

## Re: Your vote on a common global language

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>>>> "Miguel" == Miguel Cruz <[mnc@admin.u.nu](mailto:mnc@admin.u.nu)> writes:

Miguel> Now count the strokes in the Chinese character versus the  
Miguel> strokes in the corresponding English word. Make sure you  
Miguel> take a fair number of words, as extremely basic words like  
Miguel> "mother" will tend to favor Chinese.

That's still unfair, as you don't have a fair way of counting strokes.  
One stroke can be very very very long (Haven't you played with  
one-stroke pictures?) and can take a long time to complete.

Maybe, you would want to measure the amount of ink (or number of  
pixels in a rasterized computer font). But there is still a  
difficulty: what size? I'm sure it consumes more ink to write  
"mother" (in either language) on a poster-size sheet, than to write it  
on a namecard, assuming that you scale it large enough to occupy the  
available space on the sheet.

For similar legibility (assuming the 'normal' sized used in plain text  
in newspaper articles), I think Chinese characters saves more ink than  
the English script in general. But again, a fair comparison is  
impossible, as different languages employ (or need) different  
expressions to express the same idea. The verbosity can vary pretty  
greatly. (Remember, Chinese doesn't mark tense nor plural. Isn't  
that unfair for the English translation?) No translation is 100%  
perfect, I remind you.

Miguel> And also include a time penalty for the additional  
Miguel> precision required to make the Chinese characters actually  
Miguel> legible.

I don't think it is more difficult than making sure you write the 6  
letters "mother" legibly. I write both words (Chinese and English for  
"mother") in approx. the same amount of time.

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sci.lang: Re: Your vote on a common global language

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