



# Best practices on the design of translation


David Chan

Pau Giner

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**Knowledge is better if you can  
understand it**



EN  
4.4M

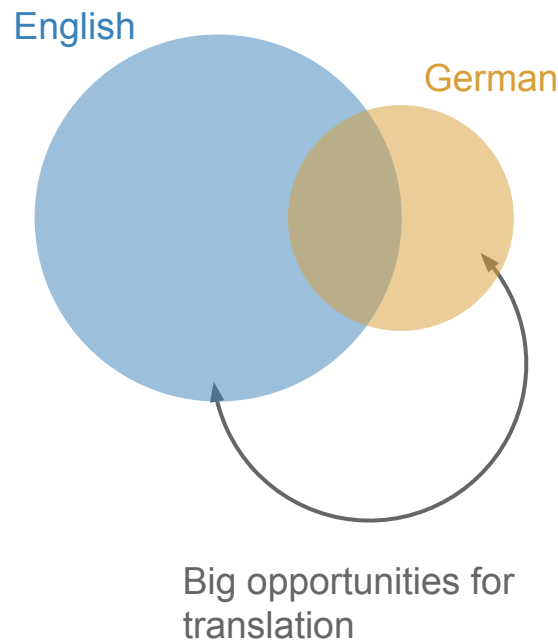
ES  
1M



CA  
4K

# “Surprisingly small amount of content overlap between languages of Wikipedia”

The English Wikipedia contains only 51% of the articles in the second-largest edition, German.

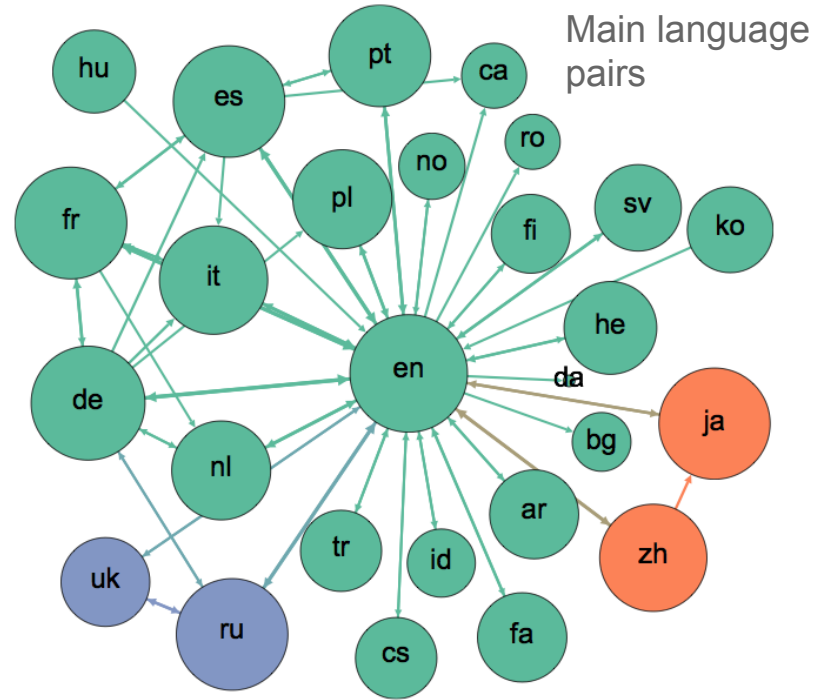


# Potential users are active

Over **15% of users** edit multiple language editions.

These **multilingual users** are **more active** (2.3 times) than their monolingual counterparts on average.

