2016

TURKISH SIGN LANGUAGE TUTOR APP

This document provides the reader with the information about the importance of this project, its core aim and its working principle.

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Why is this project important?

Turkish Sign Language is used in both Turkey and TRNC. In Turkey alone, there are approximately 2.5 million deaf people (Koc University, 2004) and apparently, the number of interpreters is not satisfactory. For example, in Adana (a city in Turkey) there are around 10,000-15,000 deaf people and only 2 official interpreters. “The Deaf in Turkey lack their basic rights for sign language interpreters to assist in medical, legal, and educational situations” (Angela, 2014).

This is an unpleasant situation but there are also positive aspects. There are several channels in YouTube teaching TSL and having up to 20,000 subscribers which of course indicates the genuine interest of the Turkish society and also there are videos teaching TSL for foreigners which proves that there is interest in this language from all over the world.

After a thorough scan of the Play Store and App Store (popular mobile application stores) no TSL teaching app was found. Someone needs to meet this need and this is what my team is going to do.

Core aim.

The main aim of this project is to create mobile and web applications that will teach Turkish Sign Language in both Turkish and English languages. This will be an easy way to teach a large number of people in a short period of time. In addition, such kind of project has a chance to become a trend and lift TSL to an absolutely new level and as a result make the life of deaf people easier.

Working principle.

When application will be used for the first time it will ask for the preferable language. The approximate design is illustrated in **Figure 1**. In this document, the main focus is on the English version of the app but it doesn't mean that the Turkish version will be deprived of attention. It is obvious that app is more important for the Turkish population.

Figure 1. The page user will see the first time he opens the application.

Once the user has chosen his language he won't be asked this question anymore. The next page will ask user's name and then will show it in TSL.

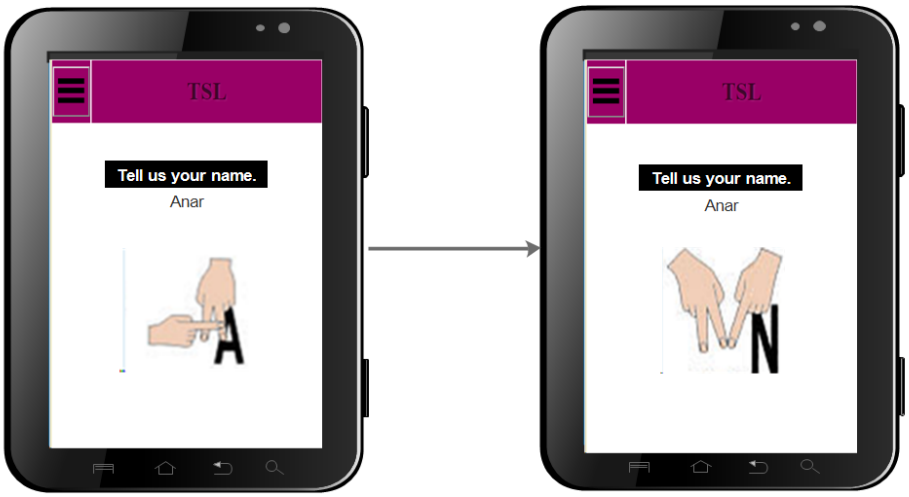

Figure 2. Your name in TSL

Figure 3 is the page that users will see every time they use the application. Of course, the list of the taught material will be expanded in the future but this is our starting point.

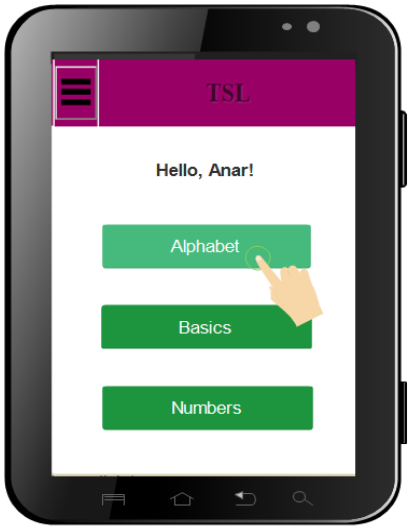

Figure 3. The greeting page.

This is how alphabet page should approximately look like. The speaker is for non-deaf English speakers who want to learn how to pronounce a certain letter in Turkish. This is necessary because some of the Turkish sounds lack in the English language.

Figure 4. The alphabet.

Basics page will contain a lot of interesting stuff. Here our user will be able to learn the most important words in an interactive way.

Figure 5. Basics page.

This is how the “Numbers” page will look like it will be basically a transition page to the pages teaching numbers of a certain unit.

Figure 6. Numbers.

And finally this is how the navigation menu will look like.(For the English version).It is robust and simple

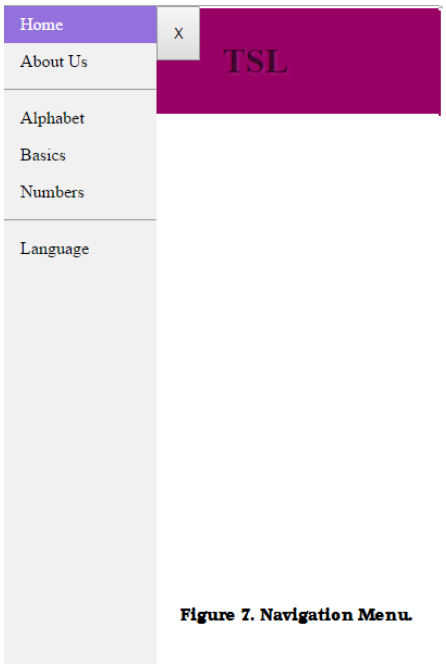

Figure 7. Navigation Menu.

Final words

Such kind of app had to be built a long time ago but unfortunately, no one took a responsibility. This app is very important and has huge demand. The main advantage of the app over books and browser application is accessibility, App can be used literally everywhere – in the forest, airport or the train and that's why it hast to be created!

Bibliography

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Iconography

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