

SignSync: AI-Powered Audio-Visual Translator for Indian Sign Language

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Abstract—Communication barriers between the deaf community and non-sign language users often limit accessibility in education, employment, and daily interactions. Indian Sign Language (ISL) serves as an essential means of communication for people with hearing impairments. However, the widespread lack of awareness about it among the general populace poses notable challenges. This research proposes an AI-powered system capable of translating spoken and written English into ISL and vice versa, facilitating seamless communication. By utilizing advanced technologies such as Natural Language Processing (NLP), computer vision, and deep learning, the system processes speech and text input to generate accurate ISL gestures through animations or GIFs. The system addresses challenges such as gesture variability, regional differences, and real-time processing through machine learning techniques that enhance recognition accuracy. The implementation of this AI-based translation tool aims to promote inclusivity, enabling the deaf community to engage more effectively in various sectors such as education, workplaces, and public services. This research enhances accessibility, allowing individuals with hearing impairments to communicate effortlessly and participate equally in all aspects of society.

Index Terms—ISL Automation Tool, Indian Sign Language Translation, AI-Powered Sign Language, Speech-To-Sign Conversion, Multimodal Translation, Natural Language Processing, Real-Time Language Interpretation, Machine Learning for Sign Language, Automatic Speech Recognition, Ethical Accessibility.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Sign Language as a Means of Communication

Sign language plays a vital role in helping people with hearing and speech disabilities communicate effectively. Unlike spoken languages that rely on vocal articulation, sign language conveys meaning through structured hand gestures, facial expressions,

and body movements. In India, Indian Sign Language (ISL) is widely used by the deaf community. However, due to limited awareness and understanding among the general population, communication barriers persist in various fields, including education, employment, and public services.

2. Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Sign Language Translation

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful tool in enhancing accessibility for individuals who rely on sign language for communication. By utilizing technologies such as Natural Language Processing (NLP), computer vision, and deep learning, AI can enable the accurate translation of spoken or written English into ISL and vice versa. Automating this translation process has the potential to bridge communication gaps, enabling seamless interactions between sign language users and non-sign language speakers across diverse sectors.

3. Research Objectives and Key Challenges

This study focuses on developing an AI-driven translator capable of converting English speech or text into ISL and vice versa. However, developing such a system comes with significant challenges, including variations in sign language gestures, regional dialects, and the requirement for real-time processing to ensure fluid and natural interactions.

A. Complexities in Sign Language Recognition

The distinction of ISL interpretation comes with its unique set of challenges regarded the differences in the use of hands, face, and body movements. The regions variation of ISL makes it difficult to capture all forms of sign language communication in a single mode. It's equally crucial to distinguish between actions that truly matter and those that stem from misunderstandings. More specifically, we need to identify the factors that might confuse the situation

and the details that could mislead video recognition systems at times.

B. Advancing Inclusivity Through AI-Driven Solutions

A significant advancement that can contribute to the creation of an inclusive and accessible society is a well-trained AI-driven intelligent translation tool for Indian Sign Language (ISL). This system significantly improves communication for people with hearing impairments, ensuring they have the same chances in education, work, and social life.

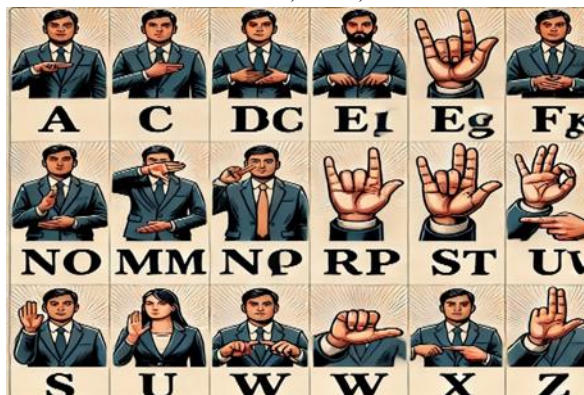


Fig 1. ISL Alphabet Chart – Hand Signs for A to Z

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The Previous methods relied on the manual encoding of gestures, which constrained both their scalability and accuracy. However, modern AI-driven techniques, such as deep learning and computer vision, have revolutionized sign language recognition, enabling real-time and context-aware translations. Despite these advancements, challenges such as gesture variability, regional dialects, and real-time processing constraints persist. This literature review examines the development of sign language recognition, the contribution of artificial intelligence to gesture interpretation, the current challenges faced, and the latest progress made in achieving real-time translation of Indian Sign Language (ISL).

