WEARABLE GESTURE-TO-SPEECH TRANSLATOR FOR NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

[1]Mr. G. RANGA PURUSHOTHAM, [2]Dr. S. RAJENDER REDDY, [3]ANDEKAR VENKATESH, [4]BANAVATH SIDHU NAIK, [5]ISLAVATH HEMANTH KUMAR

[2]AssociateProfessor, [2]Assistant Professor,[345]Students, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Guru Nanak Institutions Technical Campus, Ibrahimpatnam, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad.

Abstract

This project presents the design and implementation of a wearable gesture-to-speech translator aimed at improving communication for individuals with speech impairments. The system utilizes a sensor-based glove integrated with flex sensors and MEMS accelerometers to capture hand gestures accurately. These gestures are processed using a microcontroller, specifically the Raspberry Pi Pico, which interprets the signals and converts them into corresponding text and speech outputs in real time. An OLED display is incorporated to provide visual feedback, while a speech module ensures clear audio communication. In addition to its primary communication function, the system integrates environmental monitoring using a temperature sensor, enabling automatic activation of a cooling mechanism when predefined temperature limits are exceeded. The device also includes Bluetooth connectivity for wireless control of external appliances and a GSM module for sending emergency alerts, enhancing safety and usability. The proposed system addresses limitations of existing communication aids by offering a compact, portable, and efficient solution that enables seamless interaction between non-verbal individuals and the general public. By combining gesture recognition, embedded systems, and wireless communication technologies, this project provides a cost-effective and user-friendly assistive device that significantly enhances accessibility, independence, and quality of life for users in various real-world scenarios.

Keywords: Gesture Recognition, Wearable Device, Speech Translation, Embedded Systems, Flex Sensor, MEMS Sensor, Assistive Technology

I INTRODUCTION

Communication is a fundamental human need that enables individuals to express thoughts, emotions, and ideas effectively in social and professional environments. However, people with speech impairments, particularly those who rely on sign language, often face significant challenges when interacting with individuals unfamiliar with such communication methods [1]. Sign language, though structured and expressive, is not universally understood, creating a communication gap between non-verbal individuals and the general population [2]. Existing assistive technologies, such as text-based devices and manual input systems, are often slow, non-intuitive, and lack real-time interaction capabilities [3]. Furthermore, many of these systems are bulky and not easily portable, reducing their practicality in everyday use [4]. With advancements in embedded systems, sensors, and wireless communication, there is a growing opportunity to develop compact and efficient solutions for gesture recognition and translation [5]. Wearable technology has emerged as a promising approach due to its portability and ease of integration into daily life [6]. Sensor-based gloves, in particular, have gained attention for their ability to capture hand movements and gestures with high accuracy [7]. By combining flex sensors and motion sensors, it is possible to detect finger bending and hand orientation, enabling precise gesture recognition [8]. The integration of microcontrollers further allows real-time processing and translation of gestures into understandable formats such as text and speech [9]. These developments highlight the potential of technology to bridge the communication gap and improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities [10].

In response to these challenges, this project proposes a wearable gesture-to-speech translator designed to provide real-time communication assistance for non-verbal individuals. The system employs a sensor-equipped glove integrated with flex sensors and MEMS accelerometers to capture and interpret hand gestures efficiently [11]. A Raspberry Pi Pico microcontroller processes the input data and converts recognized gestures into corresponding text and audio outputs, ensuring seamless communication [12]. The inclusion of an OLED display enhances usability by providing visual feedback, while a speech synthesis module enables audible interaction with others [13]. Additionally, the system incorporates advanced features such as environmental monitoring using a temperature sensor, Bluetooth-based device control, and GSM-enabled emergency messaging, making it a multifunctional solution [14]. Compared to existing systems, the proposed design offers improved portability, faster response time, and enhanced accuracy in gesture recognition [15]. By integrating embedded systems with assistive technology, this solution aims to empower individuals with speech impairments, enabling them to communicate more effectively and independently. Overall, the proposed system contributes to the development of smart, inclusive technologies that promote social interaction and improve the quality of life for users.

