

Potential of Augmented Reality

As years pass, more and more technology is introduced to the world. The amount of things we can do with these pieces of technology is endless. The type of thing we've been playing around with in class is our smart phone's camera. Specifically we took a look at Google's Translate app to see what it can do using the camera. Our task was to find foreign language anywhere in the real world and use the app to try to translate it. Our focus was to see how well the app translates and how that could be used with AR glasses or contact lenses from the future.

I have posted pictures that are from a sign inside a CTA train. The picture has a sign in English and Spanish letting the passenger know that the train operator cannot talk while the train is moving. The sign says, "FOR YOUR SAFETY OPERATOR IS NOT PERMITTED TO TALK TO CUSTOMER WHILE VEHICLE IS IN MOTION PLEASE COOPERATE" When using the app, the Spanish portion translated to English came out as "FOR YOUR SAFETY NO OPERATOR NOT ALLOWS YOU TO TALK TO THE CUSTOMERS WHILE THE VEHICLE THEY'RE MOVEMENT PLEASE COOPERATE WITH THESE REGULATIONS" As we can see, the translation is not perfect because the way Spanish grammar is set up is different in certain ways. This is how we get parts that make no sense like "...NO OPERATOR NOT ALLOWS..."

Now we must look toward the future and imagine there are AR glasses or contact lenses that do this apps feature automatically. There are pros and cons to this. The pros I see from this technology would be that it could make traveling to foreign countries easier. Since you can translate signs to the language of choice, you will have some understanding of what they say or mean. I think this can be beneficial to people trying to learn a new country and not feel too lost. I think the cons to this technology would be that since translations aren't totally perfect it could confuse users. This technology could lead to more accidents as well because many Augmented Reality applications have caused accidents already. An example being people playing Pokemon GO. I think the user of this technology should be able to have full control over the synthetic being mapped over the real because what if these pairs of glasses or contacts were your prescription. That would mean you'd be using these devices on a daily basis. It would get annoying from the technology always trying to translate things. An example would be like from one of the pictures I posted. Some of the English portions of the sign were being translated as well which could be very annoying.

In the end, I personally think that this technology would enhance our lives. It can help connect the world's cultures and communities. Although visual translation in real time would be very helpful, I think if we could make the device translate foreign languages audibly then it can help us learn to speak the language. This would make talking to natives very easier.