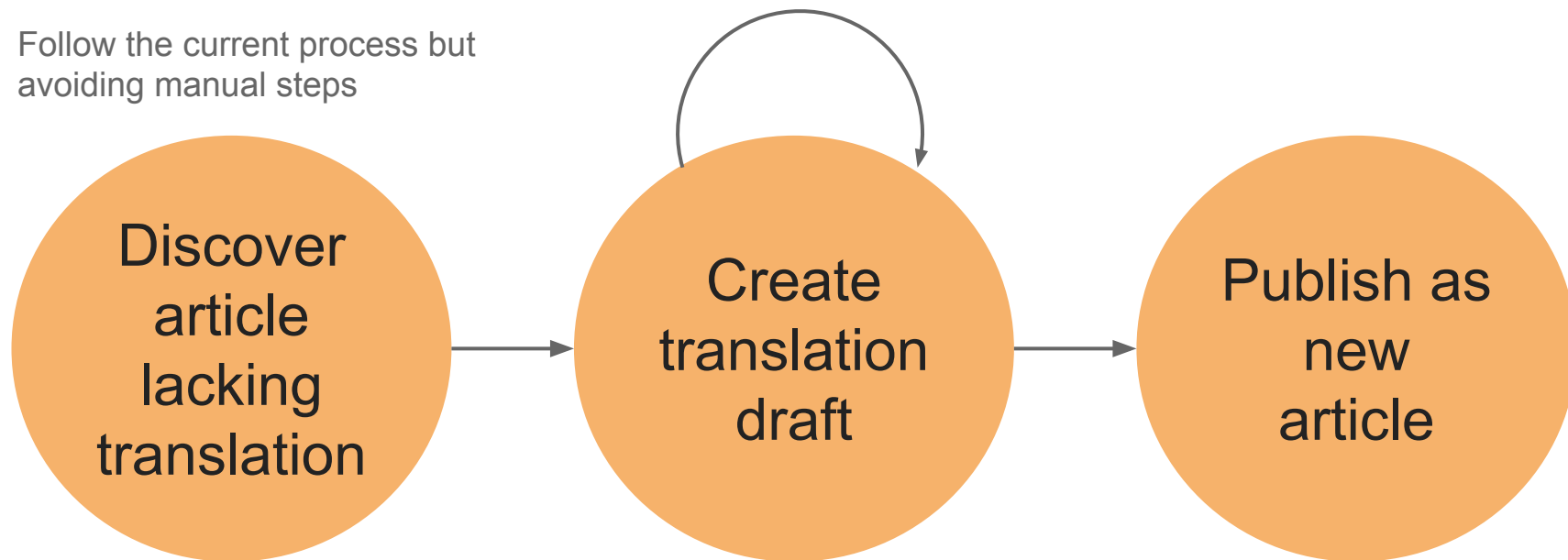
Multilingual users made **30% of all edits**.





# Workflow

Follow the current process but  
avoiding manual steps



## Entry points

Ways to make users  
aware of the tool

## Translation view

Where translations are  
made

# Translating content

[◀ All translations](#)

Saved 2 minutes ago

[Publish translation](#)

# Traffic light

English

[View article](#)

Traffic lights, also known as traffic [signals](#), traffic lamps, signal lights, stop lights and robots,<sup>[1]</sup> and also known technically as traffic control signals<sup>[2]</sup> are signalling devices positioned at road intersections, pedestrian crossings and other locations to control competing flows of traffic. Traffic lights were first installed in 1868 in London<sup>[3]</sup> and are now used all over the world.

Traffic lights alternate the right of way accorded to road users by displaying lights of a standard color (red, orange/amber, and green) following a universal color code. In the typical sequence of color phases:

the green light allows traffic to proceed in the direction denoted, if it is safe to do so  
the yellow/amber light denoting prepare to stop short of the intersection, if it is safe to do so  
the red signal prohibits any traffic from proceeding

# 신호등

Korean

신호등(信號燈)은 철도나 도로에 있어서 교통 안전 확보 또는 교통의 흐름을 원활히 하기 위해서 진행·정지 등의 [신호](#)를 나타내는 장치이다.



Search for a word

Automatic translation

From Google Translate ▾



Use source text



Clear translation

Select a paragraph and improve the initial automatic translation.  
The user is not forced to translate the whole article.



# A simple workflow

**One paragraph at a time.** Provide enough freedom to rearrange sentences, but don't force to translate the whole document.

**Provide context.** Visually aligning source and translations communicates what is translated and what is lacking.

**Editing freedom.** Don't provide a strict workflow. Let edit the document as freely as possible.



◀ All translations



Saved 2 minutes ago

Publish translation



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Q 진행



Translation from Google

...해서 **진행**·정지......해서 **진보**·정지...

From Yandex

...해서 **진척**·정지...

From Microsoft

[View more](#)

Definition

Progress (noun)

Movement or advancement through a series of events, or points in time; development through time.

★ 진보

**진행**

진보

Progress (verb)

To move, go, or proceed forward; to advance.

전진하다

진행하다

Definitions and alternative translations  
are provided at hand

# Provide information at hand


## Context relevant information.

Integrate information from different sources (dictionaries, glossaries, translation services).

## Avoid information overload.

Make the information compact.

Translation

...해서 진행·정지... 

From Google

...해서 진보·정지...

From Yandex

...해져 진척·정지...

