

Vision Statement

1. What world problem are you concerned about?

I have always been concerned that people cannot talk to each other due to language barriers. It is quite disheartening because we all are human, yet we can't communicate to each other. The problem of communication among foreign people is hard to solve in real life, but on a computer, language deficiencies and communication issues can be solved pretty easily with a software program.

2. Why is this problem important?

This problem is very important because people always have a need to communicate. Also, foreign affairs, such as trade and business, are especially important in the days of the Internet because many countries in the world have Internet now. Not everyone owns dictionaries for all of the languages in the world however, and life is too short to be fluent in all the languages so more advanced translators are needed. Also, new words are constantly being made in different languages so the need to update dictionaries by computer is a necessity.

3. What aspect seems important to you?

Because most people are on the Internet these days and the Internet is where many people encounter foreign languages, I am more interested in making a translator system with a dictionary look-up for some of most popular languages in existence for use on either an Internet browser or computer. From my experience, I would want to look up words without having to go to an Internet translator page every time I want to look something up.

4. How could a new software system help to solve this aspect of the problem?

By using this software system, people can quickly look up words faster than using text dictionaries by either typing them in a text box on a computer or simply by moving the mouse over the currently selected text to find the definition(s). One also has the option to translate the given word into any language they want to given in an options menu. Explanations can also be given in any language people want as well. The functionality for the software system would be mainly offline to help people who cannot always be on the Internet. Grammar markers such as pronoun, adjective, verb etc. will also be displayed with the word. This may seem like an arduous process, but there are several projects/dictionary files like JMDICT for Japanese that makes things easier. (1)

5. Why do you think this idea will make a big impact on the world?

Once again, people always have a need to communicate and computer processing is much faster than having to look at text dictionaries for word definitions. It would make a big impact on the world because language is used by everyone in the world and not everyone understands foreign languages. This software system would make it much easier to understand others, whether it may be for important things like money disputes or just socializing with foreign friends.

6. Sources

1. <http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/jmdict.html> Breen, Jim. 9/1/11.