

We Can't Just Translate Everything! Rethinking Equitable Access to QRIS through Culturally Relevant Translation Processes

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Introductions

- Name, State
- How many languages is your QRIS available in?

Session Objective

- Facilitate a discussion about building equity through language access

You can't just translate....

- Multiple layers of cultural contexts
- Literacy levels/complexity of languages
- Electronic systems and characters
- Requirements for research based

You can't just translate everything

Like

like¹

/lɪk/ 

preposition

preposition: like

1. having the same characteristics or qualities as; similar to.
"there were other suits like mine in the shop"
synonyms: similar to, the same as, identical to
"you're just like a teacher"
 - in the manner of; in the same way or to the same degree as.
"he was screaming like a banshee"
synonyms: in the same way as, in the same manner as, in the manner of, in a similar way to
"the figure landed like a cat"
 - in a way appropriate to.
"students were angry at being treated like children"
 - such as one might expect from; characteristic of.
"just like you to put a damper on people's enjoyment"
synonyms: characteristic of, typical of, in character with
"he sounded mean, which isn't like him"
 - used in questions to ask about the characteristics or nature of someone or something.
"What is it like to be a tuna fisherman?"
2. used to draw attention to the nature of an action or event.
"I apologize for coming over unannounced like this"
3. such as; for example.
"the cautionary vision of works like *Animal Farm* and *1984*"
synonyms: such as, for example, for instance; [More](#)

conjunction informal

conjunction: **like**

1. **in the same way that; as.**
"people who change countries like they change clothes"
2. **as though; as if.**
"I felt like I'd been kicked by a camel"

adverb

adverb: **like**

1. *informal*
used in speech as a meaningless filler or to signify the speaker's uncertainty about an expression just used.
"there was this funny smell—sort of dusty like"
2. *informal*
used to convey a person's reported attitude or feelings in the form of direct speech (whether or not representing an actual quotation).
"so she comes into the room and she's like "Where is everybody?""
3. *archaic*
in the manner of.
"like as a ship with dreadful storm long tossed"

like²

/lɪk/ 

verb

verb: **like**; 3rd person present: **likes**; past tense: **liked**; past participle: **liked**; gerund or present participle: **liking**

1. find agreeable, enjoyable, or satisfactory.

"I like all Angela Carter's stories"

synonyms: be fond of, be attached to, have a soft spot for, have a liking for, have regard for, think well of, **admire**, **respect**, **esteem**; **More**

antonyms: **hate**

- indicate one's liking or approval of (a web page or posting on a social media website) by activating a particular icon or link.

"more than 15,000 Facebook users had liked his page by Monday morning"

2. wish for; want.

"would you like a cup of coffee?"

synonyms: **choose**, **please**, **wish**, **want**, see fit, think fit, care to, **will**

"feel free to say what you like"

- used as a polite formula.

"we would like to apologize for the late running of this service"

- feel reluctant to do something.

"I don't like leaving her on her own too long"

- choose to have (something); prefer.

"how do you like your coffee?"

synonyms: **choose**, **please**, **wish**, **want**, see fit, think fit, care to, **will**

"feel free to say what you like"

- feel about or regard (something).

"how would you like it if it happened to you?"

synonyms: feel about, **regard**, think about, **consider**

"how would she like it if someone did that to her?"

noun

noun: like; plural noun: likes

1. the things one likes or prefers.

"a wide variety of likes, dislikes, tastes, and income levels"

- an instance of indicating one's liking or approval of a web page or posting on a social media website.

"pages that rank well are likely to receive high numbers of likes because they are highly visible in the search engines"

noun

noun: like; plural noun: likes

1. used with reference to a person or thing of the same kind as another.

"the quotations could be arranged to put like with like"

- a thing or things of the same kind (often used to express surprise or for emphasis).

noun: the like

"did you ever hear the like?"

synonyms: equal, match, equivalent, counterpart, twin, parallel; *rare* compeer

"we'll never see his like again"

That's, **like**, a lot of meanings for one word!

I mean, **like**, how is anyone supposed to figure out what I mean when I say something **like**, "I **like** it when the moon looks **like** a giant yellow lemon-**like** sphere in the sky."

Oregon's story

- How it started, our first attempt at Spanish translation
- Glossary revision

Lessons learned

- Best intentions aren't enough
- Be prepared for competing interests
- This takes time to do it right
- We are still learning about equity and translation
- We don't know it all, embrace CQI

Lessons learned

- Interview child care providers and professionals
- Pre-test/Pilot in the local culture
- It's not the transfer of words, you must translate the meaning
- Read the whole of the original source
- Be aware of cultural difference in languages
- Develop original materials in simple language

Lessons about creating language teams

- Wide representation, including positions/agencies and cultural backgrounds/experiences
- Need understanding of field and of the specific materials
- Need clear protocol
- Meetings need sufficient time to complete work
- Bigger isn't always better
- Needs strong leadership and ownership of work

Questions

Discussion

Is equitable access through translation even possible?

- Curricula in other languages?
- Screening tools?
- Assessments?
- Observation tools?
- Program raters who are culturally and linguistically able to rate programs?
- Are other parts of your system prepped to handle other languages? (Licensing, trainers, community colleges, etc.)

What does equity look like?

- When do you think about translation? Do you start with translation?
- Is it fair and best to translate everything and produces 'all' languages at once?
- What if other parts of the system are barriers that need to be addressed as well?
- How do you keep a flexible and nimble system while holding this as your standard?
- Is it ok to translate as needed? What are the messages you are sending? What are the costs involved with translating things that may or may not be needed?

What about creating materials in other languages?

- How do you rate programs equitably if standards end up different?
- Is it ok to assume that the literacy level in one language should be lower than in another language?
- How useful are standards if they are different?
- Can you create supplemental materials to support other languages instead?
- Are there resources, research based materials, (curricula etc.) from other countries that would be useful?
- Do you have people with enough knowledge of the system to create meaningful materials?

Assessment Tool

Basic:

Do you know in which languages you need to make your materials available?

Yes

No

Where am I going from here?

Do you know who is going to do the translating, funding, FTE, etc.?

Yes

No

Where am I going from here?

Do you know what needs to be translated?

Yes

No

Where am I going from here?

Intermediate:

Do you have a common glossary of early learning specific terms in all necessary languages?	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Where am I going from here?

Do decision makers in your agency or state understand what it really means to create equitable access to communities who do not speak English?	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Where am I going from here?

Do you have systems in place to communicate to all partners when changes are made in regards to language policies?	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Where am I going from here?

Do you have a system in place to prevent the duplication of translated material such as trainings and glossaries?	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Where am I going from here?

Advanced:

Do you initiate a project thinking about how to make it accessible to communities who do not speak English?	Ye	N
	s	o

Where am I going from here?

If your system requires materials, such as curriculum, are they available in languages other than English?	Ye	N
	s	o

Where am I going from here?

Is your agency responsive if/when language needs change in your state or to changing language needs in your geographic area?	Ye	N
	s	o

Where am I going from here?

Success

- Refined glossary used in 2nd translation of Spanish material
- Live Spanish glossary will be available on Oregon's Early Learning Division website soon
 - Russian, Chinese, and Vietnamese to follow
- Longer, more difficult process than anticipated

Thank you

PowerPoint slides and Assessment tool are available on the conference page

