

REPORT ON FUEL EVENTS CONDUCTED FOR MALAYALAM

Malayalam community is a huge group of language lovers who are always ready to join any projects that helps the betterment of the language. But with the FUEL project, though community was bit hesitant to go for it, thinking that already a glossary is being maintained and why to go for another similar stuff, later on understood the need of FUEL for Malayalam.

There were initially many discussions on IRC and mail on how to go about with FUEL for Malayalam. Unlike all languages who have completed FUEL, Malayalam community has a different approach to it, which is actually the best way to get things done. Community decided to have initially two meetings for FUEL. First meeting to give introduction about FUEL, translations, Malayalam words and different projects to the audience. This is because, people should know the exact usage of the words selected for FUEL. The targeted audience were professors and various degree level students who actually have good technical and cultural knowledge about the language. Once this is done, conduct second meeting with the same crowd and review the FUEL words. This will makes things easier and to understand the FUEL words usage and decide whether to make any changes.

The meeting log on smc-discuss channel on IRC is here:

<http://wiki.smc.org.in/Meeting/IRC/2011Jan20>

FIRST FUEL MEET - Feb 6, 2011

Venue: NIT, Calicut

Photos: <https://picasaweb.google.com/manojkmohanme03107/SMCFuelMeeting#>

Details:

In the above meeting, venue for the first meeting was decided: NITC on Feb 6th during the FOSSMEET. A full fledged lab was set up and professors and lecturers from various colleges were invited. All invitation and setting up venue etc was arranged by Sooraj Kenoth, Zyxware an active member of SMC. But as expected, the lecturers did not turn up due to personal reasons.

We had few students and smc members - total of 15 people. I explained to them whats the whole thing about, and showed them various application from which the FUEL words are collected from. Got a very impressive feedback. Complete Fedora desktop was reviewed and have made a note of those words. This session was about 3 hours long, followed by discussion about the next FUEL meeting. It was decided to conduct the meet at Kodungalloor Kunjkuttan Thamburan Arts College, Kodungalloor on Feb 22, 23. SMC approached the Malayalam department in the college and explained our requirement for which they have happily agreed and provided venue, lab and all required amenities.

SECOND FUEL MEET - Feb 22,23 2011

Venue: Kodungalloor Kunjkuttan Thamburan Arts College, Kodungalloor

Photos: http://www.nammudeboolokam.com/2011/02/blog-post_24.html

Details:

The second fuel meet was very productive and gained the outcome that we expected. The audience were Malayalam lecturers, blog writers, wikipedia members and malayalam students - degree and post graduation level. During the inaugural session, we gave the audience a brief introduction about FUEL Malayalam. All fuel words were divided into application wise and several copies were taken to the session. The audience was divided into groups and each group was given each application. We has a laptop in English and Malayalam locale to show them each application and the where the fuel entries come from.

Evolution and OpenOffice entries were bit difficult and could not be completed. After the event, we had a serious discussion with the lecturers, blog writers and wikipedia members - group of 15 people. The discussion was about how to improve Malayalam translation including the fuel entries. Thus decided the following:

1. A panel or a review group was formed consisting of the lecturers and writers who have good knowledge about the words.
2. Each week, select ten words from the list, send it across the mailing lists and discussion groups along with their translation in Tamil, Kannada and Telugu.
3. Above words must be send along with relevant application details and screen shots which can explain the meaning and context of those selected ten words.
4. Collect various feedbacks and malayalam translations and send to the review panel. The review panel is to decide/finalize the malayalam translation from the feedback collected. The whole process must be completed in one week time and next week, next set of words to be send.
5. Once word is finalised need to implement it across the applications.

Thus it was decided to go ahead with the present malayalam fuel.po making certain urgent changes and then upload them on mailing lists.

The community is happy with the way things went and decisions taken. Sooraj and myself have taken the responsibility to conduct review and provide things required for the review panel. The process will be started in this quarter. Dedicated time needs to be allotted for the process. As soon as possible we are starting work to take care of this review process and standardise the whole procedures which also might help other communities to improve their translations.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- * Newspaper article about FUEL Malayalam:

<http://www.hindu.com/2011/02/03/stories/2011020362150300.htm>

- * Malayalam FUEL page on SMC:

<http://wiki.smc.org.in/Malayalam-FUEL/kodungallur>

- * Report in Malayalam sent to SMC mailing list:

<http://lists.smc.org.in/pipermail/discuss-smc.org.in/2011-February/012470.html>