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This document provides background information to SC36's contribution to the JTC1 meeting on "Cross Cultural and Linguistic Matters", titled:

> **Number:** SC36/N0457
> **Title:** Proposal for Additional Criteria to New Work Item Proposal (NP)

One of the main concerns of a successful IT system for Learning, Education, and Training (SC36's scope) is its ability to "personalize" itself to the needs of the learner, student, mentor, etc.. This kind of adaptation takes several forms, e.g., delivering different learning content based on a learner's capabilities, strengths, weaknesses, past history, and future objectives. Another kind of adaptation is not tied to learning, education, and training, but tied the general needs and capabilities of users, systems, content, etc.. Within SC36, these kind of general needs and capabilities fall under the heading of "Accommodation for Culture, Language, and Function" (CLFA).

SC36 has formed a Rapporteur Group called "Accommodation for Culture, Language, and Function Rapporteur Group" (SC36 CLFA) in response to National Body proposals submitted in the (northern) summer of 2002 and further progressed between the SC36 2002-09 Plenary and the SC36 2003-03 Plenary. The SC36 CLFA RG has been established with the following Terms of Reference:

> **Title:** SC36 Accommodation for Culture, Language, and Function (CLFA) Rapporteur Group
>
> **Scope:**
> (1) To serve as a resource, consultant, and reviewer of culture-, language-, and function-related accommodation activities within SC36;
> (2) To report to SC36 and maintain resources of culture, language, and function accommodation activities.

SC36 CLFA was established to support the specific needs of IT standardization within Learning, Education, and Training (ITLET). The SC36 CLFA activities focus on SC36's industry-specific (ITLET) needs and SC36 CLFA activities reference other general standards and specification activities, where practicable. For example, SC36 CLFA is aware of other JTC1 activities (e.g., SC2, SC22, SC32, SC35), other ISO activities outside JTC1 (e.g., ISO/IEC Guide 2, ISO/IEC Guide 71, ISO 9999), other international activities (e.g., UN World Health Organization), other regional activities (e.g., CEN/ISSS/DfA Design for All), other national activities (e.g., INCITS/V2), and the activities of consortia and fora (e.g., Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, and W3C Web Accessibility Initiative). SC36 CLFA does not intend to duplicate any of this work.

SC36 CLFA maintains a Charter that guides its work. Within that Charter, the following excerpts give a "flavor" of the approach and activities. Regarding the notation of "accommodation":

> *[Excerpted from SC36 CLFA Charter]*
> ... The notion of CLFA may be described as:

the general expectation that users, hardware, software, systems, content, applications, etc. will negotiate and adapt various features among themselves with the goal of achieving optimal interactions

The adaptation of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) systems to improve upon learning experiences is a critical success factor for users, developers, etc. of these systems. The adaptation of these components may be based on: the culture-language-function needs; the user's needs; the user's past history or future objectives; the availability of suitable learning content; pedagogy; learning style; etc. ...

Within SC36 CLFA, we are using the following terms:

[Excerpted from SC36 CLFA Charter]
The terms "culture", "language", "function", and "accommodation" are defined:

culture: A set of conventions for a particular community of people.

language: A system of signs for communication usually consisting of a vocabulary and rules. [ISO 5127]

(human) function: A person's body functions, activities, and participation in lived scenarios. [Adapted from World Health Organization - International Classification of Functions, Disabilities, and Health]

accommodation: Among a set of components, the negotiation of requirements, desirables, undesirables, prohibitions, limitations, capabilities, features, and similar properties; and the resultant adaptation.

What SC36 Hopes to Accomplish at the JTC1 Meeting

The SC36 CLFA is looking forward to participation in this JTC1 meeting so that:

- SC36 can share its stakeholders' needs and concerns regarding ICT accommodation.
- SC36 can propose additional NP criteria that make visible (in a standard way) the nature of culture, language, and function accommodation that is proposed within the NP. Note: The additional criteria don't mandate any accommodation features; the additional criteria mandate the if accommodation features are part of the proposed NP, then they are documented in a standard way.
- SC36 can further harmonize and further reuse existing work within JTC1, ISO committees, and other organizations.

For further information about SC36, see:
http://jtc1sc36.org
For further information about SC36 CLFA, see
http://jtc1sc36.org/clfa