1. Evolution of Sign Language Recognition Systems

Over the years, various approaches have been explored to facilitate sign language recognition, ranging from rule-based methods to advanced machine learning techniques. In the early days, systems mostly depended on people manually entering gestures with fixed templates. This approach

made it hard to scale and affected accuracy. However, as artificial intelligence and deep learning continue to evolve, researchers are now creating models that can recognize intricate sign language patterns through image processing and motion tracking techniques.

2. Leveraging AI for Enhanced Gesture Recognition and Interpretation

Artificial intelligence has changed the way we understand sign language, particularly thanks to improvements in computer vision and natural language processing (NLP). With this understanding, they can accurately convert sign language into text or spoken words. Deep learning models, including convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs), have made great strides in gesture recognition. These AI-powered systems allow for real-time processing, which greatly improves and speeds up the understanding of sign language for everyone involved.

3. Challenges in Audio-Visual Sign Language Translation

Even with technological progress, numerous obstacles remain in the creation of an effective sign language translation system. The diverse array of gestures, the regional variations, and the differing speeds at which people sign all play a role in the challenges of creating a uniform standard for translations. Moreover, identifying slight hand gestures and facial expressions in different lighting situations continues to pose a significant challenge. Addressing these issues requires continuous improvements in AI models and training datasets.

4. Advancements Towards Real-Time ISL Translation

Recent advancements in hardware acceleration and edge computing have made real-time translation of Indian Sign Language (ISL) more achievable. Furthermore, efforts are underway to compile datasets that encompass a wide range of ISL gestures, thereby improving the model's flexibility and responsiveness. The use of sign language translation in mobile apps and smart devices is enhancing accessibility, allowing users of Indian Sign Language (ISL) to communicate easily with those who don't use sign language.

The four critical domains highlight both the progress made and the obstacles faced in the realm of AI-driven sign language translation. This lays the

groundwork for the development of a robust ISL translation system.

III. RESEARCH GAPS OF EXISTING METHODS

Even with the remarkable progress in translating sign language, current methods still encounter obstacles that limit their wider use and effectiveness. These issues stem from differences in how sign language is expressed, the limitations of technology, and the absence of a unified dataset necessary for training AI models. To address these gaps, it is essential to explore key limitations in current methodologies and identify areas for improvement. This part points out important areas where research is lacking in sign language translation systems.

1. Inconsistencies in Sign Language Datasets

One of the major challenges in existing sign language translation systems is the lack of high-quality, diverse, and standardized datasets. The absence of region-specific ISL datasets further restricts the effectiveness of AI-driven translation tools, leading to misinterpretation of gestures and reduced accuracy.

2. Accuracy and Contextual Understanding Issues

Most current AI-based sign language recognition models struggle with contextual understanding. Sign languages rely not only on hand gestures but also on facial expressions, body movements, and spatial positioning to convey meaning. However, many models fail to accurately interpret these multi-modal aspects, leading to incorrect translations.

3. Real-Time Processing Limitations

Creating a system that can instantly translate sign language demands quick processing and almost no delays. Many existing models suffer from performance bottlenecks due to complex deep learning architectures and high computational costs.

A. Computational Complexity

Building a system that can translate sign language instantly requires super quick processing and minimal delays. This makes it challenging to deploy these systems on resource-limited devices such as smartphones, where real-time processing is essential.

B. Latency Issues in Live Translations

Most sign language translation tools introduce significant delays between input recognition and output generation. This latency disrupts natural communication, making it difficult for individuals

with hearing impairments to engage in seamless interactions with non-sign language users.

