

1001 languages

3 books, 27 languages, 4865 downloads*

Interim balance of the project
since launch of the website in April 2016



* Status: December the 12th, 2016

Too many children in the world have their first contact with a book in a completely unknown language. To change this, the Bücherpiraten (Book Pirates) from Lübeck, Germany, invented the 1001 languages project. The aim of the project is a database full of stories written by children, for children all over the world.



Chocolate Cake in Hawaii



Oskar and Lumufo -
the fox and the alien



Where are you, Momo?

Three Groups of children already created three picturebooks. They worked on the story and drew the pictures by themselves. After the workshops the picturebooks were translated into many different languages. Families and promoters of reading from all over the world can download stories for free in any two languages at www.bilingual-picturebooks.org.

It was a lot of work to create the bilingual picture-books.
The children made up the story, worked on it and drew the pictures. The adults were merely there for advice and support.



Searching for the right words



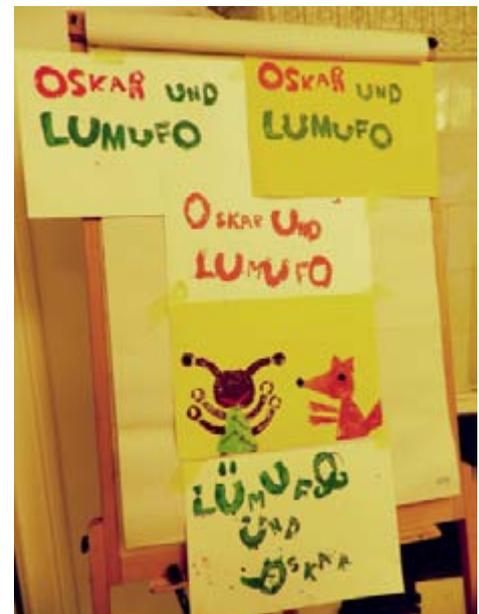
*Structure of the story
„Oskar and Lumufo - the fox
and the alien“*



After writing the story, the illustrators' group started to work. The children painted, stamped and glued to create the pictures for the book.



On the last day of the workshop, the children presented the complete picture-book to their families and friends.



After the workshops, the books were translated by professional translators into six base languages: Arabic, English, French, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish. Using the seven language versions, a large group of volunteer native speakers translate the stories into as many languages as possible.



47
volunteer
native speakers
from all over the world

27
different
languages online



14
different languages
about to come



The website of the project www.bilingual-picturebooks.org was launched in April 2016. Families and promoters of reading all over the world can choose their own combination of languages and download the stories for free.

4865
downloads already



audiobooks
in 4 different
languages



169
different
combinations of
languages were
used until now

The feedback to the project shows, that the demand for bilingual picture-books is huge. User all over the world explain how they use the books in their everyday life:

“We are using the books in the residential home for refugees and in the library to provide families with bilingual books.”



“We used the books for our event ‘Refugees read to refugees’. They read the books to 80 children and parents in Arabian and German language. It was amazing and we are looking forward to more stories.”



“The parents can read the story to their children in their mother tongue. When the children are going to school later, they could read the story by themselves in German some day. That would be great.”

“I take care of a young family from Eritrea/Sudan and gave them one of the bilingual picture-books. The young woman went to school for only four years. They were very happy about the book. I told them that they can read the story to their young child, too.”



“Wonderful illustrations.”

“The refugees like the books a lot. Even the adults don’t think about the bad experiences they made, while reading the exciting stories.”



“What an exciting and worthwhile project, one which enables children to read – and write – stories in their mother tongue. I love the idea of these stories travelling all over the world.”

- Julia Donaldson



Also NPOs have already become aware of the project. Through this, copies of the English-siSwati version were sent to Swaziland to give them to AIDS orphans.

The press also took notice of the project several times:



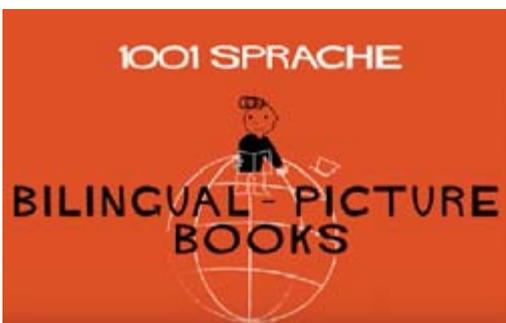
The NDR (North German Broadcasting Corporation) visited one of the workshops at the children's literature center in Lübeck



Kirsten Boie, german author, and the Bücherpiraten visiting 'Mikado - Das Kinderradio' (radio channel for children)

A selection of press, that reported on the project:

- [Norddeutscher Rundfunk \(NDR\)](#)
- [Deutsche Presse Agentur \(DPA\)](#)
- [Mikado - Das Kinderradio](#)
- [Thüringer Allgemeine Zeitung](#)
- [Lübecker Nachrichten](#)
- [Kieler Nachrichten](#)



Linda Plagmann, student at the Muthesius University donated an animated movie to the project.



The Bücherpiraten are always glad about...

...children, who create a picturebook by their own and want to upload it on the website

...volunteer translators

...donations for the project

And of course the Bücherpiraten are very happy about many children, families and promoters of reading all over the world, who enjoy the bilingual picture-books.

More information on www.bilingual-picturebooks.org