From Microsoft

[View more](#)

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**Progress (noun)**

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★ 진보    **진행**    진보

**Progress (verb)**

To move, go, or proceed forward; to advance.

전진하다    진행하다

# Technology components

## Content Translation Mediawiki Extension

Entry points

Translation Dashboard

Translation Interface

## Content Translation Server

Cache

Nodejs Server

Machine  
Translation

Translation  
Memory

Dictionary

Link  
adaptation

Parsoid

[◀ All translations](#)


Saved 2 minutes ago

[Publish translation](#)


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진행



Link

[신호를](#)

Korean Wikipedia

[✕ Remove link](#)


Definition

**Signal (noun)**

A sign made to give notice of some occurrence, command, or danger, or to indicate the start of a concerted action.

 ★ [신호를](#)
[사인](#)
**Signal (verb)**

To indicate

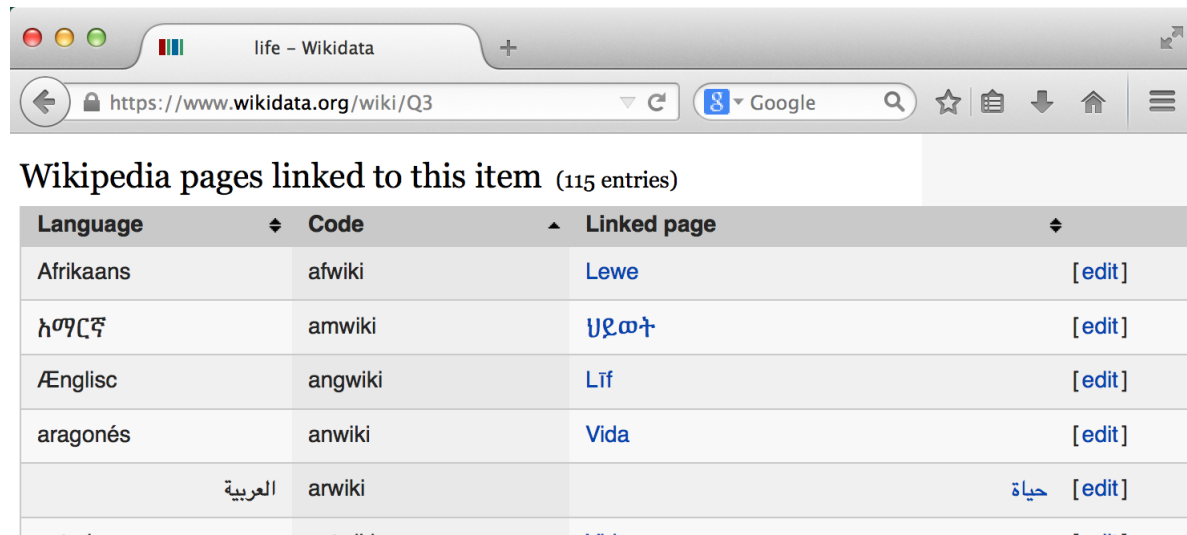
[신호를 보내다](#)

Links are adapted automatically

A link pointing to Signal article points to the [식호를](#) article (in Korean Wikipedia)

# Anticipate user needs

**Avoid repetitive steps.** Repetitive tasks such as finding the equivalent target for a link, can be automated thanks to Wikidata.



Wikipedia pages linked to this item (115 entries)

Language	Code	Linked page	
Afrikaans	afwiki	<a href="#">Lewe</a>	<a href="#">[edit]</a>
አማርኛ	amwiki	<a href="#">ህይወት</a>	<a href="#">[edit]</a>
Ænglisc	angwiki	<a href="#">Līf</a>	<a href="#">[edit]</a>
aragonés	anwiki	<a href="#">Vida</a>	<a href="#">[edit]</a>
العربية	arwiki	<a href="#">حياة</a>	<a href="#">[edit]</a>

[◀ All translations](#)

Saved 2 minutes ago

[Publish translation](#)

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신호등은 보편적 인 컬러 코드 다음과 같은 표준 색상 (빨강, 오렌지, 황색, 녹색)의 빛을 표시하여 도로 사용자에게 부여 방법의 오른쪽을 번갈아. 색상 단계의 일반적인 순서



Search for a word



Your translation contains  
90% of unmodified text



Automatic translations are provided as a template, you need to make sure that content reads natural in your language

[Learn more about translation guidelines](#)

Automatic translation

From Google Translate ▾



Use source text



Clear translation

We can detect if users modified the default automatic translation, and encourage them to do so.

