Best practices on the design of translation

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Pau Giner
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Knowledge is better if you can understand it

https://secure.flickr.com/photos/adam_jones/5793940771/

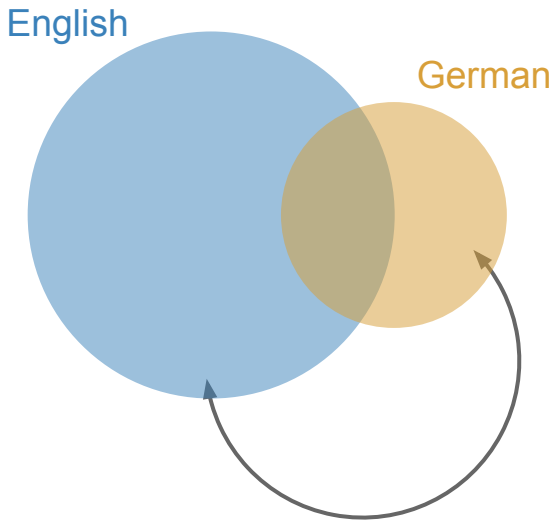
EN
4.4M

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.



Big opportunities for translation

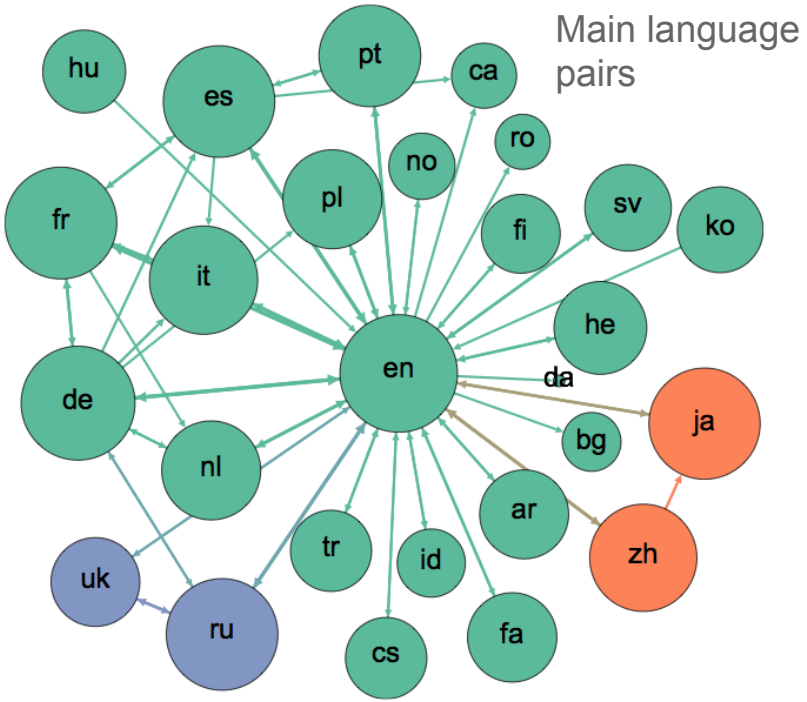
Based on the analysis of one month of all edits to the top 46 language editions of Wikipedia by Scott A. Hale, University of Oxford. More info at http://arxiv.org/abs/1312.0976

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**.