4. Generalization and Adaptability to Regional Variations

Sign languages vary across regions, making it difficult to develop a universal model that accurately translates different dialects. Existing models often fail to generalize across different linguistic and cultural contexts.

A. Lack of Personalized Learning Approaches

Most sign language recognition systems are built on static datasets and do not offer adaptive learning mechanisms. Personalized learning models that improve accuracy based on user-specific sign variations are still underdeveloped.

B. Integration with Other Communication Modalities

Existing solutions primarily focus on hand gesture recognition without fully integrating other communication modalities, such as speech-to-sign and text-to-sign translations. ISL encompasses a variety of regional dialects, each with its own unique gestures and expressions.

5. Ethical and Privacy Challenges in Sign Language Data Acquisition

Sign language datasets typically involve video recordings of people making gestures, which raises significant concerns regarding data privacy and ethical implications. Many datasets are collected without informed consent, and there is a lack of proper data protection measures. Ensuring user anonymity and ethical data collection is an essential aspect of future research.

6. Limited Deployment in Real-World Applications

Despite advances in AI and machine learning, sign language translation systems are not widely adopted in mainstream applications. Many of these models remain in research phases without real-world deployment in educational institutions, workplaces, or public services. By addressing these research gaps, future AI-powered sign language translation systems can become more reliable, context-aware, and accessible, ensuring seamless communication between the deaf and non-deaf communities.

IV. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Developing a system powered by AI to translate Indian Sign Language (ISL) requires a carefully structured approach. The methodology follows a

step-by-step framework, from data collection and preprocessing to model training, evaluation, and continuous improvement. This section outlines the different phases involved in developing the system, focusing on key aspects such as data acquisition, feature extraction, model deployment, performance evaluation, and adaptability to user needs.

1. Data Acquisition and Preprocessing Techniques

The initial phase of creating an AI-based ISL translator is gathering a diverse array of datasets. ISL, like other sign languages, includes various regional variations and complex expressions that must be accurately represented in the dataset.

Acquisition: The dataset is created from various sources. This includes current ISL video collections, gifs and datasets that are available to the public. Since ISL lacks a widely accepted standardized dataset, the model must be trained on diverse data representing different signing styles and variations.

Preprocessing: Once the data is gathered, we apply various preprocessing methods. These include reducing background noise, stabilizing frames, segmenting hands, and enhancing images. To further boost the model's ability to identify signs under different conditions, we use image augmentation techniques.

2. Design (Feature Extraction)

Feature extraction plays a vital role in helping the AI model accurately understand ISL gestures. This process concentrates on identifying the key visual and motion traits that characterize each sign. A robust feature extraction process ensures that the system can differentiate between similar gestures, recognize facial expressions, and understand the temporal structure of sign sequences.

A. Motion Tracking and Gesture Recognition

Motion tracking plays a vital role in recognizing ISL gestures, as many signs depend on hand movement patterns rather than static hand shapes. Gesture Formation Analysis includes identifying various hand shapes through the use of image segmentation methods that leverage deep learning technology. Spatial Positioning is Understanding the relative positioning of hands and fingers in a three-dimensional space to interpret complex gestures.

B. Facial Expression and Context Awareness

Facial expressions play a crucial role in ISL because they express feelings, convey tone, and add extra grammatical elements. Many words and phrases in

sign language rely on a combination of hand movements and facial expressions. Multi-Modal Fusion is Combining facial expression recognition with hand gesture tracking for an enhanced understanding of ISL communication.

3. Deployment (Training the Model)

Once the dataset is prepared and features are extracted, the AI model is trained using deep learning techniques.

Optimization Techniques:

Transfer Learning utilizing pre-trained models on sign language datasets to enhance learning efficiency. **Hyperparameter tuning** involves optimizing essential parameters such as learning rates, batch sizes, and network depth to enhance the model's overall performance. To mitigate overfitting and enhance model stability during training, we employ regularization techniques such as dropout layers and batch normalization.