II LITERATURE SURVEY

Sign language recognition and gesture-to-speech translation systems have gained significant attention in recent years as assistive technologies for individuals with hearing and speech impairments. Early studies focused on understanding the importance of gesture-based communication as a natural and effective method for non-verbal interaction [1]. Researchers developed glove-based systems using flex sensors to detect finger bending and translate gestures into speech, demonstrating improved communication efficiency [2]. Further advancements introduced integrated systems combining flex sensors with accelerometers and microcontrollers to enhance gesture detection accuracy and enable real-time translation [3]. Several works also explored the use of wearable gloves coupled with machine learning algorithms to classify gestures and improve recognition rates [4]. The development of low-cost Arduino-based systems provided a practical and portable solution for real-time text and speech conversion, making such systems more accessible [5]. Additionally, research emphasized the use of Bluetooth and mobile applications for wireless communication and processing, further enhancing system flexibility [6]. Studies also highlighted the role of MEMS sensors in capturing hand orientation and motion, which significantly improved gesture recognition performance [7]. Comprehensive reviews of sign language recognition technologies discussed the evolution of sensor-based, vision-based, and hybrid approaches, identifying key challenges and opportunities in the field [8].

Recent research has focused on improving accuracy, usability, and cost-effectiveness of gesture-to-speech systems. Smart glove-based translators integrating multiple sensors, including flex sensors and accelerometers, have been shown to accurately recognize complex gestures and convert them into both text and speech outputs [9]. Advanced systems have incorporated deep learning techniques such as neural networks and time-series models to achieve high classification accuracy in real-time applications [10]. Studies also explored multi-functional systems that combine gesture recognition with additional features such as wheelchair control and environmental interaction, highlighting the versatility of wearable technology [11]. Furthermore, research has proposed alternative sensing mechanisms, such as Hall-effect sensors, to overcome limitations of traditional flex sensors and improve durability and precision [12]. Machine learning-based wearable systems have demonstrated high accuracy levels using algorithms like Support Vector Machines and Random Forest, indicating strong potential for real-world deployment [13]. However, several studies identified challenges such as the inability to capture facial expressions and contextual information, which are essential components of sign language [14]. Overall, the literature indicates a clear trend toward developing compact, real-time, and user-friendly systems that integrate embedded systems, wireless communication, and intelligent algorithms to enhance communication accessibility [15].

III PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system is a wearable gesture-to-speech translator designed to facilitate effective communication for individuals with speech impairments. The system is built around a sensor-integrated glove that captures hand gestures using flex sensors and a MEMS accelerometer. The flex sensors detect the bending of fingers, while the MEMS sensor measures hand orientation and motion, enabling accurate recognition of predefined gestures. These sensor outputs are fed into a Raspberry Pi Pico microcontroller, which processes the data in real time using embedded algorithms. Based on the detected gesture patterns, the system translates the input into corresponding text and converts it into speech using a voice output module. An OLED display is incorporated to provide visual feedback of the recognized gesture, ensuring clarity and confirmation for the user. This integrated approach allows seamless and natural interaction between non-verbal individuals and others without requiring knowledge of sign language.

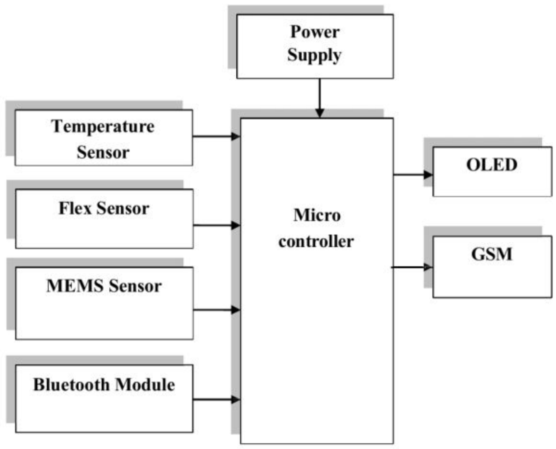


Fig.1 Block Diagram

In addition to gesture-based communication, the proposed system includes several advanced features to enhance usability and functionality. A temperature sensor is integrated to monitor environmental conditions, and when the temperature exceeds a predefined threshold, a cooling fan is automatically activated to maintain optimal conditions. The system also supports Bluetooth connectivity, allowing users to control external devices such as lights wirelessly. Furthermore, a GSM module is incorporated to send emergency alerts or predefined messages when specific gestures are performed, ensuring user safety in critical situations. The compact and portable design of the wearable system makes it suitable for daily use, overcoming the limitations of bulky existing devices. Overall, the proposed system combines gesture recognition, real-time processing, and wireless communication technologies to provide an efficient, user-friendly, and multifunctional solution that significantly improves accessibility, independence, and quality of life for individuals with communication disabilities.