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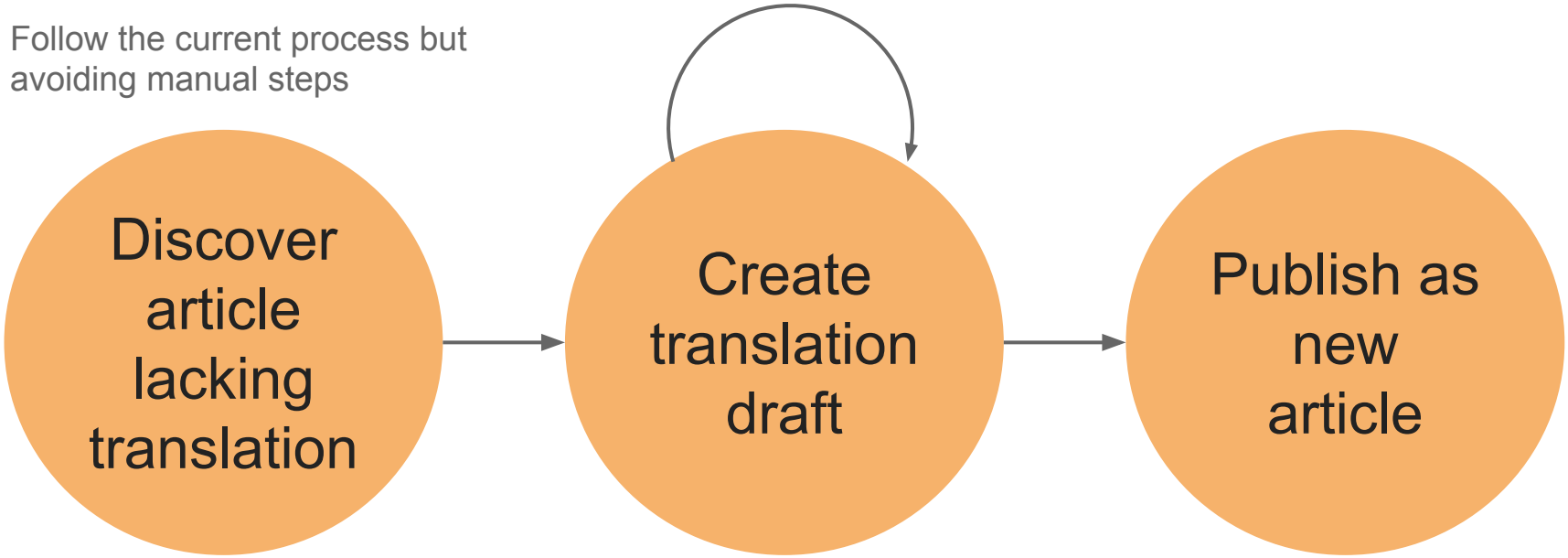
Workflow

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

Create account Log in

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,[1] and also known technically as traffic control signals[2] 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[3] 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·정지의 신호를 나타내는 장치이다.