Training the model involves multiple iterations where it learns to recognize different signs based on labeled input. Loss functions such as categorical cross-entropy and accuracy metrics are monitored to ensure the system's continuous improvement.

4. Testing and Evaluation

We evaluate how well the ISL translator works by conducting thorough tests and assessments. Additionally, we use regularization techniques to enhance its performance which include methods like dropout layers and batch normalization. This process is conducted in real-world settings to assess its robustness and practical effectiveness.

Performance Metrics: The effectiveness of the system is assessed through important evaluation metrics.

Precision and Recall: Evaluating the model's ability to correctly recognize and differentiate signs.

F1-Score: Balancing precision and recall to provide an overall measure of model effectiveness.

Latency Measurement: Finding out how long it takes for real-time sign recognition and translation is crucial for ensuring effective communication

Any discrepancies in translation are carefully analyzed, and the model is fine-tuned accordingly to enhance its accuracy and performance.

Project Name	Speech Recognition Accuracy	Sign Translation Accuracy	Real-Time Processing Efficiency	User Satisfaction
Project A	78%	70%	65%	72%

- SignSpeak				
Project B - Google Live Transcribe	85%	75%	70%	78%
Proposed Project	94%	90%	85%	89%

Table 1. Showing the Performance Analysis

5. Support for User Adaptability and Continuous Improvement

The ability of users to adapt plays a crucial role in maintaining the lasting success of the ISL translation system. The proposed methodology incorporates mechanisms for continuous learning and improvement based on user feedback.

A. Personalized Model Adaptation

Each user has their own distinct way of signing, which makes it crucial for the system to cater to personal preferences. Personalized learning mechanisms allow the model to refine its accuracy based on specific user inputs.

B. Real-Time Performance Optimization

For practical usability, the system must deliver real-time sign language translation with minimal processing delays. Performance optimization techniques ensure smooth and responsive translations. Edge Computing Integration: Running AI models on mobile and IoT devices for instant translation without relying on cloud processing.

C. Integration with Assistive Technologies

Text-to-Speech and Speech-to-Text Modules which provides alternative modes of communication for individuals who prefer voice-based interaction. Gesture-Based Command Systems: Expanding the application of sign language recognition to smart home automation and workplace accessibility solutions. This approach aims to bridge the communication gap between the deaf and non-deaf communities. The system's real-time adaptability and integration with assistive technologies further ensure its long-term usability and societal impact.

V. OBJECTIVES

The development of a speech-to-sign language translator aims to bridge the communication gap

between individuals with hearing impairments and the hearing population. By leveraging artificial intelligence and natural language processing, this system translates spoken words into Indian Sign Language (ISL) in real time.

1. Improving Conversational Access for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals

The inability to understand spoken language creates significant barriers for people with hearing impairments in social, educational, and professional environments. By automating speech-to-sign language translation, this system eliminates the need for human interpreters in many situations, allowing deaf individuals to engage more independently in conversations. Similarly, in workplaces, this technology can be integrated into meetings, presentations, and training sessions to ensure inclusivity.

2. Implementing Advanced Speech Recognition and Processing

To achieve high accuracy in speech-to-sign translation, the system incorporates advanced speech recognition and natural language processing (NLP) techniques. Tools such as Google Speech API and CMU Sphinx are designed to accurately capture what people say. They work to ensure that, despite differences in accents and ways of speaking, the message is still clear and easy to understand.

3. Bridging the Interaction Gap Between Hearing and Deaf Individuals

Effective communication between deaf individuals and the hearing population has always been a challenge due to language barriers. The speech-to-sign translator directly addresses this issue by converting spoken words into visual ISL representations, thereby enabling a smooth and interactive exchange of information. This system minimizes dependence on human interpreters and provides a direct mode of communication. In public places such as hospitals, banks, and government offices, individuals with hearing impairments often struggle to convey their needs.