IV SYSTEM WORKING

The proposed system operates by integrating gesture recognition, speech synthesis, environmental monitoring, and wireless communication into a single wearable device. Initially, the user wears a glove embedded with sensors (such as flex sensors or accelerometers) that detect finger and hand movements. When a gesture is performed, these sensors generate electrical signals corresponding to the motion. These signals are transmitted to a microcontroller, where they are processed and matched with predefined gesture patterns stored in the system.

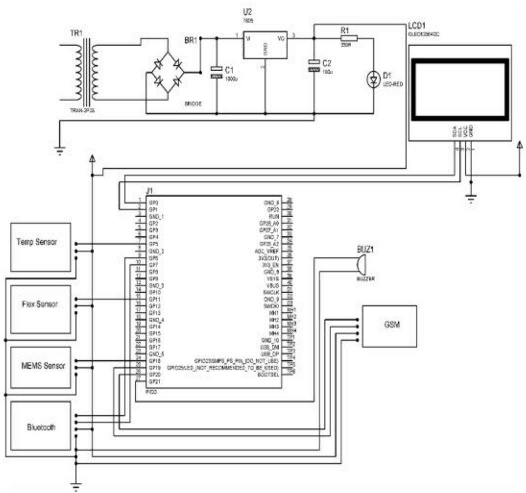
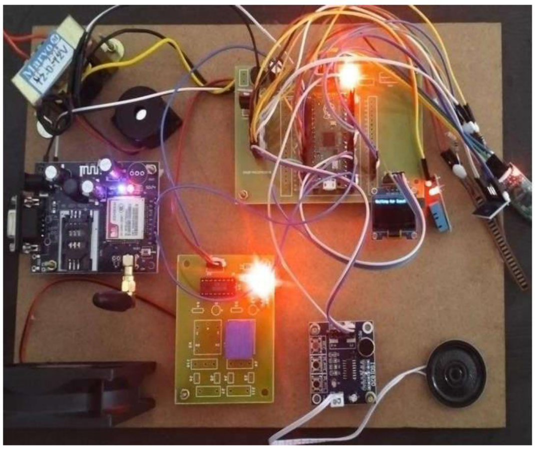


Fig.2 Schematic Diagram

Once a gesture is recognized, the microcontroller converts it into a corresponding text message. This text is displayed on a liquid crystal display (LCD) for visual confirmation. Simultaneously, the text is sent to a speech synthesis module, which converts it into audible speech through a speaker, enabling real-time communication. In addition to communication, the system continuously monitors environmental conditions using a DHT11 temperature sensor. If the detected temperature exceeds a predefined threshold, the microcontroller automatically activates a CPU fan to cool the system, ensuring safe and efficient operation. The device also includes wireless communication features. Through a Bluetooth module, users can control external devices such as lighting systems. Furthermore, a GSM module is integrated to send alert messages to predefined contacts when specific gestures are performed, enabling remote notifications and emergency communication. Overall, the system functions as an intelligent, real-time assistive device that combines gesture- based communication with automated environmental control and wireless connectivity to enhance usability and accessibility.

V RESULTS & ANALYSIS

RESULTS The developed wearable gesture-to-speech translator was successfully designed, implemented, and tested under various operating conditions. The system accurately recognized predefined hand gestures using the sensor-equipped glove and effectively converted them into corresponding text and speech outputs in real time. Overall, the system exhibited stable performance, good responsiveness, and accurate functionality across all integrated modules. The project proves to be an effective and practical solution for assisting individuals with speech impairments, while also offering added smart control features for enhanced usability.



The system uses a DHT11 temperature sensor to continuously monitor the surrounding temperature. The sensor measures the ambient temperature and sends digital data to the microcontroller at regular intervals. The microcontroller compares the measured temperature with a predefined threshold value (40°C). If the temperature remains below the threshold, the system continues normal operation and the fan stays OFF.