Search for a word

Automatic translation

From Google Translate

Use source text Clear translation

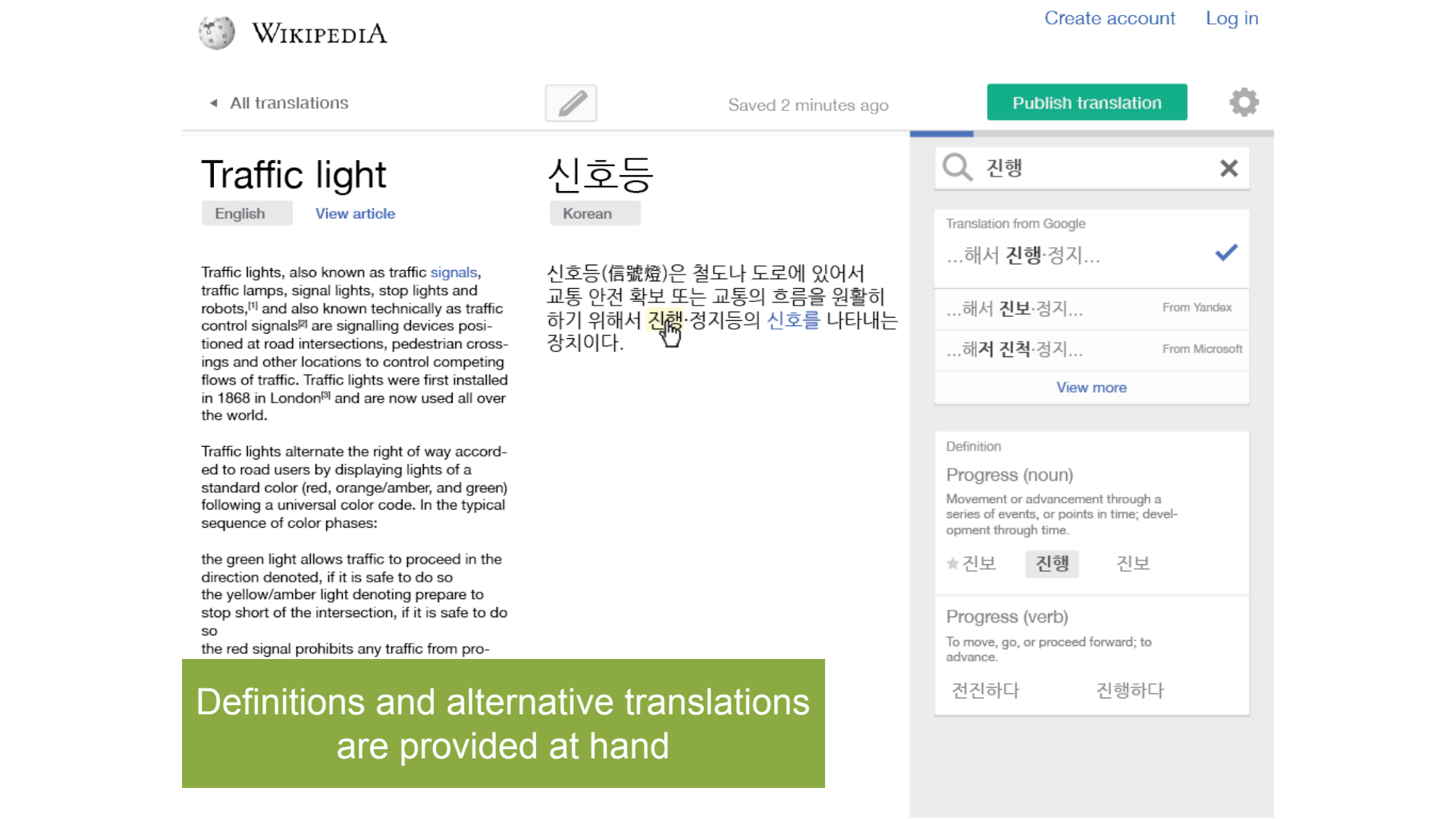
Select a paragraph and improve the initial automatic translation.
The user is not forced to translate the whole article.

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.


WIKIPEDIA
Create account
Log in
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Traffic light
English
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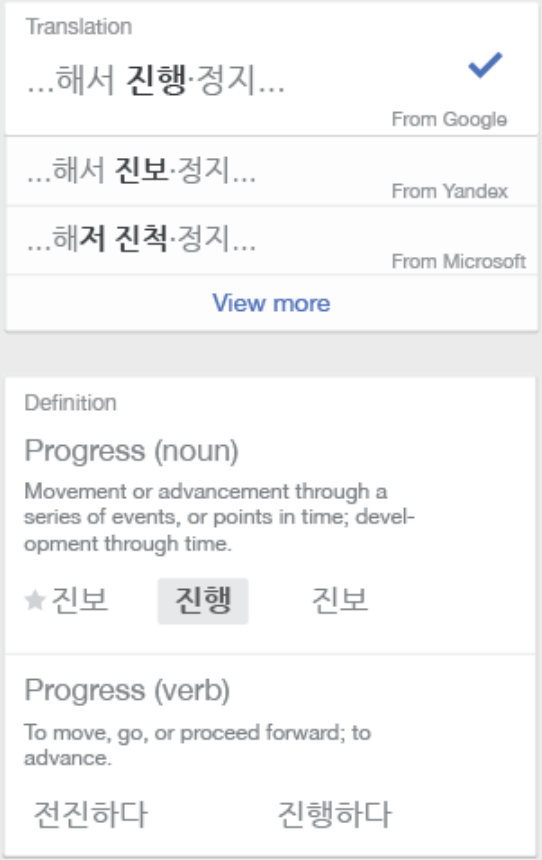
진행
Translation from Google
...해서 진행·정지...
...해서 진보·정지...
From Yandex
...해저 진척·정지...
From Microsoft
View more
Definition
Progress (noun)
Movement or advancement through a series of events, or points in time; development through time.
진보
진행
진보
Progress (verb)
To move, go, or proceed forward; to advance.
전진하다
진행하다
Definitions and alternative translations are provided at hand

