

The software localization paradox

Amir E. Aharoni

Wikimedia Foundation
@aharoni
amir.aharoni@mail.huji.ac.il

[citation needed]

[источник?]

[דרוש מקור]

Please tell me if I'm wrong
somewhere

This slide had xkcd 285, which was removed, because it violates Commons' licensing policy

Is English your native
language?

Do you use your software
in English?

If not, why?

Why you should use
software and websites in
your language, even if you
know English well

Because quite a lot of
people who speak your
language don't know
English...

...and never will [citation needed]

The paradox:

The people who can report
localization problems
don't see them

The people who don't
know English cannot
report the problems

Problems?

Bad translation

SOFIXIT: <http://www.translatewiki.net>

Incomplete translation

SOFIXIT: <http://www.translatewiki.net>

Unclear computing terms

SOFIXIT: <http://www.translatewiki.net>

Problems with right-to-left text or interface

report at <http://bugzilla.wikimedia.org>

Missing fonts

report at <http://bugzilla.wikimedia.org>

Typing in the language is
too hard

report at <http://bugzilla.wikimedia.org>

So what can you do?

The easiest and the most
obvious:

Start reading and editing
Wikipedia in your
language more!

A bit less obvious:

Switch the user interface of the English Wikipedia to your language

*(currently in the preferences, soon in
the Universal Language Selector)*

Switch the user interface
of your web browser to
your language

Switch the preferred
language of your web
browser to your language

Switch the user interface
of your word processor to
your language

Switch the user interface
of your operating system
to your language

If any of the above are not
available in your language
at all, start it!

It's easier than you think.

You should do it even if
you think that you don't
know your native
language well

Bug us!

<http://bugzilla.wikimedia.org>

<http://www.translatewiki.net>

Twitter: @aharoni

Most Free Software
projects have sites for bug
reporting and localization

Some non-free software
projects can be contacted,
too

(Even Microsoft and Apple!
Although it's hard.)

Questions?

Be merciless!

Thank you.