 About 20 hours ago [Stan Schroeder](#) 33

Half of Messages on Twitter Aren't in English [STATS]

Data intelligence and research company [Semiocast](#) conducted a study, based on 2.8 million tweets gathered over a period of 48 hours in February, which showed that only half of messages on [Twitter](#) are in English.



To identify the languages, Semiocast used technology that can identify the language in which short messages are written, differentiating between 41 languages in all major writing systems.

Besides English, which accounts for some 50% of all messages on Twitter [en](#), the other most prominent languages on Twitter are Japanese (14% of messages), Portuguese (9%), Malay (6%) and Spanish (4%). Looking even further, Italian, Dutch and German each account for 1% – 2% of all messages on Twitter.

The folks at Semiocast claim that English had a two-third share on Twitter back in the first half of 2009, which points out to strong international growth for Twitter in the last six or so months. It's good news for Twitter, which has lately been struggling to retain its high growth rates from 2008.

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 [SysCommTeam](#) 20 hours ago

Twitter is for the use of everyone, so it is natural for English to only cover part of it. Interesting statistics!

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 [cybergabi](#) 20 hours ago

What a scandal.


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 [sherylroycer](#) 15 hours ago [in reply to cybergabi](#)

yes, ironically with that 50% proportion.. 90% of it is a language spoken by bots. that leaves only a whopping 10% for real-genuine human language to be heard.

As they said, Twitter has a saturation point. and that's why FB is on a steady growth while Twitter is on a plateau. **Twitter Details:** <http://bit.ly/twitter-1-billion-value-meltdown>


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 [aliquana](#) 20 hours ago

[Paul Kegel](#) liked this.

They should pipe Google Translate into it, then everyone could read everything in their own language

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 [milesosborne](#) 20 hours ago [in reply to aliquana](#)


I have a student working on machine translation for Twitter right now. Google Translate is really designed for news stories and not Tweets, so using it without any changes may not produce good results.

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 [Paul Kegel](#) 14 hours ago [in reply to aliquana](#)


That is a great idea! but google don't like twitter lol

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 [milesosborne](#) 20 hours ago


This reflects our experience too. The interesting observation is whether the rate of growth of non-English increases over time (I suspect it does). Also, whether retweets manage to cross the language barrier (I doubt it)

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 [serkanyersen](#) 20 hours ago

What's the big deal? It's perfectly normal.


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 [agssan](#) 20 hours ago

No way Malay accounts for 6% ...

They must have combined Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesia) together with Malay (Malaysia).


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 [joanna](#) 19 hours ago [in reply to agssan](#)

I suspect that it is the case since they are quite similar. For some tweets it would be difficult to tell which of the 2 languages the tweet is in.

Maybe usage stats for Indonesia and Malaysia could shed some light on which is dominant?


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 [Jon](#) 5 hours ago [in reply to joanna](#)

Stats-wise, Sysomos found Indonesia to world's 6th biggest tweeter, Malaysia was ranked 18th. (See <http://goo.gl/VtK7> for more - self-promotion btw.)


Seems likely the two languages have been grouped together - knowing or unknowingly - to make such a sizeable percentage.

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 [Edu Giansante](#) 20 hours ago


Glad to see that portuguese is on the top. That means Brazilians :)

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 [Catarino™](#) 19 hours ago [in reply to Edu Giansante](#)


:)

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 [Lara Anne Majors](#) 20 hours ago

Exactly why it is IMPORTANT to speak many languages !

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 [@heyart](#) 20 hours ago

Wow... I knew Twitter was world-wide, but, wow.

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