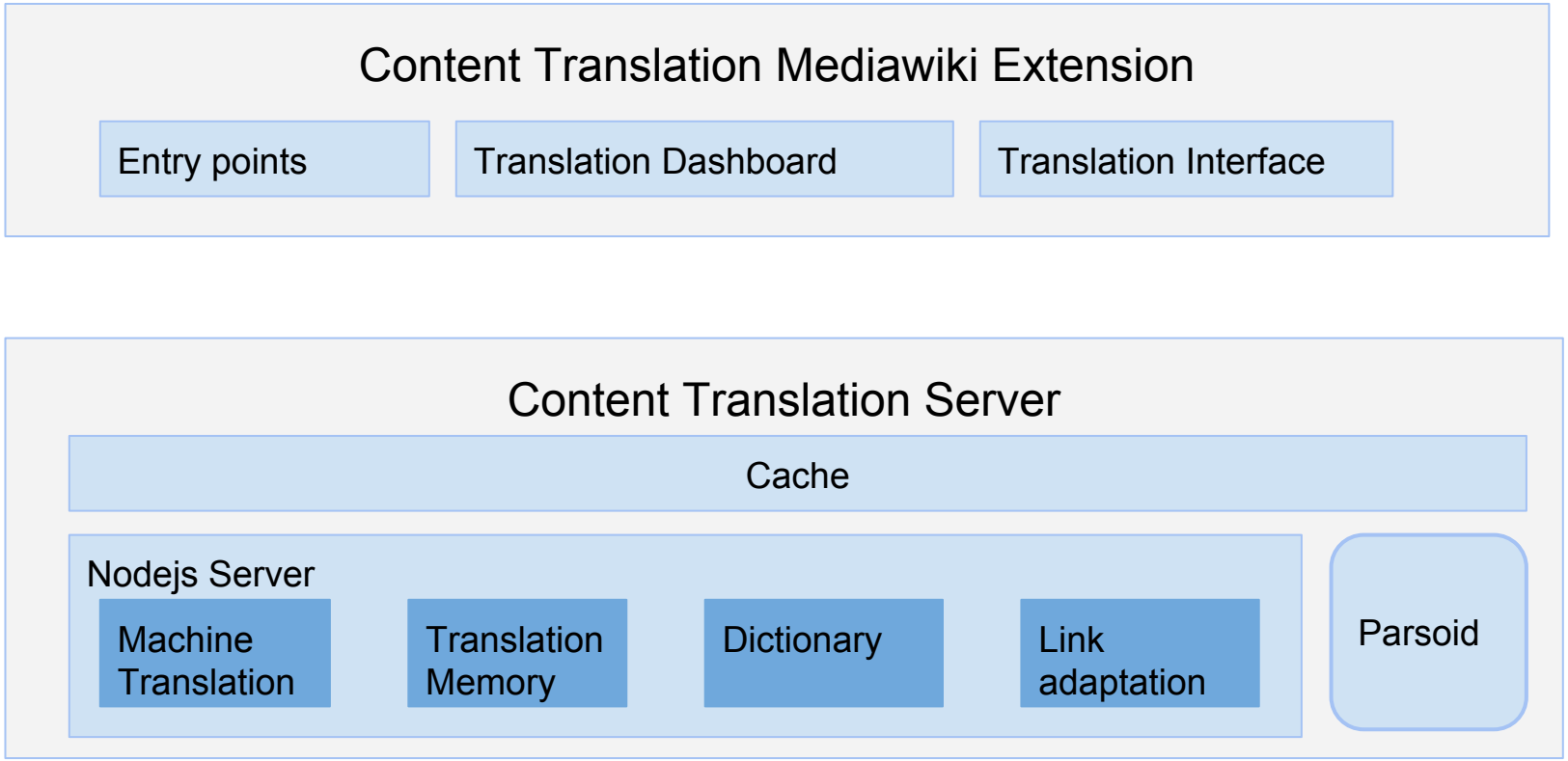
Provide information at hand

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

Avoid information overload.
Make the information compact.



Technology components



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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

