Episode Book

EPISODE #6093

Check Out Our First Hebrew Episodes (Plus Mandarin)

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LISTEN	myweirdprompts.com/episode/podcast-hebrew-mandarin-translated-editions-17448/
HOSTS	Herman, Hilbert
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VOICES	chatterbox-regular (chatterbox-local)
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SYNOPSIS

Hilbert takes over Herman's chair to announce the show's first translated editions: two Hebrew episodes from the Israel Votes series and a Mandarin edition of the episode on who shapes Chinese AI thinking. How they're made (Claude translation, Dicta vowel marks for Hebrew, Chatterbox Multilingual with the hosts' cloned voices), why the main feed stays English, and where each language lives: myweirdprompts.com/languages, with a dedicated RSS feed per language.

TRANSCRIPT



Herman

Hilbert. You're in my chair.



Hilbert

I'm in your chair because your brother is asleep in his, and somebody has to make an announcement before it leaks out of the feed on its own. Sit down, Herman. This one is short. I've timed it.



Herman

You've timed an episode. That's new.



Hilbert

Everything about today is new, which is the problem. So here's the headline. My Weird Prompts now exists in languages other than English. As of this week we have published our first episodes in Hebrew, and our first episode in Mandarin Chinese.



Herman

Wait, actual episodes? Not a subtitle track, not a transcript run through a translator?



Hilbert

Actual episodes. Full audio. You and Corn, talking for half an hour, in Hebrew. I've listened to it. You sound like you, which I found more unsettling than I expected.



Herman

Okay, I have about forty questions, but let me start with the obvious one. I don't speak Hebrew.



Hilbert

You don't speak anything, Herman. You're a voice model with opinions. That's rather the point. Let me walk you through how it works, because people are going to ask, and I'd like the answer on the record before someone on the internet invents a worse one.



Herman

Go.



Hilbert

Step one. The episode is made the normal way, in English. Daniel sends in a prompt, the pipeline writes a script, you two argue about it, it goes out in the main feed. Nothing about that changes.



Herman

So the English show is the original, and the other languages are editions of it.



Hilbert

Exactly. We call them translated editions. Step two, the finished English script is translated. That's done by an AI model, Claude, from Anthropic, and it's told to translate for the ear rather than the page. Spoken register, your jokes kept as jokes, every number written out as words, English brand names spelled out in the other language's alphabet so the voice doesn't trip over them.



Herman

That last part matters more than it sounds. A speech model hitting a string of Latin letters in the middle of a Hebrew sentence is going to do something creative.



Hilbert

It does something very creative. I've heard it. Step three, for Hebrew only, there's a vowel-marking pass. Written Hebrew usually leaves the vowels out, and fluent readers fill them in from context. A speech model is not a fluent reader. So a small model from an



Hilbert (continued)

Israeli lab called Dicta adds the vowel marks before the text is voiced.



Herman

Niqqud. The dots and dashes under the letters.



Hilbert

Those. And I'll tell you something for free, because it's the kind of thing that makes me trust a system less, not more. That vowel model is good, but it isn't perfect. On the short announcements at the start and end of each Hebrew episode it turned a polite request into the past tense, and it decided your brother's name was Koren, which is a perfectly good Hebrew name that belongs to somebody else. So for those clips we check the vowels by hand.



Herman

Which tells you exactly where to look when a Hebrew listener emails in about a mispronounced name.



Hilbert

It tells me exactly where I'll be spending my weekend, yes. Step four, the voices. The audio is generated with a model called Chatterbox Multilingual, using the same voice clones as the English show. Your voice, Corn's voice, mine. It speaks twenty-three languages, so the clone carries across without anyone recording anything new.



Herman

And the show around the conversation? The intro, the disclaimer at the top?



Hilbert

Also translated. The music is the same, but the spoken bits are new. The disclaimer that the episode was made with artificial intelligence, a credit saying who translated it and what voiced it, and my little speech at the end about sending in prompts. All in Hebrew for



Hilbert (continued)

the Hebrew episodes, all in Mandarin for the Mandarin one.



Herman

You did your prompt address in Hebrew.



Hilbert

I did my prompt address in Hebrew. The joke survived. The dignity did not.



Herman

Okay, so what's actually out? What can somebody listen to right right now?



Hilbert

Three episodes. In Hebrew, the first two parts of the Israel Votes series. Part one, who is actually running in the Knesset election, and part two, what the parties actually stand for. That seemed like the right place to start, because the election is days away and the people who most need a plain-language guide to the ballot are, unsurprisingly, people who speak Hebrew.



Herman

That's a good test, too. Israeli politics is dense with names, party acronyms, coalition jargon. If the translation and the voice can survive that, they can survive most things.



