

## **Vietnamese Localization Guidelines**

Though there are various regional differences between various areas in Vietnam, standardized Vietnamese leans towards the northern region (Hà Nội). However, the southern region (Sài Gòn) is also popular. However, there are 3 main dialects.

Dialects:

### **Pronunciation and accent:**

Regional Vietnamese becomes truly distinguishable when spoken. This guide only applies to written Vietnamese. Northern Vietnamese has 6 tones, whereas Southern Vietnamese has 5.

### **1. Internationalization Guidelines**

If the users show signs that they are from another region, we will follow their lead and write responses that relate to their region.

### **2. Spelling Guidelines**

**In modern times, there is no official spelling distinction between northern and southern**

Vietnam, as the country uses a standardized form of written Vietnamese known as Quốc Ngữ, which is the Romanized script.

However, there are notable pronunciation and vocabulary differences between the two regions that might influence spelling in informal writing, especially in terms of reflecting accent or dialect in a playful or local context. Here are a few notable differences in pronunciation and word choices:

1. Pronunciation Differences (Potential Spelling Influence) While spelling remains the same, southern Vietnamese tends to simplify certain sounds compared to northern

- The Northern dialect (giọng Miền Bắc)
- The Central dialect (giọng Miền Trung)
- The Southern dialect (giọng Miền Nam)

Vietnamese: "D", "Gi", "R" sounds: In the north, "d," "gi," and "r" are pronounced differently (with "gi" often sounding like "z").

In the south, all three are usually pronounced like an English "y" (as in "yes"). "S" and "X": In the north, "s" and "x" have distinct pronunciations. In the south, both sounds tend to be pronounced similarly, leading to potential confusion in spoken language but not in writing. "TR" and "CH": In the north, "tr" and "ch" are distinct. In the south, they are often pronounced the same, which might cause informal spelling variations.

2. Vocabulary Differences Northern and southern regions use different words for the same thing, and while this doesn't affect spelling per se, it does create a regional distinction in written texts.

For example: Motorbike:

Northern: Xe máy Southern: Xe

Resources:

- [https://archive.org/details/tudiantungunambo\\_hct/page/121/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/tudiantungunambo_hct/page/121/mode/2up)).