Translation in Wikimedia Projects

How we work

Translation

An overview

"The Wiki Way"

- *Democratic peer review* vs. editorial control
- *Ease of access and open editing* vs. security and control
- *Incremental growth* vs. up-front design
- *Free-form content* vs. structured content

Non-Wiki Translation

- Sequential translation
- Parallel authoring
- Incremental just-in-time translation

Parallel authoring

+	-
• Simplifies task, limits tools needed	• Lack of content re-use, of inter-project cooperation
• Content in each language is unique, worked on from scratch	• Content must be worked on from scratch

▶

Advantages of Wikipedia over other wikis

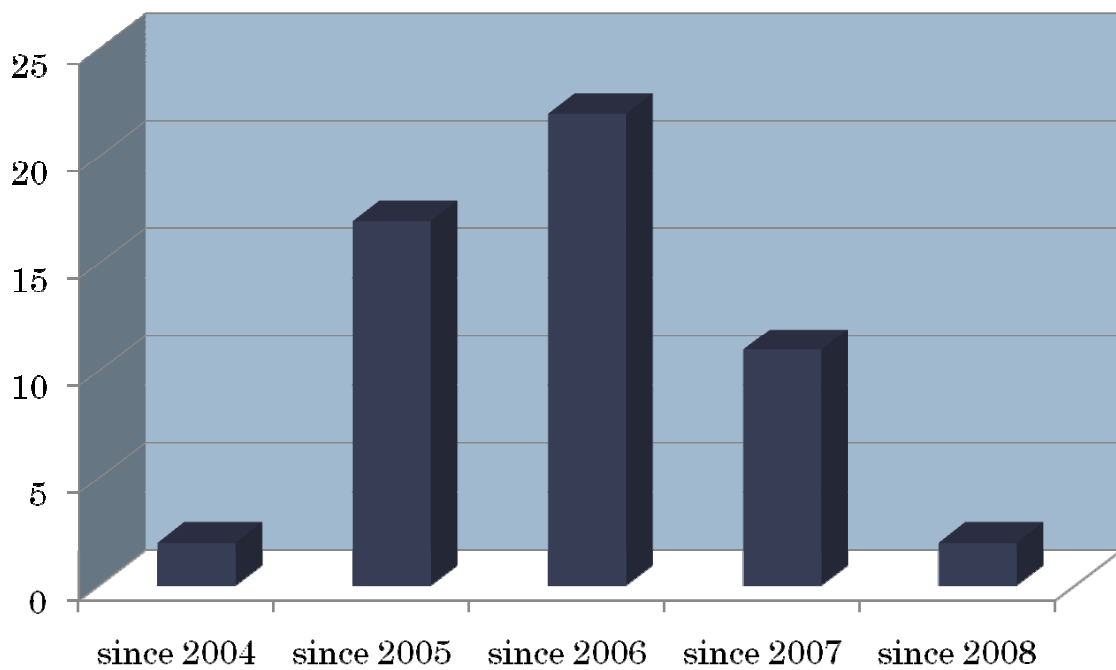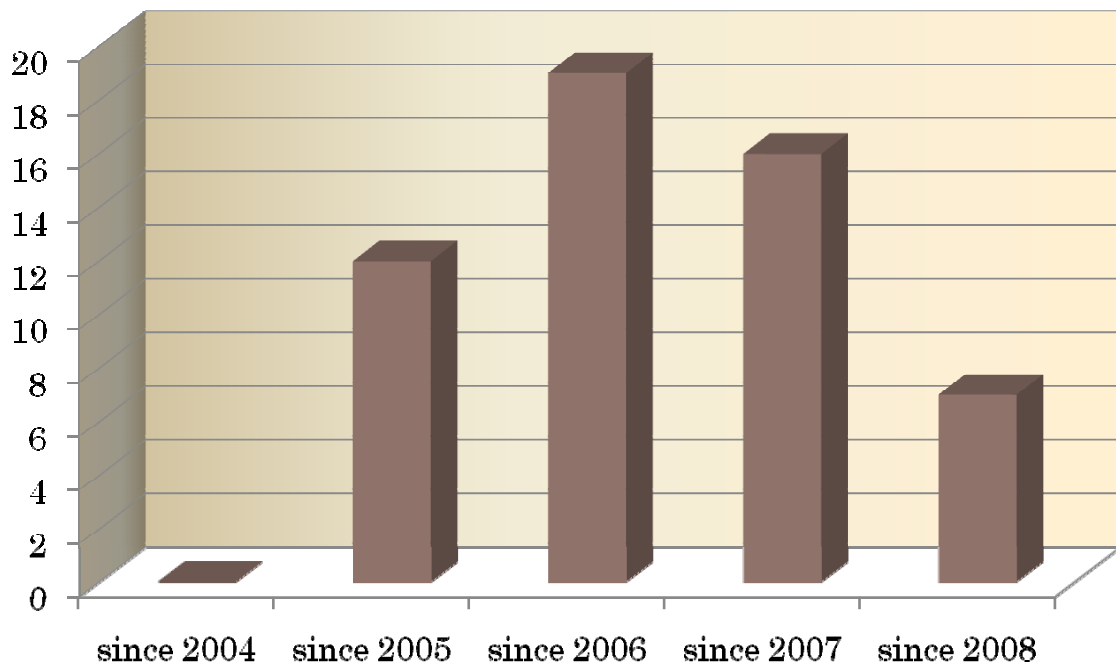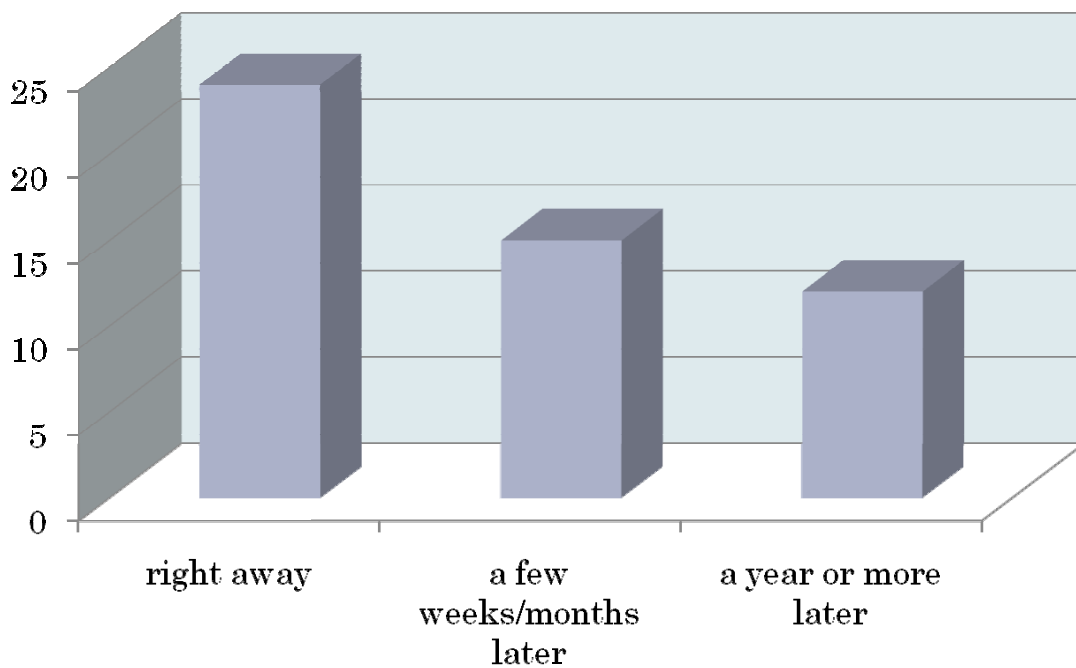|	
▪ Wikipedia has many authors spread out over 264 languages	▪ NPOV may make translation easier

