
Astronomy Translation Network - A Global Need for EPO

Yukiko Shibata, Kumiko Usuda-Sato, Lina Canas

*National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) /
IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO)*



Contents

- Introduction
 - **Research questions**
 - Research method
 - Results
 - **Astronomy Translation Network project**
 - Plan
-

Introduction – Why Translation Network

Problem

- Language barrier
- Current translation efforts are **done by project base or individuals**

Needs in Astronomy Education and Outreach

- Centralizes materials
 - Global framework for translation
 - > **Astronomy Translation Network**
 - > **How to design the framework?**
-

Research questions

■ Q1 Language barrier in their country or region

- How the people of astronomy outreach community feel language barrier in their country

■ Q2 Translation experiences

- What is their experience on translation: difficulties, benefits
- What they require to be translated

■ Q3 Motivation

- Why they translate astronomy resources
- What is the most important thing to motivate people to be involved in the translation network

Research method

- Semi-structured interview

- 12 interviews

- Algeria x 1, Quebec/Canada x 2, Colombia x 1, Ecuador x 1, **India** x 2, **Japan** x 2, **Sri Lanka** x 1, **Indonesia** x 1, **Taiwan** x 1
- Participants of Communicating Astronomy with the Public (CAP) and Universal Design Symposium

Results – 1 Needs of translation!

- ❑ **8 of 12** interviewees feel that **translation is necessary** in their country or region: Japan, Taiwan, India, Canada (Quebec), Ecuador
 - ❑ **Teachers have difficulties with English**, because they teach in their local languages: except for Indonesia
 - ❑ There are **little original resources in local language**: Ecuador, Sri Lanka
 - ❑ People do not trust information in Spanish: Ecuador
-

Results – 2 Translation experience and needs

Their experiences of translation

- APOD: Astronomy Picture of the Day
- The *Eyes on the Skie* DVD
- Universe in a Box
- Mitaka software
- Thesis abstracts
- Academic articles
- Radio programs
- Products for Transit of Venus in 2012
- Astronomy research news
- Galaxy zoo
- Local paper
- Space Scoop
- Radio show
- NASE
- Original education activities

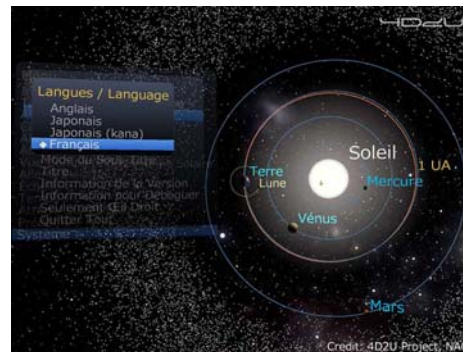
Needs of resources

to be translated in local languages

- Education activities
- Quality Lighting Kit
- Books
- Lab manual
- Glossary

to be translated in foreign languages

- Own developed program
- Universal design activities



Results - 3 Challenges and Benefits

■ Challenge: Difficulties of Translation

- *Issue of time*
- *Issue of language*

■ Challenge: How to keep the quality

- *Check by specialists*

■ Benefit: Translation experience

- *Language skills*
 - *Knowledge*
 - *Achievement*
-

Results – 4 Motivation

□ Motivation of Translation

- *To reach many people*
- *To be a part of the larger project*

□ Importance to keep volunteers' motivation in the translation network

- *Visibility of volunteers*
 - *Recognition*
 - *Reputation*
 - *Human network*
 - *Good materials*
 - *Good management*
-

Astronomy Translation Network

<http://translation.astro4dev.org>

▣ Main functions

- Collecting good resources
- Matching translation needs and volunteer
- Certification system

▣ Goals

- To **provide best open resources accessible** without a language barrier across the world.
- To **build a network** of active translators to support the translation needs.
- To provide **high-quality translations** through assessment and review process.



Development Plan in 3 Phases



Phase 1 Just Started!	9 - 12 months Now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open the project website • Survey the needs of resources • Collect existing translatable materials • Find volunteers to cooperate in the phase 1 • Test workflow for translation and proofread
Phase 2	6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the phase 1 • Design a multilayer platform • Launch the platform
Phase 3	6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the platform (after 3 months) • Implement changes • Certification system for volunteers

Acknowledgement

- Interviewees
 - Dr Marta Entradas
 - Thilina Heenatigala
 - OAO members
 - Project team
 - Dr Agata Hidehiko
-

Thank you for listening.
Please visit our booth!