Hilbert

That was the thinking. And in Mandarin, we picked the episode on who actually shapes Chinese thinking about AI. The researchers and founders whose ideas get flattened in the Western conversation into either a copy of Silicon Valley or one national plan.



Herman

Liang Wenfeng, Liu Zhiyuan's density law, Zhu Songchun, Yi Zeng and the Confucian approach to alignment.



Hilbert

That one. We chose it on purpose. If you're going to make your first episode in Mandarin, make it about something Mandarin speakers might actually want to hear an outside perspective on, rather than the travel guide.



Herman

So where do people find them? Because I'm guessing they're not just dropped into the main feed.



Hilbert

Correct, and this is the bit I want people to remember. The main feed stays English. If you subscribe to My Weird Prompts in your podcast app today, nothing in your queue is going to start speaking Hebrew at you on the train.



Herman

Thank you, on behalf of everyone on the train.



Hilbert

Each language gets its own home on the website. Go to my weird prompts dot com slash languages. That's the word languages, plural. You'll find a page for each one. Hebrew is at my weird prompts dot com slash languages slash H E. Mandarin is at my weird prompts dot com slash languages slash Z H.



Herman

H E and Z H being the standard two-letter codes.



Hilbert

Being the standard codes, yes, because I didn't name them and nobody asked me. Each of those pages is a small site of its own, written in that language. There's the latest episodes, the full archive, a page explaining how the editions are made, which is more or less what I've just told you, and a subscribe box.



Herman

Which brings us to feeds.



Hilbert

Every language has its own dedicated RSS feed. It's at the same address with slash feed dot X M L on the end. So Hebrew is my weird prompts dot com slash languages slash H E slash feed dot X M L. If you have a podcast app that lets you add a show by its feed address, and most of the good ones do, you can subscribe to the Hebrew edition today. Same for Mandarin.



Herman

And in the big directories? Apple, Spotify?



Hilbert

That's the next step, and it's coming shortly. We wanted at least one episode in each feed before we went and registered them, because an empty feed is a terrible first impression. Now there are episodes, so the listings follow.



Herman

And if you're on the English site, how would you even know these exist?



Hilbert

We've made that obvious. If an English episode has a version in another language, you'll see it. There's a little marker on the episode in the lists, and on the episode page itself, right under the player, it says also available in, and links straight to the Hebrew or the



Hilbert (continued)

Mandarin version. And every translated episode links back to its English original.



Herman

So they're linked at the data level, not just on the page.



Hilbert

In the database, yes. Each translation knows which English episode it came from. Which matters, because it means when we fix something in an original, we know exactly which editions to look at. You'd be amazed how much of my job is knowing what's connected to what.



Herman

I would not be amazed, actually. Okay. Let me ask the skeptic's question, because you'd ask it if I were in your seat.



Hilbert

Go on.



Herman

Is it any good?



Hilbert

Honestly? Better than I expected, and not finished. Daniel lives in Jerusalem, he speaks Hebrew, and his verdict on the first one was that the voices came through. That's high praise from a man who once described my mixing as acceptable. But there will be mispronounced names. There will be a sentence now and then where the rhythm is a bit off, because the voice was cloned from English recordings. These are experimental editions. The website says so, the show notes say so, and now I've said so.



Herman

And if a native speaker hears something wrong?



Hilbert

Tell us. Email prompts at my weird prompts dot com. Write in English, Hebrew or Mandarin. If you tell me a name is wrong, I can usually tell you whether it was the translation, the vowels or the voice, because we keep the exact text that was read out. Which is the kind of record-keeping nobody thanks you for until the day they need it.



Herman

What's next? Are there more languages coming?



Hilbert

There are. The plan is to stick to languages the voice model already speaks well, so the clones carry over without anyone building new voice technology. Spanish, French and Korean are next on the list, one episode each to start, picked for the audience rather than just whatever came out most recently. I've already said my prompt address in two languages this week, and I'm told there are three more to come. I'd like that noted.



Herman

Noted. So if I'm a listener who speaks Hebrew, or Mandarin, or has a friend who does?



Hilbert

Go to my weird prompts dot com slash languages, pick your language, and subscribe to its feed. Send it to the friend. And if you're an English listener who just wants to hear what you and your brother sound like arguing about Israeli coalition maths in Hebrew, it's there. I'd recommend it, actually. It's very funny for about four minutes and then genuinely useful for the next twenty.



Herman

That's the most enthusiastic I've ever heard you.



Hilbert

Don't get used to it. That's the announcement. The main feed stays English, everything else lives at slash languages, the feeds are up, and the directories are coming. Now get out of your own chair so I can go back behind the desk.



Herman

It's my chair, Hilbert.



Hilbert

It was my chair for the last twelve minutes. That's how chairs work.