▶

Translators

Voices

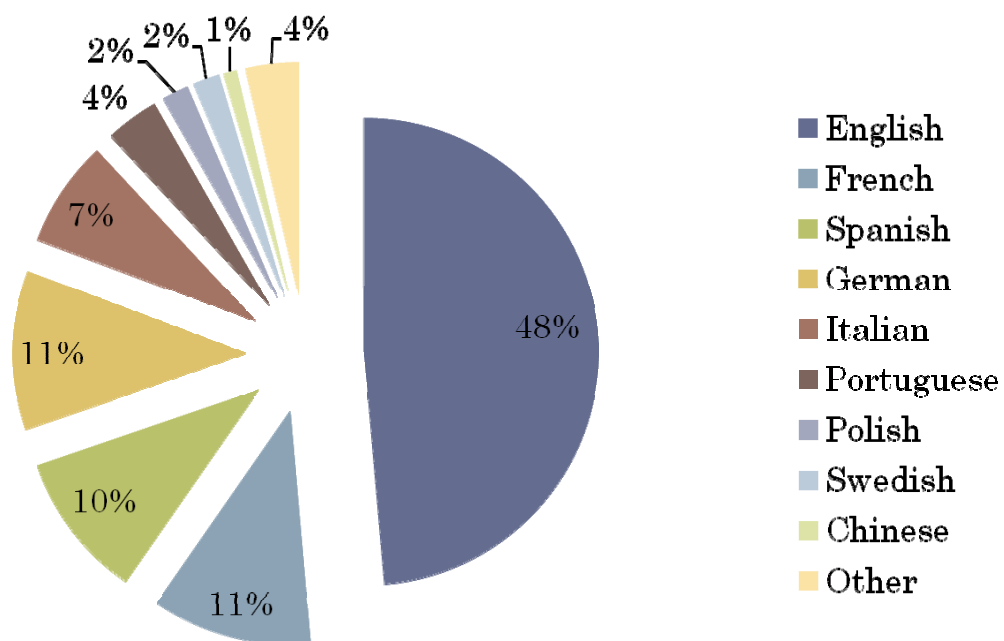# How long have you been on Wikipedia?

How long have you been translating on Wikipedia?

