Why Language Resources and Tools Should Become Services?

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Connecting

Today we live in a world that is more and more connected

Mobile devices

Mobile computing

Only 30 years ago...

Results of processing were displayed in kilometers of printouts

Mobile computing

This computing power was not available to the general public

Today, every citizen can get more computing power and its results in their hands immediately
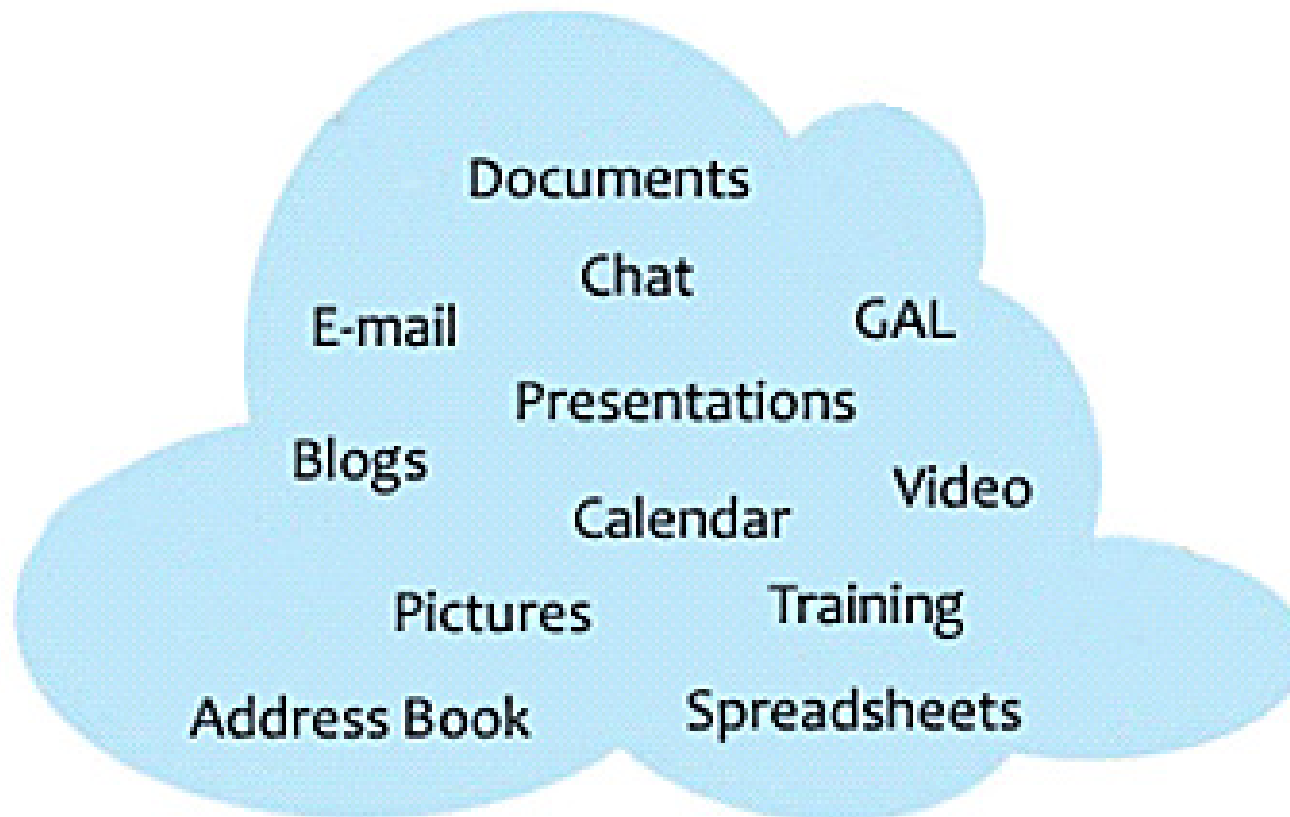
Mobile computing

We can't carry all we need in our smarphones

We can't stretch them to contain more

Cloud computing

Documents · Chat · GAL · E-mail · Presentations · Blogs · Calendar · Video · Pictures · Training · Address Book · Spreadsheets

Cloud computing

What we need is an entry point(s) to this cloud

Mobile & Cloud computing

Mobile & Cloud computing

- we don't carry all our own documents with us any more
- still we need large sources of references
  - encyclopaedias
  - telephone books
  - dictionaries
  - ...
  or services
  - searching on-line
  - document editing
  - spelling checking
  - machine translation
  - ...

Mobile & Cloud computing

- connectivity speeds are growing
- we have cloud entry points with enough local computing power
- we still use language
  - everywhere!
  - and not just one!
- we still need language resources and tools
  - dictionaries
  - spelling checkers
  - dictating machines
  - machine translation
  - ...

not just in our pockets, but also as services

On-line services

- today net-generation take for granted
  - gsm, internet and social network connectivity
  - all services existing there (and new services we don't even imagine)
  - availability of all information they need through on-line services
- if they don't find what they need in their own language, they simply take it from an another language (usually English)
  - this is the first step to the digital extinction of their mother tongue
  - this is the beginning of the downgrading of European linguistic diversity
- offering language resources and tools as services for "smaller" languages ensures
  - their survival (not just in digital world) and usage in future
- development of these on-line language services costs the same for "large" and "small" languages
  - industry usually finds commercial interest only for "large" languages
  - decision makers and politicians should find means to help "small" languages

LRT as services

- **Pros**
  - existing language resources and tools: accessible in mobile environment
  - ubiquitous: there when we need them
  - no updating needed: always the newest version available
  - not just for human, but also for machine clients
  - new services can be build on top of existing ones
    - combining
    - cascading
- **Cons**
  - connectivity (but, with 4G networks, broadband should be no problems)
  - privacy protection
    - for upgrading the services: following the customer's needs
    - but, in anonymized way
    - legal regulations should follow this demand
  - availability of certain contents: censorship (?)
    - you can always open your own private cloud

Conclusions

- in the society where...
  - data (and information stored in data) are becoming the fuel of economy
  - connectivity becomes commodity
  - multilinguality is the rule and not exception
- we will hardly live without having on-line language services
  - not just for the world languages
  - but for many languages, particularly "small" ones

Q/A

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