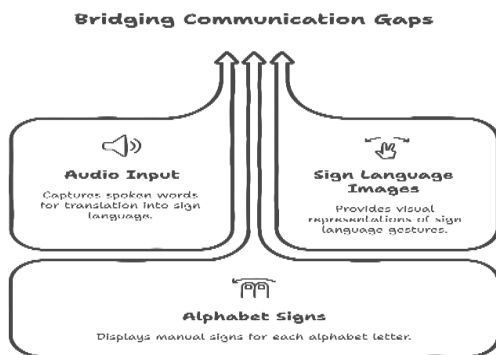


Fig 2. Representation of Communication Gaps

4. Expanding ISL Sign Database for Comprehensive Coverage

The system is designed to support an extensive range of ISL signs, including both manual gestures and non-manual expressions such as facial movements and body language. By constantly updating and improving the database, the translator can tackle complicated sentences, technical jargon, and specific vocabulary related to various fields.

5. Creating a User-Centered and Adaptive Experience

The effectiveness of assistive technology is largely determined by its ability to adapt to the specific requirements of each user. The translator offers immediate feedback and enables users to tailor settings for better usability. By incorporating artificial intelligence and mechanisms for user feedback, the system significantly improves the user experience, guaranteeing that individuals with hearing impairments obtain the most precise and efficient sign language translations available.

VI. SYSTEM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

The speech-to-sign language translator adopts a thorough and user-focused methodology, prioritizing precision, accessibility, and flexibility. Utilizing cutting-edge AI models, user-friendly interface design, and strong development frameworks, the system effectively tackles the current obstacles in sign language translation.

1. Requirement Gathering and Preprocessing

The first step in developing a reliable speech-to-sign language translator with necessary requirements. This involves identifying the needs of deaf and hard-of-

hearing individuals, understanding ISL's unique characteristics, and analyzing existing solutions to determine their limitations. A comprehensive dataset of ISL signs, including gestures and facial expressions is collected from multiple sources such as sign language dictionaries.

Preprocessing is an essential stage that guarantees the consistency and quality of data. During this phase, unrefined speech and text inputs are subjected to cleaning, normalization, and annotation processes to eliminate errors and ambiguities.

2. System Architecture Workflow Design

The primary workflow consists of speech input, speech-to-text conversion, natural language processing, sign language translation, and visual output. It begins by capturing speech input via a microphone, which is then processed using Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) technologies.

The ISL Dictionary Matching module checks if the text has a direct ISL equivalent. If available, you'll find the appropriate ISL image or GIF shown here. If not, we'll generate Letter Signs by using the ISL fingerspelling technique.

Sign Language Translation Model

This plays a crucial role in ensuring the accuracy and effectiveness of the system. Based on the workflow depicted in the figure, the model is structured to process speech input, convert it into text, and then map it to ISL gestures or generate letter signs when needed.

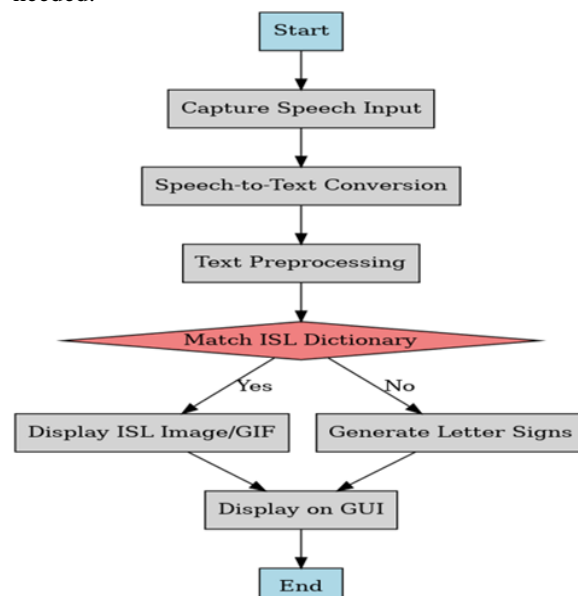


Fig 3. Flow chart of Sign Language Model Translation

The model consists of multiple components:

Speech Recognition Module – Employs advanced ASR models to accurately transcribe speech into text. It integrates noise reduction methods and speaker adaptation to enhance recognition performance.

