Language barriers and translation, implications for open access journals

Hooman Momen

World Health Organization

Major Asian Languages

Bengali

Axamiya

Sinhala

Bama (Burmese)

Putonghua(Mandarin)

Gan

Hakka

Minbei

'Arabiyya

Tagalog

Cebuano

Malay-Indonesia

Jawa (Javanese)

Sunda

Madura

Turkce-Azeri

Kazakh-Kirghiz

Uzbek-Uyghur

Nihongo (Japanese)

Hankukmal (Korean)

Thai

Lao-Isan

Khmer

Viet

Telugu

Kannada

Kurd

Farsi

Pashto

Wu

Yue

Minnan

Xiang

Hindi-Urdu

Nepali

Panjabi

Sindhi

Rajasthani

Gujurati

Marathi

Bhojpuri-Maithili

Oriya

Tamil

Malayalam

Major African Languages

Maninka-Bambara

Fula

Yoruba

Igbo

Lingala

Kongo

Luba

Rwanda-Rundi

Swahili-Kingwana

Shona-Shangana

Sotho-Tswana

Zulu- Swati-Xhosa

Tamazigh (Berber)

'Arabiyya

Amharinya

Oromo

Somali

Hausa

Malagasy

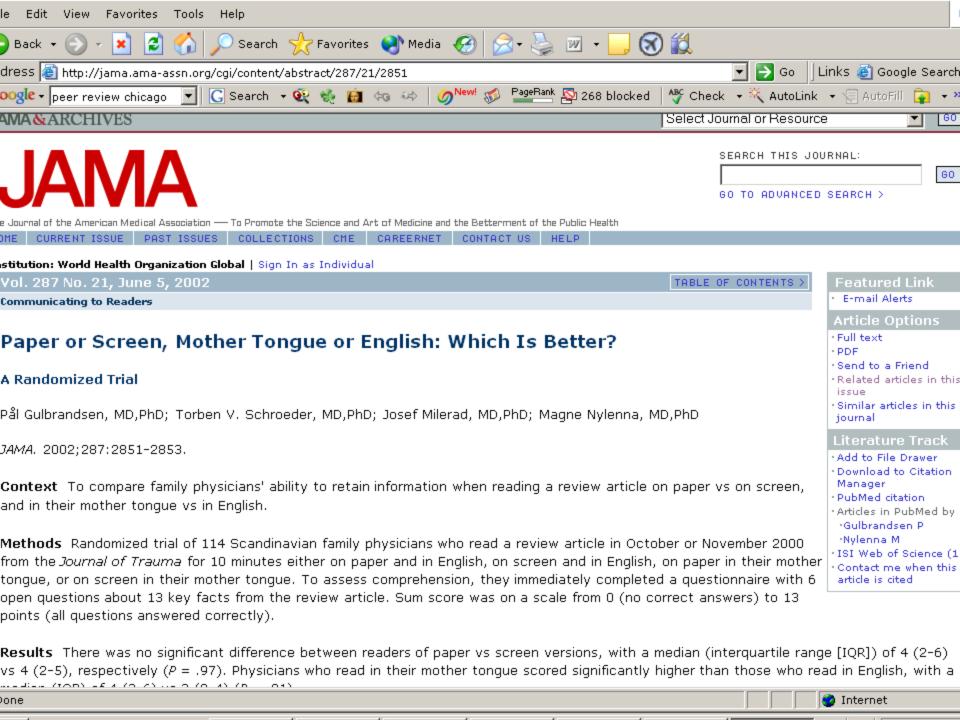(Dutch) Afrikaans

(Portug.) Crioulo

(French) Créole

(English) Krio

Language of publication

- Authors are encouraged to publish in English
  - International language of publication in science
  - Facilitates publication in high impact journal
  - Favours citation by other authors
- Readers often disagree
  - Prefer information in mother tongue
  - Facilitates comprehension
  - Favours retention

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JAMA

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Communicating to Readers

Paper or Screen, Mother Tongue or English: Which Is Better?

A Randomized Trial

Pål Gulbrandsen, MD,PhD; Torben V. Schroeder, MD,PhD; Josef Milerad, MD,PhD; Magne Nylenna, MD,PhD

Context To compare family physicians' ability to retain information when reading a review article on paper vs on screen, and in their mother tongue vs in English.

Methods Randomized trial of 114 Scandinavian family physicians who read a review article in October or November 2000 from the *Journal of Trauma* for 10 minutes either on paper and in English, on screen and in English, on paper in their mother tongue, or on screen in their mother tongue. To assess comprehension, they immediately completed a questionnaire with 6 open questions about 13 key facts from the review article. Sum score was on a scale from 0 (no correct answers) to 13 points (all questions answered correctly).

Results There was no significant difference between readers of paper vs screen versions, with a median (interquartile range [IQR]) of 4 (2-6) vs 4 (2-5), respectively (P = .97). Physicians who read in their mother tongue scored significantly higher than those who read in English, with a

Publication Bias

- How many times have you read
  - We reviewed published English – language studies cited in …
    …
    - or similar

- Normal justification
  - English is the international language of science
  - Time and cost of translation

- Result
  - Publication bias in systematic reviews and meta-analyses

Machine Translation

- Improving in quality
  - Never be perfect
  - Always need human translators
- Increasing availability
  - Free on Web
    - e.g. Google translator
  - Increase combination of language pairs

Google — Language Tools

About Google

Search Specific Languages or Countries

Search pages written in: Portuguese

Search pages located in: any country

Search for   [   ]   Google Search

Tip: If you typically search only pages in a specific language or languages, you can save this as your default search behavior on the Preferences page.

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Translate text:

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or

Translate a web page:

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Motivos de visita a los servicios de atención odontológica en Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Benoît Varenne, Philippe Msellati, Célestin Zoungrana, Florence Fournet, & Gérard Salem

RESUMEN

OBJETIVO

Determinar por qué razones acuden los pacientes a los centros de atención odontológica en Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, y conocer mejor los medios de que disponen los servicios de atención bucodental en las zonas urbanas de África occidental.

MÉTODOS

Estudiamos una muestra seleccionada aleatoriamente de pacientes que acudieron a 15 establecimientos de atención odontológica de Ouagadougou a lo largo de un periodo de un año en 2004. Los datos se recopilaron mediante un simple formulario de registro diario.

RESULTADOS

De un total de 44.975 pacientes, la muestra final fue de 14.591 pacientes, de los cuales un 55,4%

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Printing version

Reasons for visit to the services of odontológica attention in Ouagadougou, Burkina Ditch

Benoît Varenne, Philippe Msellati, Célestin Zoungrana, Florence Fournet, & Gérard Salem

SUMMARY

OBJECTIVE

To determine why reasons go the patients to the centers of odontológica attention in Ouagadougou, Burkina Ditch, and to know better means of than arrange the services of bucodental attention in the urban zones of western Africa.

METHODS

We randomly studied a selected sample of patients who went to 15 establishments of odontológica attention of Ouagadougou throughout a period of a year in 2004. The data were compiled by means of a simple form of daily registry.

RESULTS

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Quality not Language is the Barrier

- Language not a barrier
  - Culture is
    - Nigerian and Pakistani authors are also poorly cited
- Quality is a barrier.
  - Good quality facilitates machine translation
  - Structured abstracts
  - Standardized reporting
    - Consort
    - Statistical tests
  - Increase pool of peer reviewers
- Language should not be an excuse for poor quality