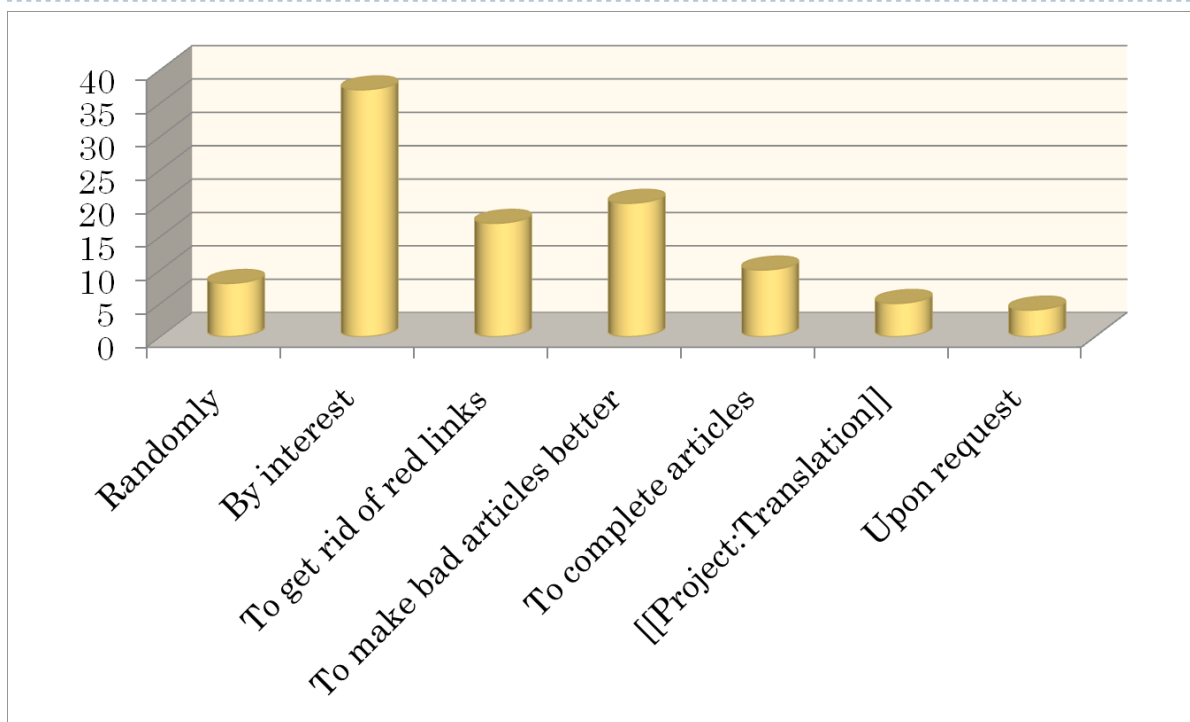# How soon after your arrival in Wikipedia did you start translating?
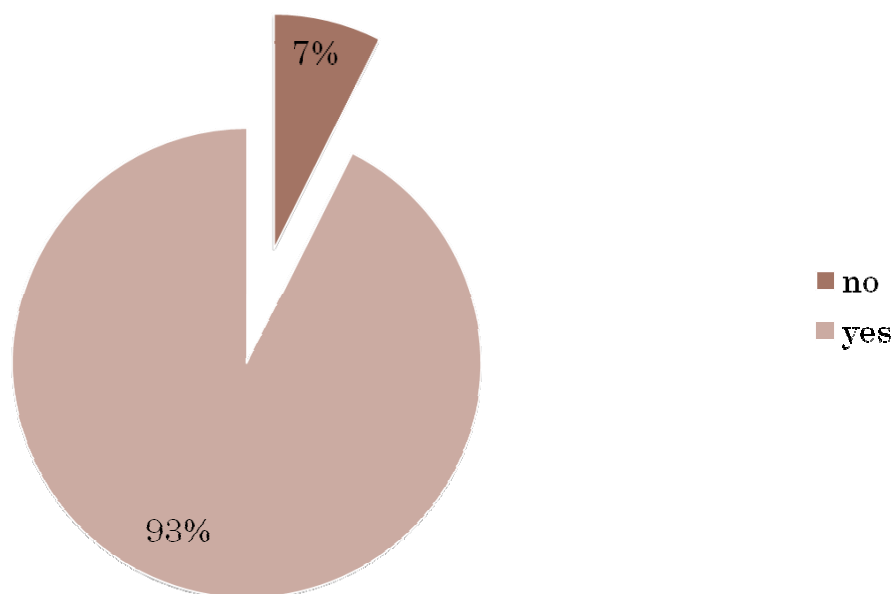
What languages do you translate from?

- English 48%
- French 11%
- Spanish 10%
- German 11%
- Italian 7%
- Portuguese 4%
- Polish 2%
- Swedish 2%
- Chinese 1%
- Other 4%