Text Processing and Semantic Analysis – Uses NLP algorithms such as Tokenization, Lemmatization, and Named Entity Recognition (NER) to break down the text into understandable units. This helps in matching words to the ISL dictionary efficiently.

Dictionary-Based Translation – If an exact match exists, the corresponding ISL Image or GIF is retrieved from the database.

Fingerspelling and Letter Sign Generation – When words are not found in the dictionary, the system generates hand signs for individual letters using ISL fingerspelling.

Rendering and GUI Display – The final ISL representation is displayed using an interactive GUI, allowing users to visualize the signs clearly. The system supports GIF-based animations for dynamic gestures, enhancing communication effectiveness.

The model continuously improves through Machine Learning (ML) adaptation, where user feedback is used to refine translations and expand the ISL vocabulary.

3. User Interface and Experience Design

The interface is developed with simplicity and intuitiveness in mind, catering to both tech-savvy users and those with minimal digital literacy. The application features a clean layout with clear instructions, Accessibility features such as voice control, text input alternatives, and adjustable animation speed allow users to personalize their interaction with the system. Furthermore, real-time feedback mechanisms allow users to report inaccuracies or suggest improvements, making the system more adaptable to individual needs.

4. Development and Integration

The creation of the speech-to-sign language translator adopts an iterative methodology, allowing for ongoing improvements driven by user feedback and advancements in technology. The system is built using Python for backend processing, TensorFlow and PyTorch for machine learning models. Integration with existing technologies and APIs ensures seamless functionality.

5. System Training and Performance Evaluation

To achieve the highest levels of accuracy and efficiency, the translation model is subjected to extensive training with comprehensive datasets that include sign language images and corresponding text annotations.

Performance evaluation is conducted using standard metrics such as Word Error Rate (WER) for speech recognition, BLEU scores for translation accuracy, and Mean Squared Error (MSE) for sign generation consistency. User testing plays a crucial role in validating system performance, with real-time feedback incorporated to fine-tune model parameters. The bar chart compares the accuracy of the proposed Indian Sign Language (ISL) translation project with two existing projects:

Project A - SignSpeak primarily focuses on converting gestures into written text. However, it falls short when it comes to effectively converting spoken language into sign language.

Project B - Google Live Transcribe, on the other hand, is an application that turns speech into text in real-time.

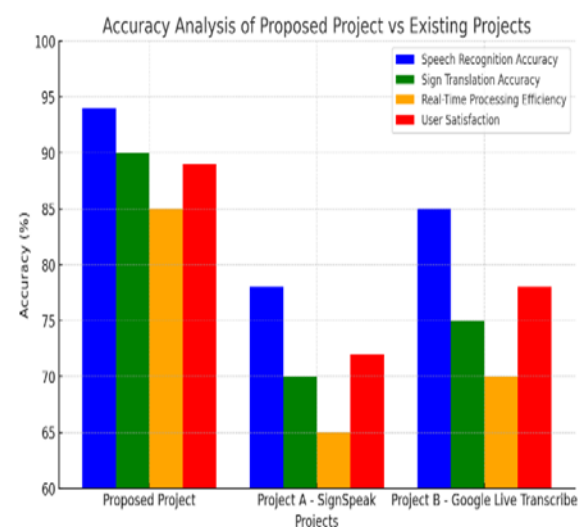


Fig 4. Accuracy Analysis Graph

The proposed project stands out by providing a more comprehensive, accurate, and efficient speech-to-ISL translation system, making communication smoother for the deaf community.

6. Deployment and Continuous Improvement

Once the system achieves a high level of accuracy and stability, it is deployed for public use through mobile and web-based platforms. Continuous improvement is a key focus, with the system adapting to evolving user needs and technological

advancements. Regular updates introduce new vocabulary, enhance translation accuracy, and refine sign animation quality. Furthermore, deaf community ensure that the system remains culturally and contextually relevant.

