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 19 translators in 15 languages.
- Held in a small city in countryside of Japan
- Participants are foreign residents in Japan
- All participants are new to Wikipedia editing
- The event aimed to enrich a local topic as much languages as possible.
- The event was held just in one day
- 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 translation disappeared, just after hours of writing!
- CX stops automatic translation at the point where the source article is corrupted (in terms of Wiki syntax).
  - Especially be aware to tables!
- Only one language pair per one article 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 500 edits to be able to use CX.
- On English Wikipedia, you should have made more than 10 edits and must be at least 4 days old to create an article directly.
  ○ 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