The Innovative Gadget That Could Usher In a World Without Language Barriers

This may sound extremely cliché, but technology has really developed over the last couple of decades. From the advent of the light bulb, the world of tech has grown leaps and bounds. Mobile phones, televisions, you name them. Today, we are simply spoilt for choice in terms of what technology has to offer us.

But it gets even better! Now the gadget that I'm about to describe could revolutionise the way that we communicate with other people of different nationalities and cultures. Without further ado, I introduce to you…

'The Pilot'

Pilot – the world's first smart earpiece

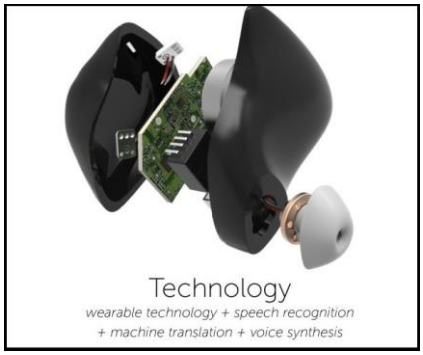
Yes! Believe it or not, this gadget is actually called 'The Pilot'! As crazy as it sounds, this new piece of technology could turn language barriers into a thing of the distant past. The system comprises of two smart earpieces, each to be worn by two people who do not speak the same language. By utilising the latest technologies in speech recognition, machine translation, and the advances of wearable technology, when a person speaks in their language, the receiver is able to hear what the other person said in their own language. Pretty cool huh!

Even the American Business Magazine, Forbes, lauded the world's first smart earpiece by stating:

> *"Pilot is as close as I've seen to the Universal Translator I was promised by Star Trek when I was a kid."*

This definitely speaks volumes about the new technology, with various authoritative media outlets and companies publicly endorsing it. At the time of writing this blog post, the gadget has raised a total of $2,445,324 (about £1.8 million), which is simply staggering!

Functionality



The image above shows the inner workings of the earpiece

Waverly Labs, a New-York based company and the creators of 'Pilot' gave a great outline, on their website, which accurately details exactly how the device will function:

> *"The Pilot is a smart earpiece which uses specially-designed dual noise-cancelling microphones to filter out ambient noise from the speech of someone talking. That speech is then passed through our smartphone app and layers of speech recognition, machine translation and speech synthesis. At the end of the funnel, the translated language is finally sent to the other person in the conversation. This occurs simultaneously, without interruption, as each person speaks to each other."*

To visualise this more clearly, the following video showcases the awesome 'Pilot' in action:

(VIDEO - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjjQ5cH_YzI)

As of now, the translator only experiences a couple of seconds of delay. However, Waverly Labs have made assurances to reduce the time delay in future through the release of systematic app updates.

Furthermore, the accompanying smartphone app looks brilliant. It allows users to seamlessly toggle between languages and uploads them to the earpiece even when in use offline or overseas. It also boasts a 'conference mode' where multiple people can wear an earpiece and engage in the same conversation, even if the users themselves are all speaking different languages! And to top it all off, the app also makes use of the smartphone's loudspeaker function, which allows speech to be transmitted to a large number of people in a room or any form of enclosed space.

Languages

When the product launches in May 2017, it will support English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. The expected additional languages that will be integrated into the system soon after are as follows:

- Germanic: German, Danish, Swedish
- Russian and Slovak: Russian, Ukrainian, Czech and Polish
- Hebrew/ Arabic
- East Asian: Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese
- Hindi and Urdu
- African: Afrikaans

For those of you who may be wondering, these are not the only languages that are expected to be released. Waverly Labs have promised to investigate a wide selection of different languages and, based on the feedback they receive from their online community, they will then decide which languages to prioritise throughout the system's gradual development.

What's more, 'Pilot' will be able to cater for various regional dialects. The earpiece is designed to translate common dialects, although heavy accents could disrupt this and cause improper translation.

Technical Specifications

As well as its sleek ergonomic design, the technology sports the following specifications:

- Bluetooth Low Energy
- NFMI Technology
- Dual Noise-Cancelling Microphones
- Digital Signal Processor
- ARM Processor
- High performance stereo with noise suppression
- Rechargeable Li-ion battery with 4 to 6 hours of talk time

Pricing

Pilot – what's included within the packaging

As a standard package, the full Pilot system comes with 2 earpieces, 1 portable charger, 3 different sized eartips for the perfect fit, and an accompanying mobile app. This package is expected to be available for pre-order on their website for $199 (approximately £150) plus shipping costs. It will also be available for purchase in red, white or black.

Pilot - the three colours that users can purchase

Similar Technologies

There are a couple of other technologies that can translate different languages in real-time. One of these is the Google Translate app, which can translate what you are saying to your phone from one language to another in real-time.

Additionally, Skype now caters for callers who are speaking different languages with seven different language choices.

The very fact that similar technologies already exist is an enormous testament to how far and how rapidly the world has developed over the last couple of decades.

And that brings me to the end of this blog post! I hope you guys thoroughly enjoyed it! If you have any questions or remarks, feel free to drop a comment below.

Thanks guys,

Samuel.