

# BARRIERS

## DES 350: Creative Coding

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### PROJECT STATEMENT

Migrants take up 3.5% of the world's population, according to the United Nations. While some migrate by choice, millions are forced to migrate and become refugees. It may be because of political conflict, war right in their backyards, violence that threatens their lives, or extreme living conditions that make it hard to obtain even the basic necessities.

Refugees and other migrants all over are forced into a country where they know no one and have to adapt to an entirely different way of living without anyone's aid or support. The hardest, longest, and very first challenge they face as they arrive is the language barrier. Often without anyone to teach them, migrants have to learn how to navigate their new country, earn a living, and buy their necessities. All of these involve having to communicate in a new language. Using Tagalog and English, "Barriers" simulates the way a migrant faces the challenge of being in a new place without knowing the language.

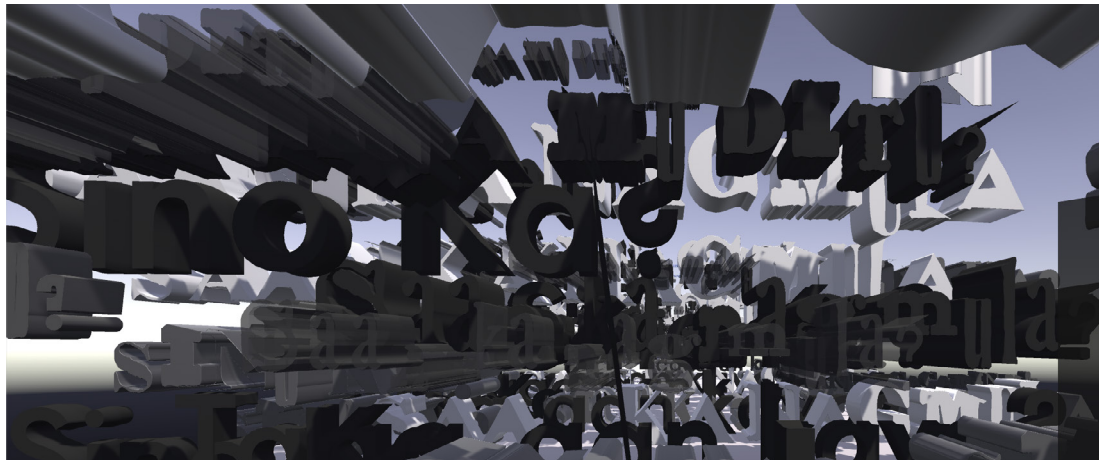
### INTERACTION

Since they start, as when a migrant arrives to a new country, they face large crowds and individuals bombarding them with questions. "Barriers" takes the viewer through the stages of arriving in a new country, from not understanding anything to slowly learning a new language to understanding and feeling welcome. Gradually, they can start translating certain phrases, just as a migrant would slowly pick up certain phrases. As they pass obstacles, just like a migrant who faces obstacle after obstacle, they get closer to the end goal: learning the new language. When they finish, they are able to understand everything they see, and they finally feel welcome.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to the members of the team, Agustin, John, and Abril that spent the semester creating this immersive experience. Their hard work and effort to create a VR that brings awareness to the difficulties migrants face made this experience possible. Knowing the end goal made it worth the effort. We also express our gratitude to Daria and Jeff for their input, guidance, and aid.

The viewer is immediately thrust into an unknown environment surrounded by a "crowd" and bomarded with unknown and nearly unintelligible words.



While overcoming obstacles to get through the words, the viewer can start translating certain words to English.



When they overcome these obstacles, they are greeted with a Welcome, much like migrants finally feel welcome when they understand the new language.



The viewer finishes in a calm environment surrounded by welcoming phrases and colors.

