

Challenges for Berber Wikipedias and learnings

Anass Sedrati

Wikimedia Morocco User Group

4 July 2019

2019-07-04

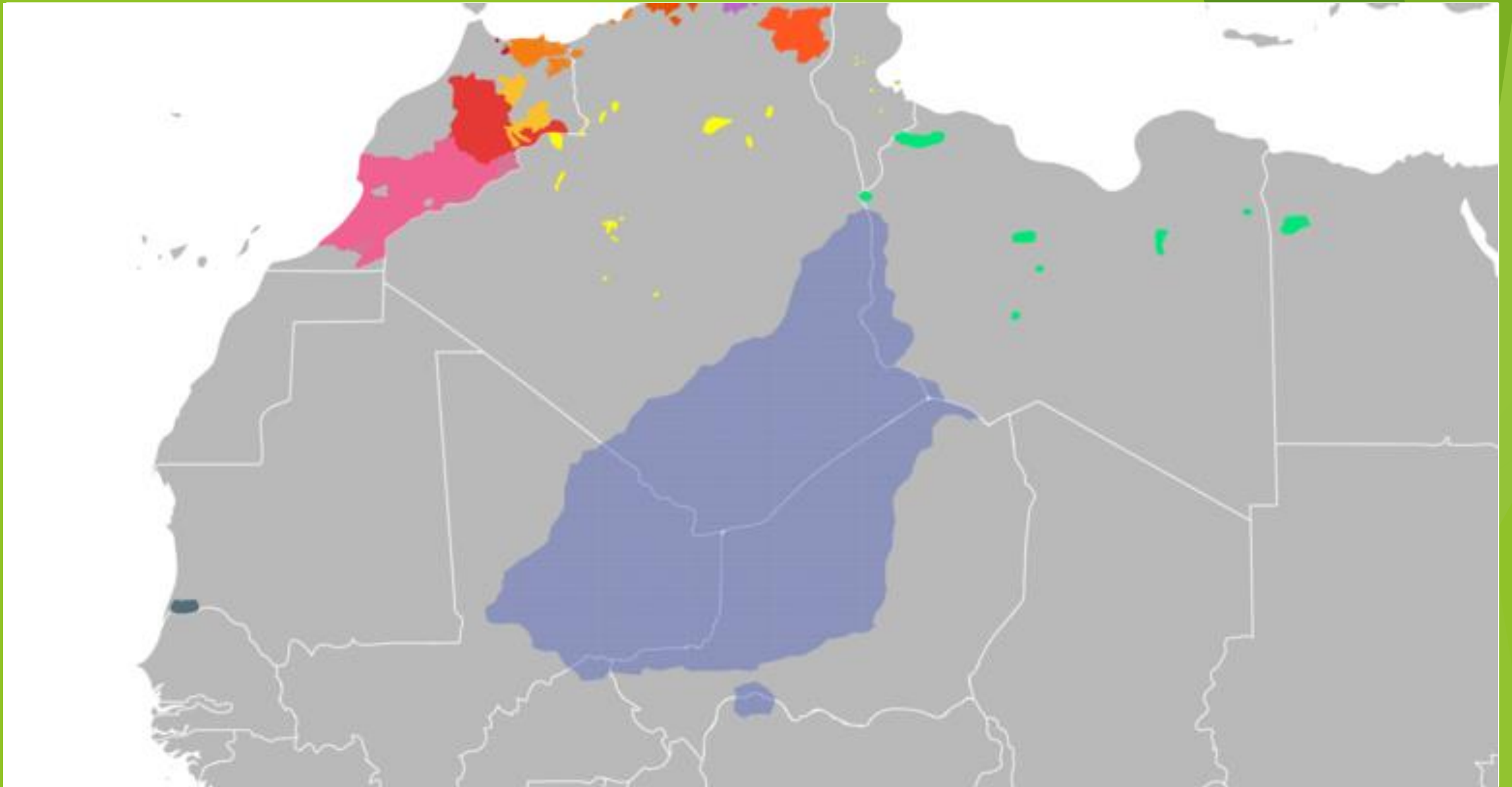
1

Agenda

- ▶ Berber Languages
- ▶ Wikimedia projects in Berber languages
- ▶ Challenges and learnings
- ▶ Conclusions

Berber languages

- ▶ Tamazight - indigenous language of North Africa
 - ▶ Official in Morocco since 2011 (together with Arabic)
 - ▶ National in Algeria since 2001 (Arabic is official)
 - ▶ No status in: Tunisia, Libya, Niger, Mali, Mauritania
- ▶ Berber is a family of languages, biggest are:
 - ▶ Morocco: Tarifit, Tamazight, Tachelhit
 - ▶ Algeria: Kabyle, Shawia
 - ▶ Sahara: Tuareg
- ▶ Total number of locutors: Between 20 and 30 millions (estimates)



Berber languages

- ▶ Located in countries/areas with linguistic concurrence
 - ▶ Arabic
 - ▶ French
- ▶ Social status
 - ▶ Associated to the mountain and the countryside.
 - ▶ Not an "encyclopedic" language, hardly even written.
- ▶ Political status
 - ▶ Nation-state Vs regionalism
 - ▶ Not specifically encouraged or supported

Writing Berber

- ▶ Encyclopedia implies written.
- ▶ Writing Berber is not a standardized operation
 - ▶ Arabic letters
 - ▶ Old manuscripts / only alphabet available
 - ▶ Latin letters
 - ▶ Coming with colonisation
 - ▶ Bears "European"/separation connotation
 - ▶ Tifinagh Alphabet
 - ▶ Original letters.
 - ▶ Preserved in the Sahara desert for 3000 years.
 - ▶ Neo-Tifinagh (IRCAM - Morocco)