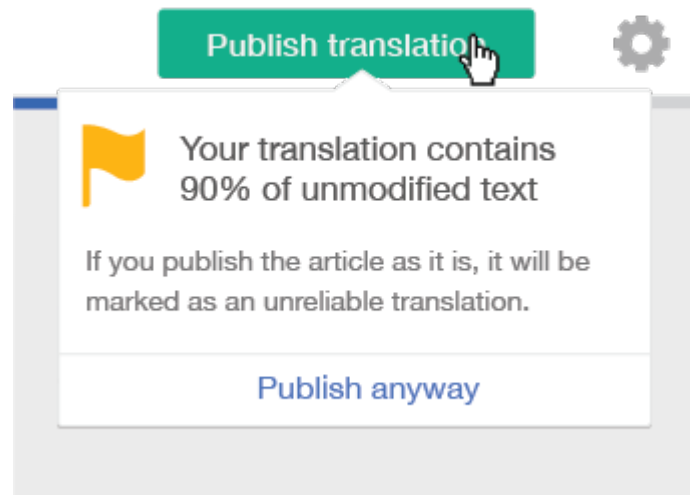


# Quality matters

**Educate.** Convey that the focus is more on quality than on quantity.

**Warn.** Detect potential patterns that lead to low-quality (unmodified automatic translation or pasted text).

**Inform the community.** Allow other users to easily find potential problematic content.



[◀ All translations](#)

Saved 2 minutes ago

[Publish translation](#)


# Traf

English

[View article](#)

Korean

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Styling is not the focus of the tool.  
Users can edit the resulting articles later


 Search for a word

## 1 Add paragraphs to translate

You don't need to add them all.

## 2 Make text read natural

Automatic translation is useful but you'll need to revise errors to make it accurate.

## 3 Publish the translation

When you are happy with the result, select "Publish translation".

[View translation guidelines](#)

# More details

[http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/  
Content\\_translation](http://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Content_translation)

**Join our testing sessions**

<http://goo.gl/iKQIDh>

**Finding what to  
translate**

# Translations

Create new content with translation tools

Create a new translation

3 days ago



## Parc Güell

A garden complex with architectural elements

Català → English

4 translations ▼

12 March



## Curiosity (Rover)

Car-sized robotic rover exploring Gale Crater on Mars.

English → Español

15 March



## Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

A German-American architect

English → Español

18 March



## Parrot

Birds, hence dinosaurs, but able to talk.

English → Español [Translate to Català](#)

Published



Search translations

From any language ▼

To any language ▼

### Suggested



English

**Smoke signal**

Translate to Español ▼



English

**Blue**

Translate to Català ▼

[More suggestions](#)

