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Inspiring Minds

September 2023

Flip to See Original

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Citation of this paper:

Reyes, Shayla, "Flip to See Original" (2023). *Inspiring Minds – A Digital Collection of Western's Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 473.

<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds/473>

Shayla Reyes

Facebook's machine translation (MT) is causing significant issues that include potential miscommunication, decline in language proficiency and spread of misinformation. This is due to how Facebook's MT functions automatically, with its mediation of communication invisible to users. To address these dynamics, I created and exhibited a research-creation project to increase awareness of Facebook's MT and the issues that arise from its interventions. My project is a series of twelve two-dimensional artworks designed to mimic Facebook posts. Each piece has three different layers of paper with images and texts. Two top layers incorporate machine translated text and the image that represents the text, while the bottom layer contains the original text and image. Installed for public audiences in the FIMS and Nursing Building on campus, viewers are invited to touch the work, lifting each layer to compare how MT has altered the images and text, with significant implications.