



PROJET DE TRADUCTION DU SITE DE LA KHAN ACADEMY

1. Object

Translation to Haitian-creole of the Khan Academy videos.

2. Rationale

The Haitian education system suffers from several ailments for which no simple solutions are obvious, even when the causes of these problems are readily identified. One of the most salient handicaps of the system is the socio-linguistic inequality present in the educational arena. It is important here to insist on the weight of this factor in the perpetuation of a certain social inequality and on the development of Haïti and its society as a whole. Two official languages exist in Haïti: French and Créole. Créole is the language that binds all Haïtians for it is spoken and understood by everyone. The great majority of children entering the school system speak only Créole, while French is acquired much later, during their schooling. In spite of the stipulations of the Constitution regarding the language of instruction, many of the children do not receive instruction in their first language. The result is a stigmatization and a systematic exclusion of a large number of pupils whose future -and indirectly that of the nation -will be jeopardized in an irreversible manner. Beyond the identity question, many studies have demonstrated that the learning process is more efficient when carried in ones first language and that, once the foundations are well established, new knowledge is more readily acquired. It seems therefore logical to put in place a series of measures aimed at facilitating the learning process in the first language of most Haitians, the **Créole language**, and by the same token, facilitate the integration of all children in the educational system. The added benefit will be a better outlook for their academic, social and professional prospect. It is hoped that those measures will expand to all levels, thus providing tools to allow all learners to function with confidence in a language that they master thoroughly while learning the other.

At the dawn of the 21st century, which will be the century of knowledge, it is important and urgent that the situation be straighten so that all children in Haiti receive an academic training that is modern and thorough in a system to which they can relate, and in which they can unfold intellectually as well as socially.

3. Vision and objectives

To make it easy for young Haitians to adapt to a new school environment and smooth over the path in the long journey through their academic life, it is imperative that their first experience be in their first language. Such an endeavor will have a significant impact on the psychology of the learner, its learning habits and its social integration. The expected results are an easier adaptation to the academic environment, an increased ease in the acquisition of new knowledge, an increased success rate in school, and a decrease in the dropout rate.



Measures are already in place in the Haitian educational system to support the move in that direction and ensure a better integration of the children. However, those measures have limited impact because of the lack of adequate resources. The translation project we propose aims at strengthening those initiatives by encouraging empowerment of the children in their first language. In the short/medium term, the project aims at translating all the instructional math and science videos offered by the Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org). In the long term, these translations could become an integral part of an e-learning national program to be integrated with the RENACER project of GRAHN, as a teaching aid.

The means

A Haitian-Créole translating group was created on the site of the Khan Academy with James Féthière as moderator. The signed agreement stipulates that any work done within the framework of these translations remains the property of the Khan Academy. In order to ensure the uniformity and quality of the translations, the linguistic subcommittee of GRAHN, as well as Créole-speaking linguists will be involved. To this end, Michel-Ange Hyppolite has agreed to liaise with the subcommittee members and ensure their availability for validation of the translations. Furthermore, training will be offered to potential translators so that translations conform to a uniform style, recommended by the GRAHN linguistic subcommittee. It is proposed that translations be presented in Créole subtitles as well as in spoken words. To achieve this, there will be an initial transcription in the Créole language to be verified by the members of the linguistic subcommittee and the dubbing of the videos (utilizing one voice per subject) that will be made available on the site of the Khan Academy. Given the number of videos to translate, we expect a strong participation of all members of GRAHN as well as volunteers with appropriate expertise in the subjects to be translated and good knowledge of English and Créole, and a playful pedagogical approach. For example, members of REHP (Ralliement des Étudiants Haïtiens de l'École Polytechnique) have already agreed to translate the videos of math and pure science. The greatest challenge in this endeavor is to find the largest number of translators for all subjects.

