HUMAN BEHAVIOUR RECOGNITION, IDENTIFICATION, AND COMPUTER INTERACTION

Edited by

Othman Omran Khalifa, B.Sc. ,M.Sc., Ph.D.,
International Islamic University Malaysia

Shihab A. Hameed, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.,
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIAN SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATOR : PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Sara Bilal[1], Haris Al Qodri Maarif[2], Rini Akmeliawati[3]
Intelligent Mechatronics System Research Unit
[1&3]Department of Mechatronics Engineering
[2] Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)
Jl Gombak 53100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Phone: +60361964412 Fax: +60361964433
[1]smosb@hotmail.com, [2]alqodri.maarif@gmail.com, [3]rakmelia@iium.edu.my

13.1. INTRODUCTION

Everyday communication with the hearing population poses a major challenge to those with hearing loss. Most hearing people do not know sign language and know very little about deaf people in general. Even, most hearing people do not know how to communicate in spoken language with a deaf person who can speak and read lips. Therefore, not only the communication barriers for the deaf people appear at the bank, police station and etc, but also essential information about health, employment, and legal matters is inaccessible for them. Common current options for alternative communication modes include cochlear implants, writing, and interpreters.

Cochlear implants are not available option for all deaf people for example only 5.3% of the deaf population in America has a cochlear implant [1]. Handwriting is another alternative for communicating with deaf people. In fact, most of the deaf people cannot communicate well through written language because they use Sign Language (SL) as their preferable language for communicating. Interpreters are commonly used within the Deaf community, but interpreters can charge high hourly rates and be awkward in situations where privacy is of high concern, such as at a doctor or lawyer's office.

The aim of this chapter is to present our proposed a Malaysian Sign Language (MSL) recognition system as another choice of augmenting communication between the deaf and hearing communities.