


Language

You can change the language of terms that are static for display in menus, windows and reports. Each user can select a different language. An administrator can select a default language different from English.

Language terms popup beside text, buttons, and column headers. When specific language fonts are used more popup windows will show. You can turn this on or off by selecting "File >> Language >> Show popup" or press  at the upper left corner.

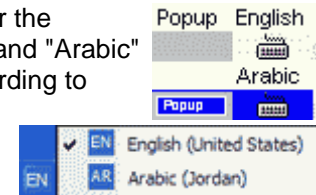
Select a language table from "File >> Language >> Select or Modify Language". You can set the language for start-up. You can modify copies of a language table. Every phrase in the table is unique, but may be displayed in more than one place in the program in place of the system English phrase.

Language terms are provided in a table of short phrases. You can enter your language compared to the system English terms. Tables are provided in Spanish and possibly other languages. You can create your table for any language from "My_Language..." or change a copy of the language tables provided. Try to keep your language terms the same length as the English terms.

Entering Text - Multilingual Characters

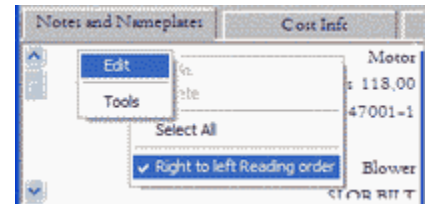
Click the keyboard button in the main menu (or press Alt+Enter) to type either the selected language or English. For example, if "Arabic" language was selected and "Arabic" is clicked, the keyboard will now type Arabic characters in this application according to Arabic Keyboard 101.

IMPORTANT: Keep the Windows system input language as English.



Text is aligned left by default. To align text to the right, *right-click* in the field and select "Right to left reading order". Text entered in note fields can print right aligned in reports even if displayed left aligned.

You can edit a multi-line note externally. **Text entered in an external editor must save to simple ANSI text (not Unicode).** The external text file (.TXT) will be inserted in the multi-line note. Right-click within the note field for this menu and select "Tools, External Text Edit":

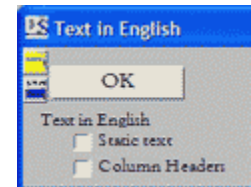


Reports

Reports are provided additionally for languages that require a specific font with text aligned right.

Parts that remain in English

The Windows system controls the font for menus, dropdown lists, pushbuttons, and titles of windows. Davison Software overdraws menus and dropdown lists with graphic text in the language font. If the language requires a specific font, titles display in English and the translated title displays in a popup. For other text and column headers to display in English select "File, Language, Text in English" then check the text to display in English.



On-line Help remains in English. Future versions might have Help in other languages.

Collation is English unless specified for the language. Collation affects the order of characters as compared to English collation A through Z. Collation for other languages creates order by the characters specific to the language. It is best to keep equipment and other codes in English or numbers for universal sorting.

Multilingual Characters - More

When handling multilingual characters for languages like Arabic or Chinese, database files must be created for the ANSI character set (instead of OEM character set). To create databases for the ANSI character set, select "Create data for ANSI" if prompted when selecting the language. This is done only once and is not necessary for all languages. This may not be necessary with some systems that are prepared for a locale.

Upper case is not forced to multilingual characters. English characters "a-z" are sometimes forced to upper case, but multilingual characters are not forced to upper case because these languages have no upper case and forcing upper case on these characters results in a different character.

Data is indexed in mixed case so that characters are found correctly. Letters "a-z" are indexed as upper case, but all other multilingual characters are not affected. If needed, you can re-index data in mixed case by selecting "File, Language, Index..." Otherwise this indexing is automatic when a language is selected.

Unicode fonts and control characters are not supported. Unicode fonts require a wide-character string (2 bytes per character), so not used to keep data simple and compatible with simple text. Instead, specific language fonts are used. For example, the following languages require specific fonts that are commonly available in a Windows system:

Arabic - Traditional Arabic - trado.ttf

Chinese - Simplified Chinese - MS Hei.ttf