

We Speak One Language

The world's most difficult languages

Ever wondered which is the most difficult language in the world? Well that depends on what languages you already speak.

It makes sense that languages which are more similar to your own native language are easier to learn. If you've ever been in a Spanish class with an Italian, for example, you'll know what I'm talking about.

Add a different alphabet or writing system and things get even more complicated. When we asked recently [if Chinese is difficult](#) the main conclusion was that the characters make things a lot harder.

This diagram gives an idea of which are the most difficult languages for English speakers to learn. It shows the length of US Foreign Service intensive language courses. (source: [The Atlantic](#))

That's right – it takes more than

twice as long to learn Chinese or Arabic as Swahili.

For native English speakers this is not good news – apart from Spanish, the fastest growing languages both [spoken](#) and [on the internet](#) are some of the most difficult to learn.

Do you agree with this list? And, if English is not your native language which languages are most difficult for you?



Future Trans News

The standard in the industry as the #1 Localization Service Provider in the Middle East and Africa

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Why Localize?



Importance of Localization and Globalization

[Localization](#) continues to be critical to global success and is historically undervalued, even by companies that spend a great deal of money on it. But localization is only an element in a long, sometimes complicated process of providing products and services to customers. It isn't special,

separate or onerous, and it shouldn't be treated that way. If localization isn't adding value to the product, then it's either being done badly or it shouldn't be done at all.

When it comes to product content (documentation, help, web content and so forth), for too long there has been an artificial divide between content creation and localization. Perhaps it is based on the mistaken belief that localization is a mechanical process like photocopying or shrink-wrapping. Our industry's irritating concentration on translation tools and automation

does nothing to dispel this belief. But localization isn't special here either; it should be seen as part of the authoring process. Authors and localizers need to focus on a shared interest and responsibility that goes well beyond how services are outsourced and managed. The fact is that localization isn't something service providers do to content — it *is* content. That makes localized content just as important as the original."

<http://blog.languagetranslation.com/public/blog/124997>

<http://pocketcultures.com/topicsoftheworld/2009/05/25/the-worlds-most-difficult-language/>