

Language preservation: From writing on Wikipedia to writing a novel

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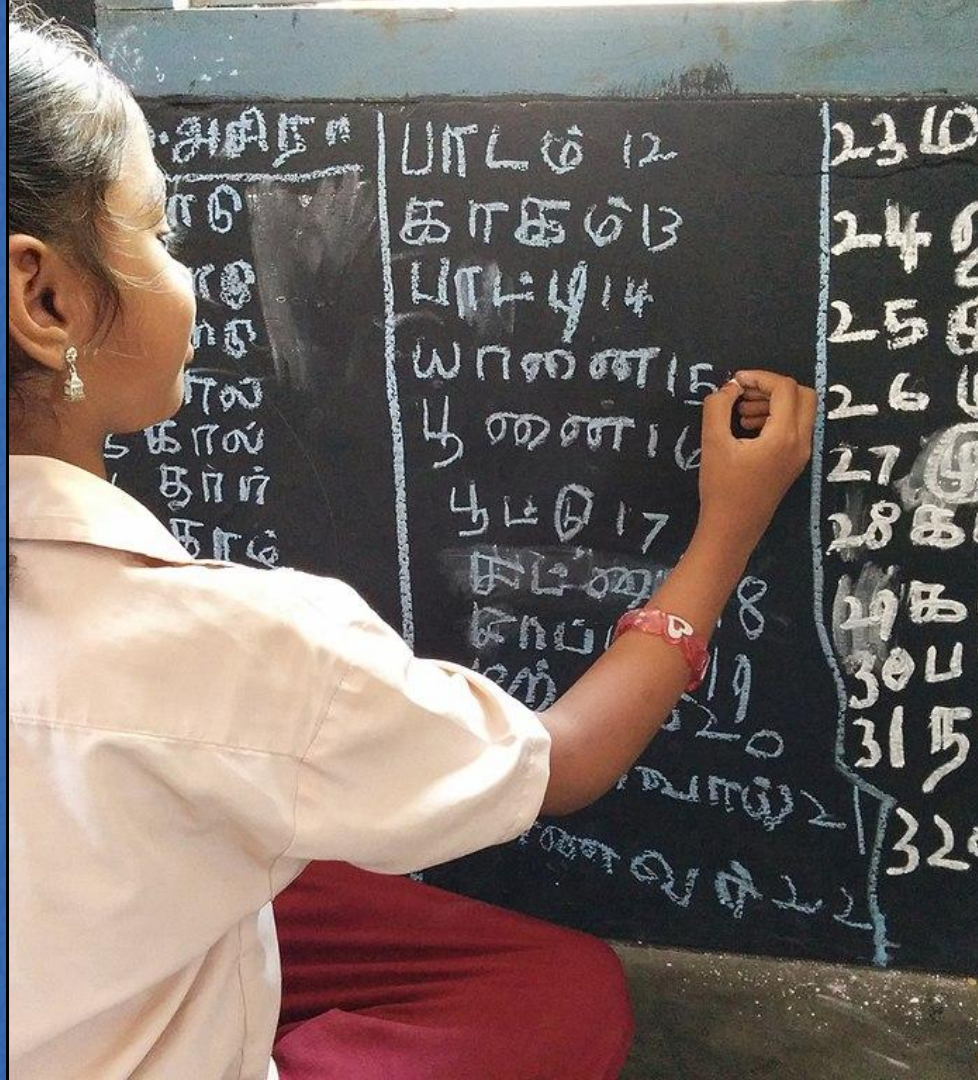
Maor Malul (username: Maor X)



Wikipedias & languages

- There are 319 active Wikipedias., but less than 1/3 have over 50K articles.
- 25 Wikipedias have less than 1K articles
- There are 58 million articles in all Wikipedias, half of that in 10 languages

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Endangered languages

- There are around 7K active languages; 65 are “safe”
- Some of those endangered are spoken by millions, like Lombard, Yiddish, Aymara, and Belarusian

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Judeo-Spanish

- Spoken by around 150K people (L1+L2)
- Most speakers are above age of 60
- Suffers leveling with Spanish
- There are Judeo-Spanish studies in Universities in the USA, Israel and Spain
- Language not standardized
- Radio programs in Israel and Spain
- One weekly* newspaper and one magazine

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Literature in Judeo-Spanish

- The first books were published in the late 1500s, most of religious nature
- First newspaper began operations in 1871
- First novels / serialized translations in the 1870s
- First original novel published in 1924
- Most recent works are from 1999 and 2012*



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жудеоеспаньол
Djudeo-Espanyol
ג'וד'יאו-איספאניוול
ג'וד'יאו-איספאניוול



Remember the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Stuck at home
- Social distancing
- Working from home

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Why writing a book?

- Wikipedians are experts at writing
- We speak the language
- Information doesn't generate emotions; art does
- Nothing beats reading in your own language
- You're helping future generations

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Side benefits?

- Creating [more Wikipedia articles](#) about the topic of your book in your language, or expanding the current ones
- Increasing interest of others in your language and culture
- Inspiring others to do the same
- Improving your command of the language

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My personal experience

- Lots of research (including trips)
- Fighting with procrastination
- Became the center of my thoughts
- So far 60% of the writing done
- Will definitely do it again

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-Mersi ermano, ama la vez d'alkavo era un fiasko, t'akodras?

-Si, komo no me vo akodrar si advites kon kara de tisha beav al menos un mes! Ama si, Roza Kazes djuego kon el tu korason, eya era una sirtika kon ti!

-No la yames ansi, bre -Mordo volteó mientras miraba a Moshon con ojos de desaprobación

-Mordo, las kozas se yaman por el su nombre, i eya djuego kon ti komo si eras la kukla de eya, no t'akodras? Dinguna mujer va venir dokunear al mi ermano i kedarsen trankila, me entendites! Senti lo ke te vo dezir: Si la bulisa Medina avlo kon eya, no le disho ke eres un Varsano o un Modiano, tamam?

-Bueno, kreygo ke si

-Kreyes? Lonso, la bulisa te konose desde afilu el diya de la tu fashadura i el haham Medina te konose desde antes ke te iziera la mila; eyos nunka van dezir mentiras de ti. Ainda no saves ken es eya! Olvidate de Roza, desha ke esa se la va sikishear un mansevo de kaza alta komo eya bushka, ama va aresivir uno kon pata kurta, un dia eya va saver ke pedrio kon ti, Hananel!

-le dijo Moshon a Mordo, luego de guiñarle el ojo- Endemas, diskues de Rosh Ashana vas prinsipiar el staj en la fabrika de Allatini i diskues las empresas se van gerreyar por ti!

-Tu kreyes ke seya una manseva buena?

-Absolumon, kerido! La bulisa i el haham keren siempre todo lo bueno para ti, eres komo el ijo behor de eyos!

-Es vedrad, eyos no m'avlan de una manseva si no saven ke es una koza buena para eya i para mi

-Kon beraha ke seya, kerido! Allora, kale ke ayegar perfumado, kualo te vas poner? -le responde Moshon mientras se levanta y abre su escaparate. Provate esta, Eau de Roi de Parfums Bichara, a mi me plaze muncho!

Mersi muncho.



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