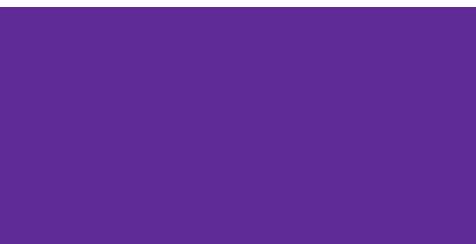# What I learned from holding a multilingual translathon

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DISCLAIMER: I'm not a Content Translation (CX) Tool developer (not blaming it) and these opinions are from my personal experience

Introduction

- Taught how to translate Wikipedia article from one language to another, to <u>19 translators in 15 languages</u>.
- Held in a small city in countryside of Japan
- Participants are <u>foreign residents in Japan</u>
- All participants are <u>new to Wikipedia</u> editing
- The event aimed to enrich a local topic as much languages as possible.
- The event was held <u>just in one day</u>
- I chose Content Translation Tool as a translation platform

Issue 1: A lot of things to teach

- How to edit Wikipedia
- Wikipedia rules and ethics
- Beside that, Content Translation Tool

  … in just 2 hours!

- That means you should prepare material (slides) for them. It's a lot of, a lot of work, as you can imagine.

Issue 2: CX tool is beta. And restrictions.

- 2 participants claimed that <u>translation disappeared</u>, just after hours of writing!
- CX <u>stops automatic translation</u> at the point where the source article is corrupted (in terms of Wiki syntax).
  - Especially be aware to <u>tables</u>!
- Only <u>one language pair per one article</u> can be translated at one time.
  - If there are two or more translators of same language, they cannot translate same article with CX.

Issue 3: More Restrictions, Restrictions …

- On English Wikipedia, you should have made <u>500 edits to be able to use CX</u>.
- On English Wikipedia, you should have made <u>more than 10 edits</u> and must be at least <u>4 days old to create an article directly</u>.
  - That means it's too late if one create their account on site.
- Avoid English Wikipedia! (haha)
- Keyboard layout is different language by language!

End