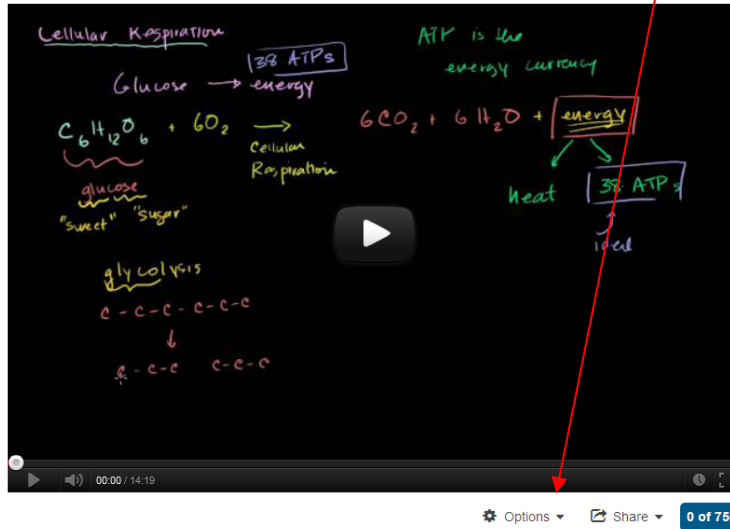
Once the project is launched, GRAHN-Monde will undertake large scale publicity to widen the base of people interested in the cause. As for the intensity to be devoted to the task, we estimate an average of 4-6 hours for a written translation of a 10 minute video, depending on the proficiency of the translator. Those who make the commitment must take their task seriously and sign up for **at least one translation a month**. Once the translation/adaptation finished, the translator will send it as a word document to the address below for validation by the GRAHN linguistic subcommittee. To avoid duplication, each translator must inform the moderator of his or her choices of videos to be adapted by email at the following address: traductionkhan@grahn-monde.org.

Procedure

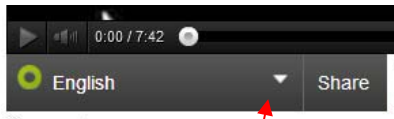
1. Enter the site of the Khan Academy, www.khanacademy.org
2. Select your video. We will start with arithmetic, algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry and physics. **And inform the moderator of your choice**
3. Once your choice is made, download the English sub-titles



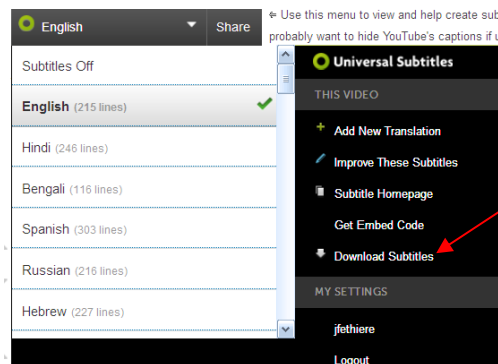
- i. Click on “option” at the bottom left corner of the screen and select “translated subtitles”.



- ii. A new window pops up on the left, below the screen



- iii. Click on the arrow to display the sub-titles window. Choose “download subtitle” to save the sub-titles on your hard drive.



- iv. The file is an .srt format. Add .txt to the name of the file in order to edit it with a text editor such as Notepad. So, Basic_Addition.en.srt becomes Basic_Addition.en.srt.txt.



v. In the text editor you will have a file looking like this:

1
00:00: 01,004→00:00:04,094
Welcome to the presentation on level two addition

2
00:00:04,094-→00:00:07,054
Well I think we should get started with some problems, and

vi. Now you just need to write the corresponding translation under each English sentence. Like this.

1
00:00: 01,004→00:00:04,094
Welcome to the presentation on level two addition
Nou kontan wè ou nan prezantasyon adisyon ak retni yo

2
00:00:04,094-→00:00:07,054
Well I think we should get started with some problems, and
Bon mwen kwè nou ta dwé kòmansé avèk kèk pwoblèm, epi

Once your file is completely translated, return it by email to the following address: traductionkhan@grahn-monde.org keeping the original name of the file with the extension .txt