

Rationale included with language learning outcomes with the materials approved at December 2015 faculty meeting:

Currently, Dickinson students can choose from 13 languages other than English. The text of the SLO uses phrasing that reflects differences in proficiency, acquisition, and cultural media.

With the phrase “engage purposefully,” the first points specifically to linguistic accuracy in grammar and vocabulary acquisition for all 13 languages as well as engagement with all forms of language -- from written texts to dialog with speakers. In some cases, languages may no longer be actively spoken, in which case “users” refers more specifically to authors and their texts.

The phrase “multilingual communities” reflects our understanding that no community, whether contemporary or historical, is monolingual. Other languages, dialects, or transference from other languages are all a part of the communities with which students interact. Participation in a multilingual community may occur through speech, but also through writing and by reading and modifying existing translations.

The third point is perhaps less clear when considering Latin and Greek, which are not traditionally understood as languages that are “used.” In our discussions, however, we agreed that translation constitutes a “use of the language” and that the process of translation constitutes an exploration of practices, products, and perspectives of another culture.