▶

Do you translate from more than one language at a time?
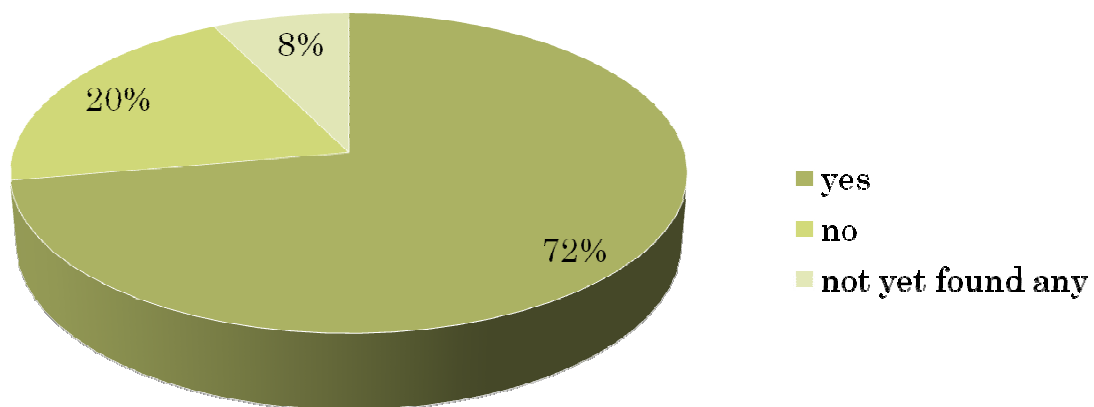

- yes 70%
- no 30%

▶
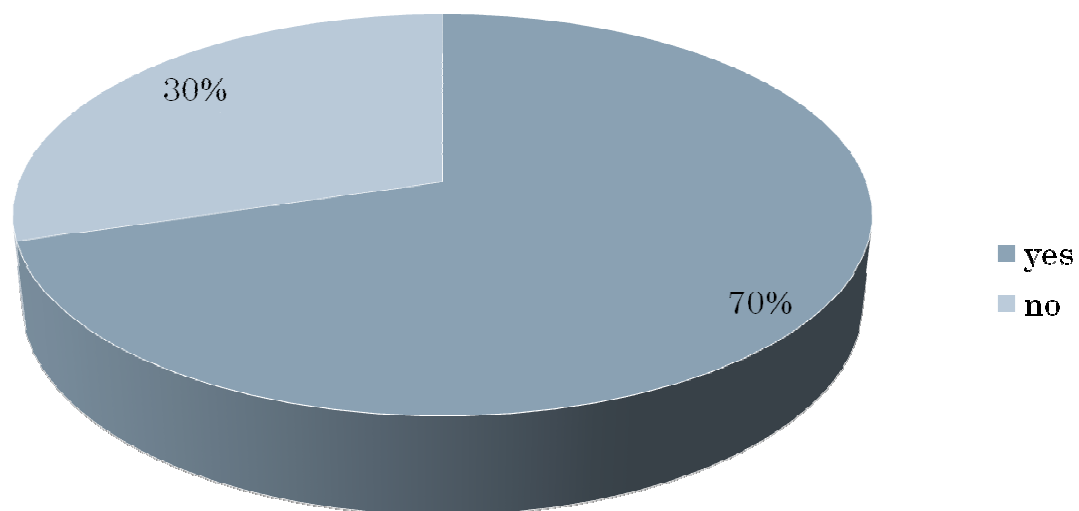
How do you choose the articles you translate?

Do you add information not in the text of the source language?

