Tyap Wikipedia: A Journey into Reality

KAMBAI AKAU

AMIR AHARONI

Abstract

This session aims to present the challenges and successes encountered before the creation of the Tyap Wikipedia on May 16, 2022, and afterward. It also aims at presenting some recommendations for one thinking of starting a small Wikipedia like the Tyap language edition.

Introduction

Tyap is a Niger-Congo Language native to the Central Nigerian Plateau, spoken by over 250,000 speakers. The Tyap Language Wikipedia is the first language Wikipedia edition from the region, and the sixth from Nigeria, a country with over 500 spoken languages.

Description

AIM

Let the general WMF community know about the efforts made in getting the Tyap Wikipedia to go live and afterward.

OBJECTIVES

- Getting started (Incubator)

- Recruiting co-founders for the project

- Translating the 500 Most used MediaWiki messages on Translatewiki (challenges and victories)

- Deciding on terminologies

- Organizing in-person events to add more volunteers

- Getting started (Live)

- Planned collaboration and outreach

- Recommendations

Getting started (Incubator)

❑ An application was submitted by me for the creation of the Tyap Wikipedia on MetaWiki on 3 December 2020.

❑ I was helped to get around with the starting of the translation work in the Wikimedia Incubator by Amir about the same period.

Recruiting co-founders for the project

❑ As the work advanced, I discovered getting two or more people to join the project was a criteria for approval of a new language Wikipedia.

❑ I created a WhatsApp group from the larger Tyap Language learning group I earlier created, and five people showed up.

❑ I taught them how to create an account on Wikipedia and three were able to create their accounts. But only the two younger participants showed further interest in editing.

❑ Those two became the co-founders of the Tyap Wikipedia along with me.

Translating the 500 Most Used MediaWiki messages on Translatewiki (challenges and victories)

❑ It was brought to my knowledge by Amir that the 500 Most Used MediaWiki messages had to be translated on Translatewiki.

❑ He helped me set up my profile page with helpful materials to study and learn about translation, and I began working on it.

❑ Translating modern terminologies was a challenge, we didn't allow it stand on our way.

❑ We coined new words where necessary and translated certain terminologies for tentative usage.

❑ It took us about three months to get the above translated.

Deciding on terminologies

❑ I worked with my new team to translate modern terminologies, and drafted a list of words and phrases (some newly coined) and submitted to the Tyap Language Development Board (TLDB) for approval.

❑ Those words were used tentatively for translation, pending on when the TLDB would give a feedback on the list.

Comment: Why is it important?

❑ Localization of the most important messages is required because it creates a language for the community.

❑Independence, self-reliance, and community building: If the content is in a certain language, *talking about editing* that content should also be in that language.

Organizing in-person events to add more volunteers

❑ We had two in person events:

❑ About 23 new participants attended the first event, [A Hatch-Tyap-Wikipedia In-person Training Event](#) (October 16-17 and 23-24, 2021) in Gworok (Kagoro), Kaduna State, Nigeria.

❑ About 24 new participants attended the second event, [A Hatch-Tyap-Wikimedia In-Person Training Event 2 (Kaduna Special Edition)](#) (January 22-23 and 29-30, 2022) in Kaduna, Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Comment: Best practices list

❑ For best practices about organizing translatewiki.net events, see the page "Best practices for translatewiki events" on Meta.
❑ Briefly:
  ◦ Make sure you're experienced yourself
  ◦ Make sure participants can type in the language
  ◦ Focus on translating particular projects, and divide the work efficiently
  ◦ Consult translatewiki.net administrators for advice

Getting started (Live)

❑ The Tyap Wikipedia was approved on May 16, 2022.

❑ We had over 400 articles at the time.

❑ The challenge of importing templates and modules was overcome by copying and pasting templates and modules from the English to the Tyap Wikipedia.

Planned collaboration & outreach

❏ We are currently working on a collaborative project with the Wikimedians of Romania and Moldova User Group on translating articles from Tyap to Romanian and Romanian to Tyap.

❏ We are also working on going for our first post-Wikipedia approval outreach event to a higher institution in Nigeria within the next few months to recruit Tyap speaking students and lecturers into our project, in collaboration with the Wikimedians of Nigeria User Group.

Recommendations

❏ When you start the project, stay committed to it.

❏ Explore and learn new skills on your own.

❏ Search for and join Wikimedia groups on Telegram.

Comment: Recommendations

❑Staying committed is difficult, but it's the most important thing!

❑Find other people who will edit, and keep them committed.

❑Make plans about what to write next: articles, policies, etc. Offer other people to write them. Always have a list of more tasks to do for volunteers who can help.

How does this session relate to the event themes: Diversity, Collaboration, Future?

❑ The Tyap language Wikipedia edition contributes to the wealth of knowledge in an African language.

❑ The most used Wikipedia editions by Africans are those in European languages.

❑ Some feel left out when the Wikipedia is not in a language they could get around with, easily.

❏ This could also help certain individuals create content about things they know and could not have ordinarily expressed in a foreign tongue, in their local Wikipedia.

❏ This overall adds to the diversity of knowledge.

❏ We aim at taking Wikipedia to the grassroots through YouTube tutoring and in person.

User Group and Laxity

- ❏ Having a User Group could enable a community to make long term plans for projects.
- ❏ Resources made available to it could provide for equipment and other necessities for the community.
- ❏ It could also make some communities channel their energies away from the real thing, to events.
- ❏ We find more people interested in events than in contributing knowledge on Wikipedia, which shouldn't be.
- ❏ For this, we are pleading that we must never forget the fundamentals. Volunteerism comes first!

Core Message

❑ Doing these things are challenging, but possible.

❑ The success of our language is a proof that it's possible.

❑ If we did it, you can do it, too.

Comment: Core Message

❑ Dedicated leadership and expert knowledge about the language go a long way!

❑ The successful Tyap project is a perfect, direct demonstration of the spirit of "Sharing the sum of all knowledge". It can and should be done in all languages!

ZIֽGWAI!!!

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THANK YOU!!!