deaf and hard of hearing people feel left out from conversations or they are actually ignored by people because of their disability. The members of the deaf community want to be actually treated like other people, with equal rights and respect. A common misconception is that deaf people are capable of lip reading, but it is actually very difficult. Also interpretation services are not available without a reservation beforehand. In addition human interpretation is very challenging. Research shows that interpretation becomes error prone after 15-20 minutes and the quality of the interpretation suffers heavily.

MALT is the solution for these problems. It is a social translation application that allows real-time interaction between a deaf and a hearing person. The application recognizes sign gestures of the user and translates them to speech and vice versa. MALT also provides a multilingual dictionary between sign and spoken languages. The users can add missing words by themselves which at the same time improve the quality of the translations.

Features

- Translation
    - Sign-to-Speech
    - Speech-to-Sign
    - Sign-to-Sign
- Social dictionary
    - Extendable by users
- Education
    - Fun and easy

The main goal of MALT is to provide an easy-to-use real-time translation tool for a real need. All you need is a computer with a web camera and a microphone.

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"Easy-to-use real-time translation tool for a real need."
- MALT