7%

93%

no
yes

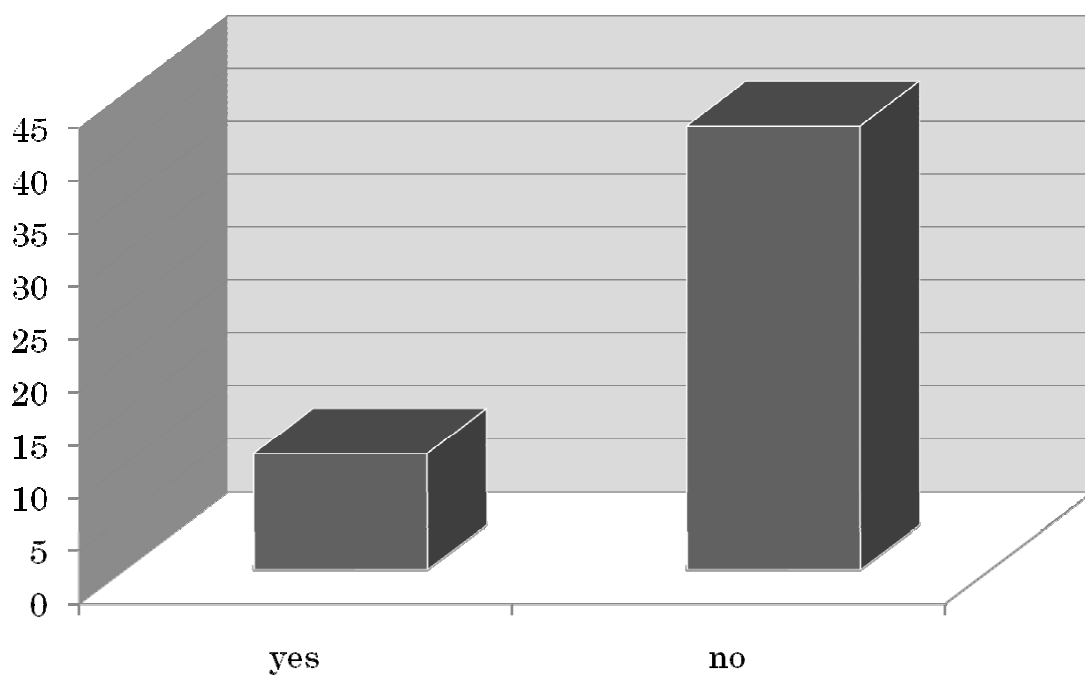# Do you correct errors in the source language text?

■	yes
■	no
■	not yet found any

Do you translate for more than one wikiproject?

