What is 'narcissistic' in Inuktut? Experts want to know

New project incorporating everyday words into Microsoft Translator

Meral Jamal

After an estimated eight million words in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun were translated in the last fiscal year alone, Microsoft and the Government of Nunavut want input on new words to be added to the corporation's online Inuktut language translator.

The GN and Microsoft partnered last year when Inuinnaqtun and romanized Inuktitut were added to Microsoft's translation services as part of the government's annual celebration of the Inuktut languages.

Much of the initial vocabulary came from government translators, through documents and records translated since the early 2000s. Now, the focus is on making sure everyday Inuktut used by Inuit can be incorporated into the translator as well.

"If you have this data and you want to share it with us, you can share it with us and we'll put it in Microsoft Translator," said Michèle Guignard, a consultant with the GN's Department of Culture and Heritage, at a meeting Oct. 25 about the initiative.

"With this kind of technology, the more data the better."

Some words might come from children's books that were translated or reports from and about cultural activities by Inuit organizations.

Along with adding new words to the translator, the goal is to update the translated meanings of existing words.

This was a concern brought up by Teresa Hughes, deputy minister for the Department of Culture and Heritage. She said she once tried to

translate the word "narcissistic" from English to Inuktitut through Microsoft's translator.

Instead of translating it as a person who is extremely self-centred with an exaggerated sense of opposite of the meaning?"

Dean Wells, the corporate chief information officer with the Department of Community and Government Services, and other members of the Microsoft team said they

"We're already beginning to see the benefits that Microsoft Translator has brought to us by helping to incorporate our language into everyday life."

> — Community and Government Services Minister David Joanasie

self-importance — as defined in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary — Hughes said the platform's translation of the word was "somebody that is soft" in Inuktitut.

"That does not sound right," she said.

"So how do we start looking at those words when they're completely hope that by engaging with the community on improving Inuktut translations, they can address problems with existing de-

finitions that are part of

the online translator.

In the meantime, Microsoft's desktop Bing translator accepts suggestions for its translations, so users can provide the

most accurate definitions of the words being used.

Ultimately, the GN and Microsoft said the hope is that with new Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun words added to the translator, the technology will adapt and improve over time.

They also hope it will be used by youth and elders, and especially unilingual Inuktut speakers to better access services such as health care.

"We envision that patients will have the ability to communicate with doctors. Residents of care facilities will have the security of being able to communicate with staff travelling from inside and outside the territory and translate their needs to over 100 languages available on the tool," said Community and Government Services Minister David Joanasie of the project.

"We're already beginning to see the benefits that Microsoft Translator has brought to us by helping to incorporate our language into everyday life."



⊃\\b NUNAVUT ൧௳ഊ

 ΦĊˤʰ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ
 Λ</td

عزد ۶۲۰

 Lσ
 8
 Γ
 Γ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ
 Δ

"C Δ L Δ COF Δ C Δ LC Δ COF Δ COF

ΡΦ ΔΑΪΔΟΠΉΡΟΝΟΝ ϽሲΝ ΗΔΡΊ, ΓσΊΟΝ ϽͰϤ Δατθαντασίμε Ρεσονίνητη άσνληνην ερώσε Δοθησική άνγληνη ερώσε Δοθησική ανφορθος LΔάλς Οραγολομίς.

">a CLL97L96j>9La," >96979.

"C Δ LC" 'b Δ ''C Δ '

 $\dot{\cap}^{\rm e}$ ልላጎ, ለርሲ[®]ልጐያ ጋጎ<mark></mark>ኦLኣብርሲσነ</sub>ር ላጐሁና[®]ኔጐ ውዉሮጐσ ላዛL ሁペĽ[®]ዕኖ ለኦናበና[®]በ[©]ዕኖውና ላዛLው ላታ[®]ቦና Δርቦነ>ኦና L∆ዕጎ[®] ለርሲ[‡]ስዮታ[®] ኦ[©]ዕርኦንና ውዉሮጐσ

CALC Pd4 DQPC LQLbG 4L L Δ d\\$ PbcP\G Δ rLG\G Δ rDG Δ rLG\G Δ rDG Δ rLG\G Δ rDG Δ rDG

 Δ /L°T4% d0%CP'b'C'd4'- Δ 0 Δ $\dot{\omega}$ /%D $\dot{\omega}$ 6 Δ 4L Δ 6 Δ 76°D Δ 6°D Δ 0°D Δ

" Δ /LUC derdice PibibNibPeailani inica." Achte derdice PibibNibPeacialle Achte derdice PibibNibPeacialle Achte Poblande Polica double Polica de Polica double Polica double Polica double Polica de Polica de

"Űα '6>%'CΦυς Δ6+2Ω'6'σ%' Φα LΔσί\"

ΟΡΟΡΟΝΌ ΡΥΝΟΘΕ Φ΄ΘΡΑΘΕ ΦΟΡΟΔΕΔΕ ΔΙΟΥΝΟΙΕ."



P.O. Box 850 Iqaluit, Nunavut XOA 0H0 Phone: (867) 979-8900

www.nccig.ca



www.towerarctic.ca Tel: 979-6465 Iqaluit, NU Fax: 979-6069



P. O. Box 20, 917 Nunavut Drive Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0 Tel: 867-979-6603 Fax: 867-979-6493



P. O. Box 147, 24 Sivulliq Avenue Rankin Inlet, Nunavut X0C 0G0 Tel: 867-645-2817 Fax: 867-645-2483

Accounting • Auditing • Monthly Bookkeeping Income Tax • Business Plans • Consulting