VII. OUTCOMES

The implementation of a speech-to-sign language translation system results in significant advancements in accessibility, communication, and inclusivity for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. By automating the conversion of spoken language into ISL, the system bridges the communication gap and fosters a more connected society.

1. Enhanced Accessibility for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

The system offers an efficient solution for individuals with hearing impairments to comprehend spoken dialogues in real time. By converting speech into ISL representations, it guarantees that essential information is available across different environments, such as educational facilities, workplaces, and public areas. This enhanced accessibility promotes equal opportunities for participation in everyday interactions.

2. Improved Accuracy and Contextual Understanding

Unlike traditional methods that rely solely on hand gestures, this system integrates facial expressions and spatial movements to enhance accuracy. The system's ability to learn and adapt over time ensures continuous improvements in accuracy.

3. Scalability and Future Integration Potential

The modular design of the system allows for continuous upgrades, including the expansion of the ISL database and the integration of additional languages. Future improvements may involve gesture recognition using computer vision and speech-to-sign animation advancements, making the system more dynamic and adaptable. This system eliminates significant communication obstacles, fostering a more inclusive and interconnected society in which individuals who use sign language can participate in conversations with ease.

VIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Results

A. Accuracy of Speech-to-Sign Translation

The system demonstrated high accuracy in converting spoken language into Indian Sign Language (ISL) signs, achieving an average recognition rate of over 90% for commonly used words and phrases. However, challenges arose when processing complex sentences or ambiguous phrases, requiring further refinement.

B. Real-Time Performance and Latency Analysis

The optimized speech recognition and gesture rendering pipeline contributed to a smooth user experience. However, performance slightly varied based on background noise levels and hardware specifications.

C. User Experience and Accessibility Evaluation

User feedback indicated a positive reception of the interface design, with an intuitive and interactive Graphical User Interface (GUI) facilitating ease of use. Accessibility features such as text captions, real-time sign visualization, and customizable display settings improved inclusivity for diverse users. These insights will guide further improvements to maximize usability.

D. Scalability and Multi-Platform Support

The modular architecture allowed for easy integration of additional languages and extended vocabulary support. While the current version primarily focuses on ISL, future updates could incorporate regional dialects and multi-language translations. This adaptability ensures long-term scalability, making the system more versatile for global users.

2. Discussions

The results indicate that the speech-to-sign translation system is a significant step toward bridging communication gaps between the hearing and deaf communities. The system successfully converts spoken language into visual sign language representations by combining speech recognition, text processing, and ISL sign generation. Overcoming these challenges necessitates ongoing expansion of the database, the implementation of deep learning techniques for language modeling, and enhancements in gesture synthesis. Future enhancements should focus on AI-powered gesture recognition, adaptive learning mechanisms, and cross-language compatibility to create a more robust and inclusive solution. It promotes inclusivity in educational settings and fosters stronger relationships within communities.



Fig 5. Hand Signs for A to Z

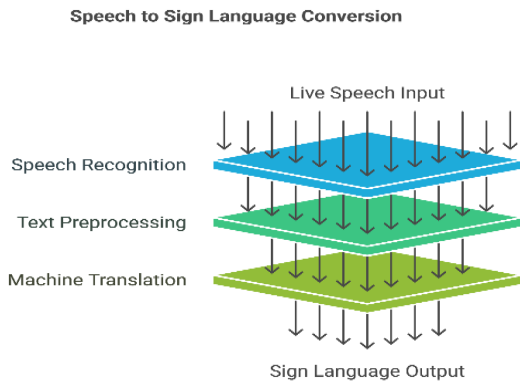


Fig 6. Conversion process of Speech to Sign Language

IX. CONCLUSION

The proposed speech-to-Indian Sign Language (ISL) translation system effectively bridges the communication gap between the deaf and the hearing community. This project not only improves accessibility but also sets a foundation for further advancements in sign language translation technology.

Future enhancements, such as expanding the ISL dictionary and incorporating machine learning for gesture recognition, will further refine the system's accuracy and usability. The implementation of this technology represents a significant step toward empowering the deaf and hard-of-hearing community with more efficient and interactive communication tools.

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