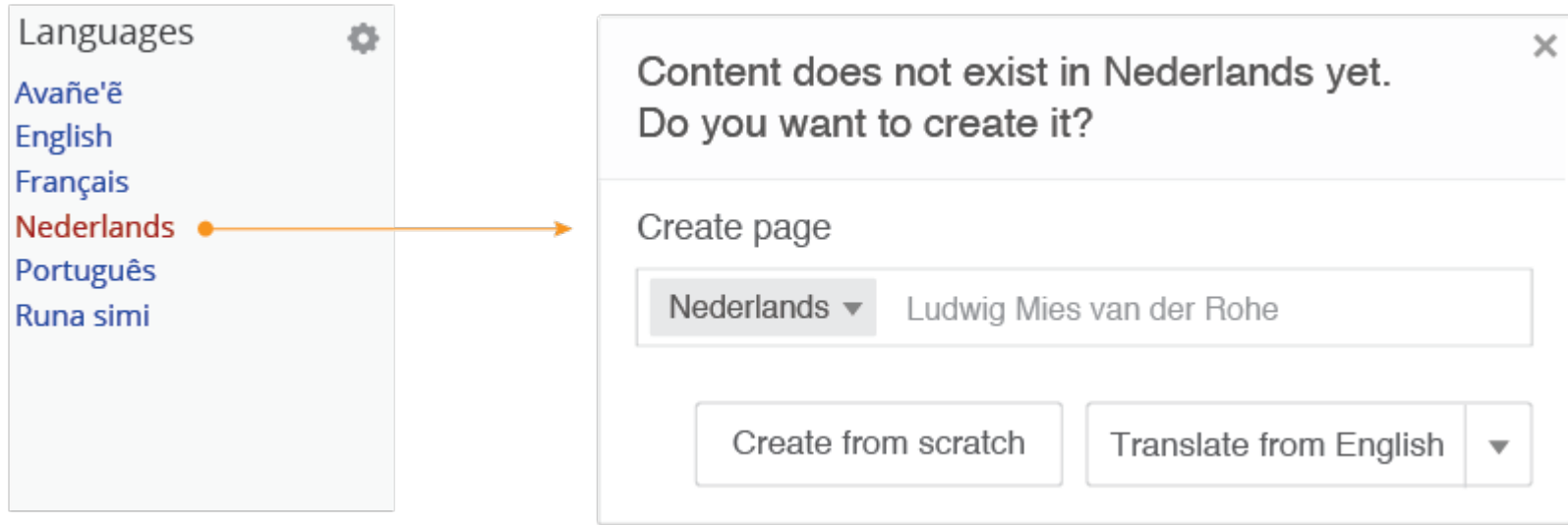
### Completed



3 articles published

250 readers per day

# Allow translating where the lack of content is detected





# Selecting languages

Language  
selection becomes  
a problem when  
you support more  
than 300  
languages

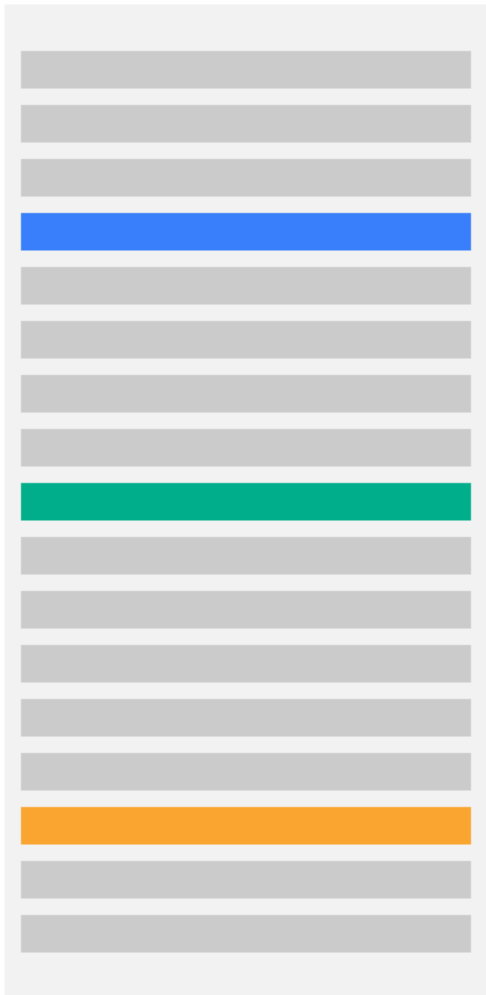
▼ Languages ⚙
Acèh
Afrikaans
Alemannisch
አማርኛ
Ænglisc
Αγγλισα
العربية
Ⓜ Aragonés
אראָנציש
Asturianu
Avafle'ë
Авар
Aymar aru
Azerbaycanca
Bamanankan
বাংলা
Bahasa Banjar
Bân-lâm-gú
Basa Banyumasan
Башҡортса
Беларуская
Беларуская (тарашкевіца)
བོད་སྐད་
Bikol Central
Bislama
Български
Boarisch
བོད་སྐད་
Bosanski
Brezhoneg
Català
Чӕвашна
Cebuano
Česky
Chavacano de Zamboanga

Corsu
Cymraeg
Dansk
Deutsch
Deutsch
ދިވެހިބަސް
Diné bizaad
Dolnoserbski
Eesti
Ελληνικά
Emiliàn e rumagnòl
Эрзянь
Ⓜ Español
Esperanto
Estremeñu
Euskara
فارسی
Føroyskt
Français
Frysk
Furlan
Gaeilge
Gaelg
Gàidhlig
Galego
贛語
ꨀꨁꨡꨇꨃꨇ
Hak-kâ-fa
한국어
Hausa
Hawai'i
Հայերեն
हिन्दी
Hornjoserbsce
Hrvatski
Ido

Igbo
Ilokano
Bahasa Indonesia
Interlingua
Interlingue
Ἰνδο-Ελληνική
Ирон
IsiZulu
Íslenska
Italiano
עברית
Basa Jawa
Kalaallit
ಕನ್ನಡ
Kapampangan
ქართული
Қазақша
Kernowek
Kinyarwanda
Kiswahili
Kreyòl ayisyen
Kurdi
Кыргызча
Ladino
ລາວ
Latgali
Latina
Latviešu
Lëtzebuergesch
Lietuvių
Limburgs
Lingála
Lojban
Lumbaart
Magyar
Македонски