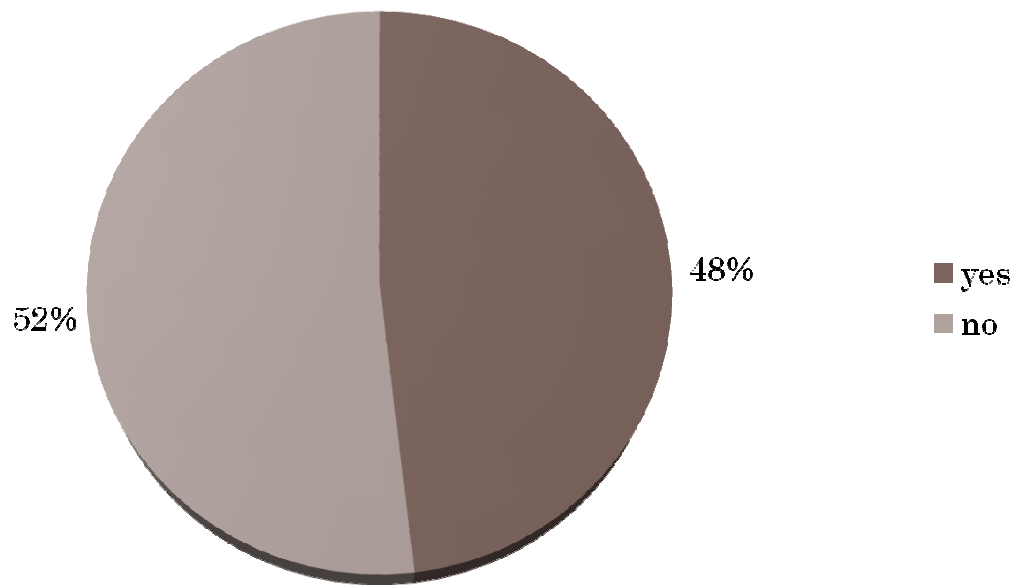|	
■	yes
■	no
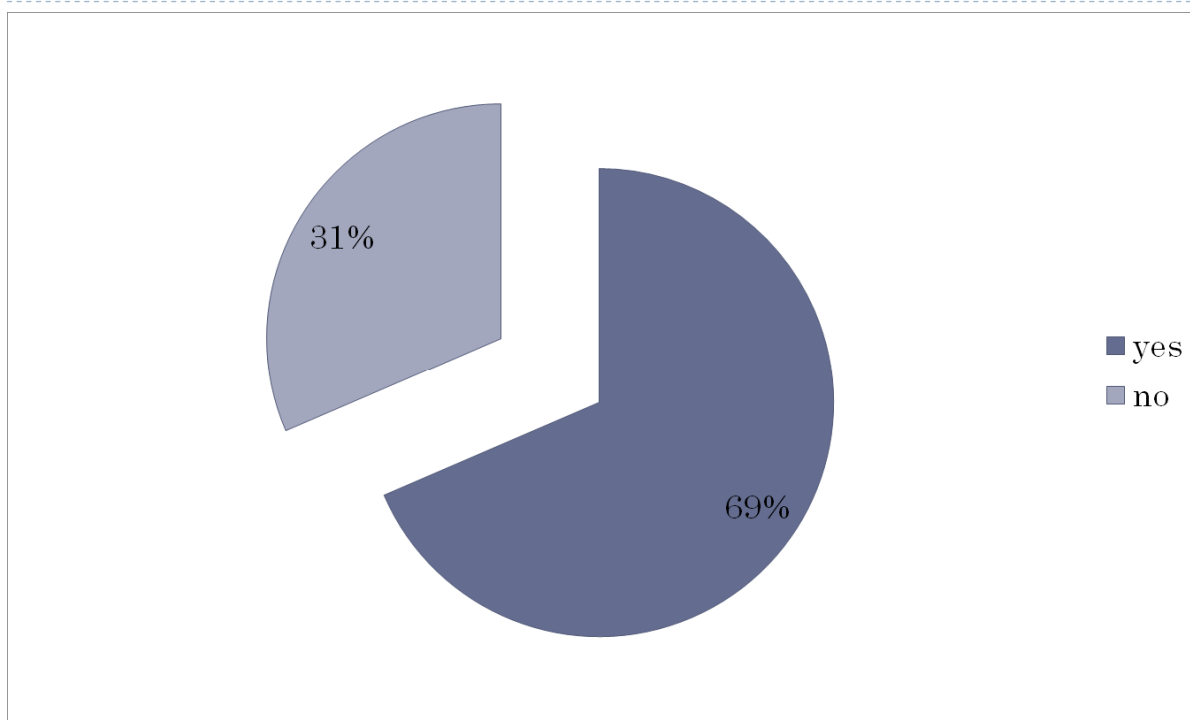
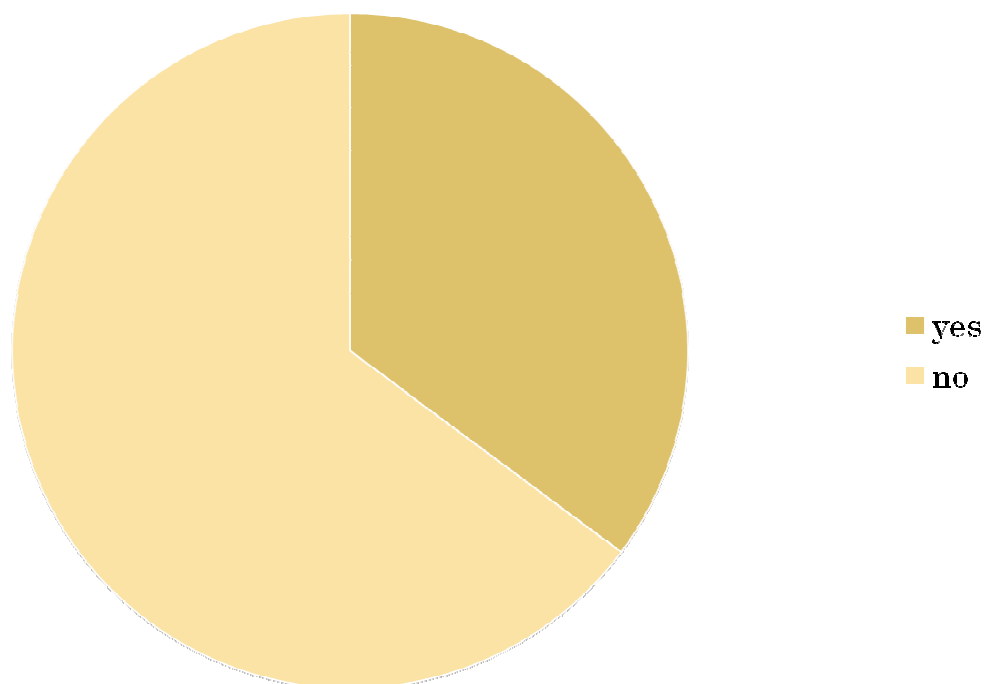# Do you use [[Project:Translation]], or do you work solo?
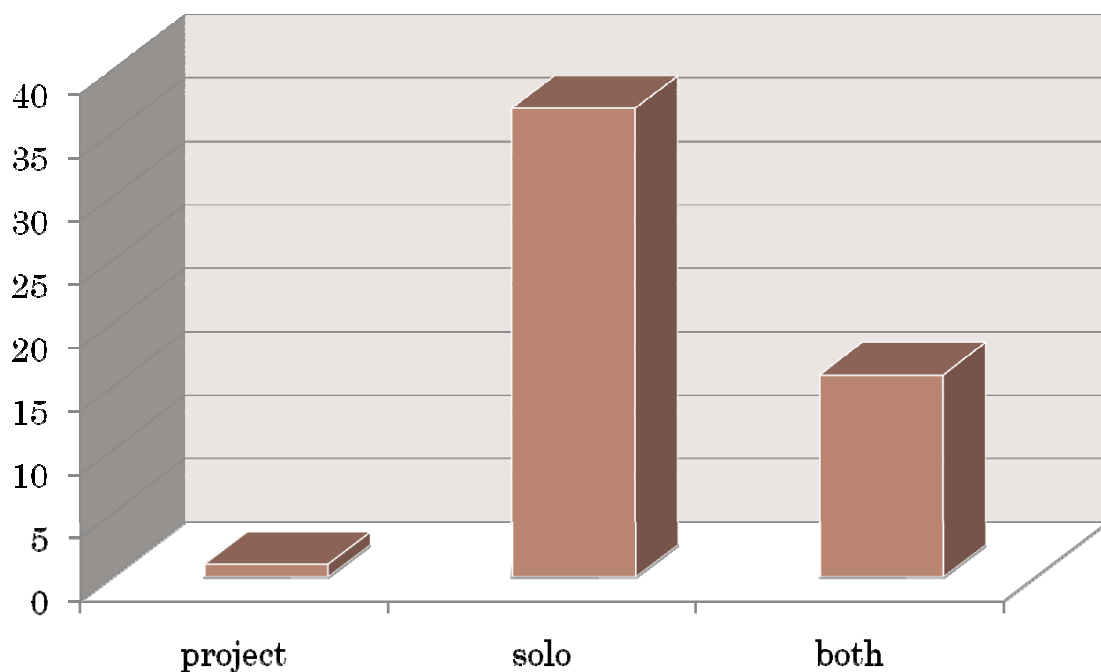
Have you seen criticism of translations due to sources being in a foreign language?

Have you translated text in images (diagrams, graphs...)?

48% yes
52% no

▶

Have you translated at your real life job?

yes
no

▶

What would you like to see change?

▸ Simplify, homogenize, universalize [[Project:Translation]].

▸ More collaboration among translators.

▸ Try not to rely on en: too much as a source.

▸ Introduce tools for translating.

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