

## Localization of Moodle (an Open Source Course Management System) to Sinhala Language: a contributor experience

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Moodle is a popular Open Source software package which facilitates for teachers to conduct online courses for their students. At present (2010), around fifty thousand of Moodle sites operate through the Internet out of which 72 Moodle sites belong to Sri Lankan educational institutes and also has been localized into more than 89 languages including Sinhala and Tamil.

The available Sinhala packages came across with two versions; the first version Sinhala language package was released by Moodle in 2005 and the 'completed' Sinhala package for Moodle was released in 2008 as community effort. A team of The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) actively involved in completing the localization which was led by author who played a significantly role in localization of Moodle from beginning.

OUSL used different strategies in Moodle localization; the language translation was done without using Moodle Translation support Tool, The translators worked on paper copies which were prepared directly from Moodle system language files instead. The quality controlling of localization was done by a team which consisted of Sinhala language experts and school teachers. The completed translations were uploaded to Moodle developers' Concurrent Versions System (CVS) on weekly basis. The method was successfully employed and was able to complete the target within a three months period.

The paper will discuss issues encountered, experiences learnt and knowledge gained by the author during the localization process of Moodle as the project team leader of the Moodle localization project in OUSL.