Malagasy
മലയാളം
Malti
Māori
★ မာတိ
მარტალურ
مصرى
مازرونی
Bahasa Melayu
Монгол
မြန်မာဘာသာ
Nāhuatl
Dorerin Naoero
Nederlands
Nedersaksies
नेपाली
日本語
Nnapulitano
Nordfriisk
Norsk bokmål
Norsk nynorsk
Nouormand
Novial
Occitan
Олык марий
O'zbekcha
ਪੰਜਾਬੀ
Pangasinan
پنجابی
Papiamentu
پښتو
ភាសាខ្មែរ
Piemontèis
Tok Pisin
Plattdüütsch
Polски

Português
Qırımtatarca
Reo Mā'ohi
Ripoarisch
★ Руманă
Rumantsch
Runa Simi
Русский
Саха тыла
Sámegiella
සිංහල
Sardu
Scots
Sesotho sa Leboa
Shqip
Sicilianu
සිංහල
Simple English
Slovenčina
★ Slovenščina
Šlōnski
Soomaaliga
کوردی
Sranantongo
Српски / srpski
Srpskohrvatski / српскохрватски
Basa Sunda
★ Suomi
Svenska
Tagalog
தமிழ்
Tarandíne
Tatarча/tatarça
తెలుగు
Tetun



Instead of showing all options, provide the most relevant ones and access to the rest.

## Previous choices

Accept languages from browser  
Languages spoken in user location

Related languages by family  
or location to surface minority languages

Languages for which the content  
is featured to surface quality content

Access the rest  
of languages

With option to search

140 more languages

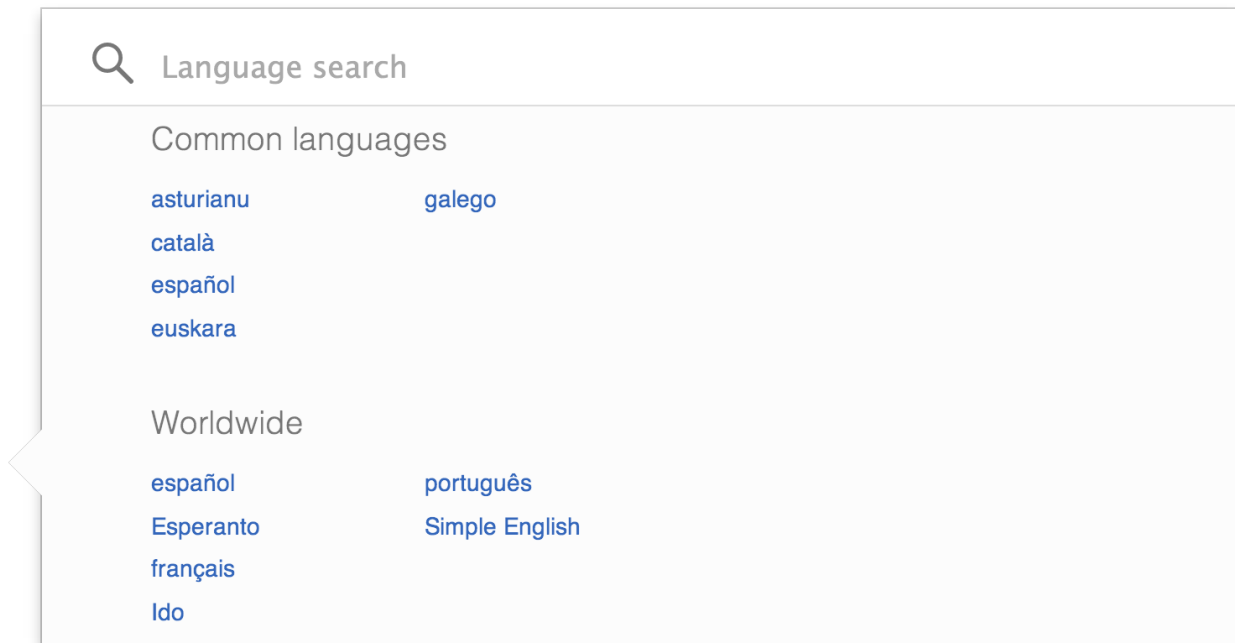


Language search





Most relevant  
languages



Access to all languages with  
flexible search

# Technical details

- Universal Language Selector
- A jquery plug-in
- Supports all languages defined by Unicode
- Open source

<http://github.com/wikimedia/jquery.uls>