Tifinagh Script

a ا	b ب	g گ	d د	d ض	e ه	f ف	k ك	h ه	h ح	ε ع	kh خ	q ق	i ي
ⵏ	ⵍ	ⵎ	ⵏ	ⵐ	ⵑ	ⵒ	ⵓ	ⵔ	ⵕ	ⵖ	ⵗ	ⵘ	ⵙ
j ج	l ل	m م	n ن	o و	r ر	r ر	gh غ	s س	ص ص	ch ش	t ت	ط ط	w و
ⵛ	ⵜ	ⵝ	ⵞ	ⵟ	ⵠ	ⵡ	ⵢ	ⵣ	ⵤ	ⵥ	ⵦ	ⵧ	⵨
y ي	z ز	z ز	w و	b ب	g گ	dj ج	dj ج	d د	d ض	k ك	k ك	h ه	h ه
⵩	⵪	⵫	⵬	⵭	⵮	ⵯ	⵰	⵱	⵲	⵳	⵴	⵵	⵶

Wikipedia in Berber

- ▶ One Berber language has its wikipedia page: **Kabyle**
- ▶ Several others are present in the incubator
 - ▶ Tarifit
 - ▶ Atlas Tamazight
 - ▶ Tachelhit
 - ▶ Shawia
 - ▶ Touareg
 - ▶ Moroccan Standard Tamazight



WIKIPEDIA
Tasanayt tilellit

Asebtar amenzu
Awwur n timetti
Isallen
Ibeddilen imaynuten
Asebtar menwala
Tallalt
Efik-ay idrimen

Deg isenfaɛen-nniɛen
Wikimedia Commons

Siggez/sifed
Rnu adlis

Anass Sedrati Asqerdec Ismenyifen Beta Tabdart n uɗfar Ittekkiiyen Ffey

Amagrad **Asqerdec**

Yer

Ƶreg

Ƶreg aybalu

Wali amazray



Ugar

Nadi Wikipedia



Legliz

Si Wikipedia, tasanayt tilellit.
(Yettusmimeɗ seg [Langliz](#))

Legliz d tamurt igɗefren [Tagelda Yedduklen](#).^{[1][2][3]} Tesca tilisa d *Tamurt n Yigaliyen* seg umalu, d **Tikust** seg ugafa-agafa-amalu. **Ilel n Irland** yleɗɗu yer umalu n Legliz, d Ilel Asiltik yer unzul-amalu. Tettwafraq seg [turuft s Ilel n Ugafa](#).

Tiwelhiwin [Ƶreg | Ƶreg aybalu]

- ↑ Office for National Statistics, « [The Countries of the UK](#) », [statistics.gov.uk](#)
- ↑ [Countries within a country](#), [number-10.gov.uk](#)
- ↑ [Changes in the list of subdivision names and code elements \(Page 11\)](#) [International Organization for Standardization](#)

Legliz

England



Administration

Tamaneyt London

Tutlayin Taglizit

tunɗibin

A necni jar n yifassen i wummi neqqar tansiklupodit Tazzayrit .deg wannar ayi ad nutlay ghef tutlayt tamazight n tmurt n lezzayr s umata , Macha ad nutlay ghef tutlayt nnigh tantala tachawit ayellan tettwahsab seg tantalayin-nnes , deg tansiklupodit agi ad nuc gut n yisental ghef tantala tachawit bac anmesten fella-s achku tebdu tetruha yerni ad nuc tamughli ghef timetti n yicawiyyen

ⵜⴰⵎⴻⴳⴷⴰⵏⵜ | ⵜⴰⵎⴻⴳⴷⴰⵏⵜ

رياضيات و

علوم

الطبيعية :

ⵍⵎⴰⵏⵏⵉⵎⴰ ⵍⵎⴰⵏⵏⵉⵎⴰ

• علم البيئة

• علوم طبيعية

• علم نبات

ⵍⵎⴰⵏⵏⵉⵎⴰ ⵍⵎⴰⵏⵏⵉⵎⴰ

رياضيات

الفلسافة و

العلوم

الاجتماعية :

Challenges for Berber Wikipedias

- ▶ Writing (Always and Forever)
 - ▶ Standard version (Morocco) - Tifinagh - Not a mother-tongue
 - ▶ Other versions not standardized
 - ▶ Algeria: Tifinagh - Latin
 - ▶ Lot of freedom for the editors gives situation of "anarchy"
- ▶ Cross-country languages
 - ▶ Conflicts on who "owns" the language.
 - ▶ No standards.

Challenges for Berber Wikipedias

- ▶ Lack of official support
- ▶ Lack of hardware
 - ▶ There are no keyboards in Tifinagh in the whole world.
 - ▶ Writing in tifinagh is an "Activism"
- ▶ Lack of sources
 - ▶ Almost no written sources in Berber.
 - ▶ It is an oral language transmitted by ancestors.
 - ▶ Marginalization of media to articles/items around Berber.

Conclusions and way forward

- ▶ Having Wikipedia in Berber is important (as in any language).
 - ▶ It is the mirror of the local culture.
 - ▶ Many local aspects can only be shared with the world through the content in Berber.
 - ▶ Wikipedia in Berber can help boost the standardization of the language
- ▶ Challenges faced by Berber Wikipedia are common to many other languages
 - ▶ Do you recognize them?
 - ▶ How do you tackle them?

Read More

- ▶ Kabyle Wikipedia
 - ▶ https://kab.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asebtar_amenzu
- ▶ Standard Morocco Berber
 - ▶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Moroccan_Berber
- ▶ Wikimedia Incubator
 - ▶ https://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Incubator:Main_Page

Thank you!

Questions?