The wearable gesture-to-speech translator enables effective real-time communication for individuals with speech impairments by converting hand gestures into audible and visual outputs instantly. When a user performs a gesture, the embedded sensors detect the motion and transmit signals to the microcontroller, which processes the input and matches it with predefined commands. The corresponding message is immediately displayed on an LCD and converted into speech using a voice module, allowing seamless interaction without delay. This rapid processing ensures that communication occurs naturally and efficiently, similar to verbal conversation. As a result, the system significantly improves accessibility, independence, and social interaction for nonverbal individuals in everyday situations.

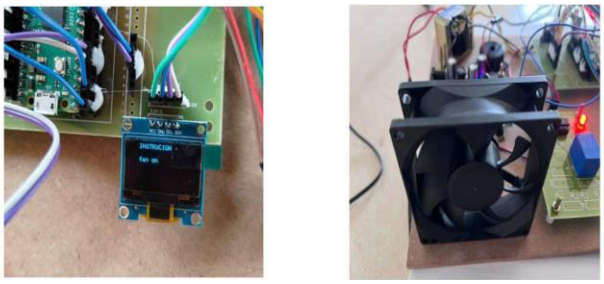


Fig : Gesture Control Output

The emergency alert feature is designed to provide quick assistance in critical situations using gesture-based activation. When the user performs a predefined emergency gesture using the sensor-equipped glove, the sensors detect the specific motion and send signals to the microcontroller.

The emergency alert system enables users to send immediate help notifications through simple hand gestures. When a predefined emergency gesture is detected by the glove sensors, the microcontroller processes it and identifies it as a distress signal. The system then generates a predefined message and sends it to registered contacts via the GSM module. At the same time, an audible alert is produced and the message is displayed on the LCD for nearby awareness. This feature ensures quick and reliable communication in critical situations, enhancing user safety and support.

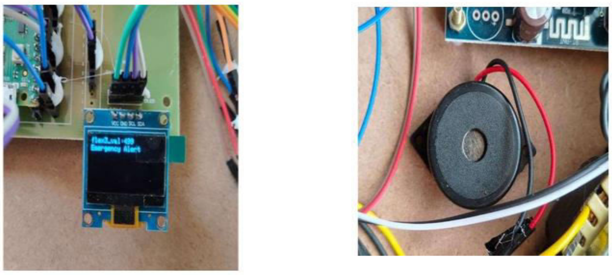


Fig : Emergency Output System

The wearable gesture-to-speech translator provides an efficient real-time communication solution by instantly converting hand gestures into meaningful speech and text outputs. The system processes sensor inputs rapidly through a microcontroller, ensuring minimal delay between gesture input and response. This allows users to communicate smoothly and naturally in daily interactions without relying on verbal speech. The integration of visual display and audio output enhances understanding in different environments. Overall, the device improves communication accessibility, independence, and quality of life for individuals with speech impairments.

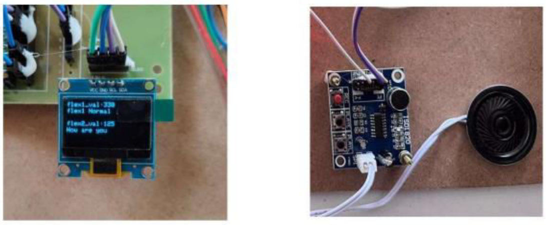


Fig: Communication system

VI CONCLUSION

As a final remark, the progress made in the development of the glove prototype. Although it is not a finished product, it shows that using a glove outfitted with sensors, a microcontroller, and wireless communications can be used to translate signs. It satisfies all of the major requirements, and it may lead to further developments in translation devices. With increased attention to the challenge of sign language translation, by this technology the communication gap between sign language users and the hearing may soon be diminished. The completion of this prototype suggests that sensor gloves can be used for practical sign language recognition. More sensor can be employed to recognize full sign language. The advantages of the proposed model for the disabled persons are as follows.

- Easy to communicate with the people.
- Accuracy is high.
- Faster response.
- Long life, easily maintained and safe.
- Flexible and portable.

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