

Google Translate Adds 24 New Languages

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. indispensable /ˌɪn.dɪˈspen.sə.bəl/ (adjective) too important not to have; necessary
Example: None of our players is indispensable.
2. indigenous /ɪnˈdɪdʒ.ɪ.nəs/ (adjective) used to refer to, or relating to, the people who originally lived in a place, rather than people who moved there from somewhere else
Example: Who are the indigenous people of the land?
3. continually /kənˈtɪn.ju.ə.li/ (adverb) in a way that happens repeatedly:
Example: They fight continually.
4. linguistic /lɪŋˈɡwɪs.tɪk/ (adjective) connected with language or the study of language
Example: I'm particularly interested in the linguistic development of young children.
5. aspire /əˈspaɪər/ (verb) to want something very much or hope to achieve something or be successful
Example: She aspires to have a better life that's why she works really hard.

The image shows a screenshot of the Google Translate web interface. At the top is the Google logo and a search bar. Below the search bar are navigation links: All, News, Shopping, Maps, Images, and More. The search results show "About 3,330,000,000 results (0.37 seconds)". The translation section has two dropdown menus: "Japanese" and "English". Below these are two large text boxes: "Enter text" and "Translation".

Google added 24 languages to its translation service, bringing the total number to 133. Google Translate is an **indispensable** tool. It conveniently and quickly translates vocabulary and texts into other languages. The 24 new languages are spoken by more than 300 million people. Among them are **indigenous** languages of the Americas.

Google started its first translation service in 2006. It has **continually** added to the number of languages. Google said it still has a long way to go. There are 7,000 languages worldwide that Translate doesn't translate.

Translate needs a large amount of **linguistic** data to support a language. Google explained how new technology helped to add the new languages. It said: "Up until a couple of years ago, it simply was not technologically possible to add languages like these, which are what we call a low resource – meaning that there are not very many text resources...for them."

Google **aspires** to support languages used by large populations. One of these is Lingala, spoken by 45 million people across Central Africa. It also wants to provide assistance for indigenous languages that are often overlooked by technology.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How helpful do you think Google Translate is? What is its importance to you?
2. Have you ever been to a country wherein they don't speak your language? How was it?
3. Have you tried using a translation service in a different country?
4. Has a foreigner in your country asked you for directions? Were you able to help?
5. How else can we express ourselves without the use of a translator to a foreigner who doesn't understand the language we speak?