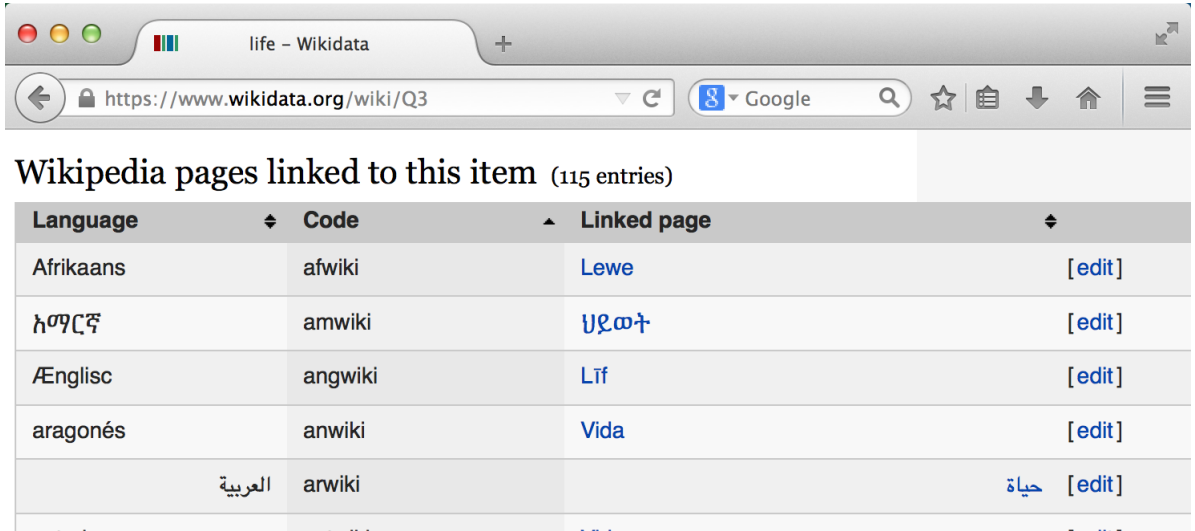
신호를 보내다

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.



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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

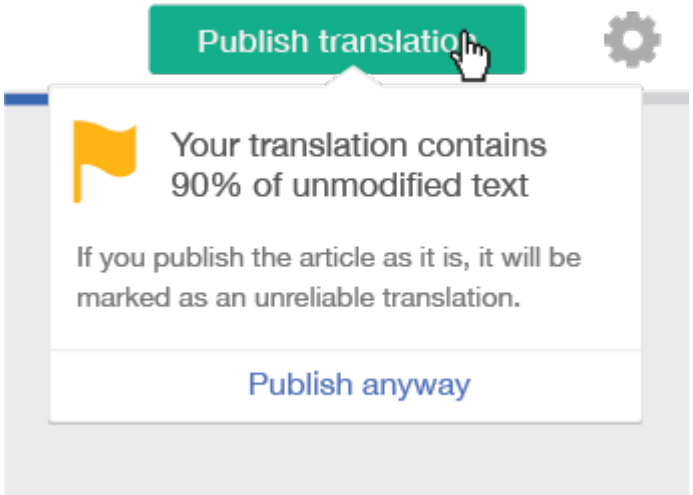
We can detect if users modified the default automatic translation, and encourage them to do so.

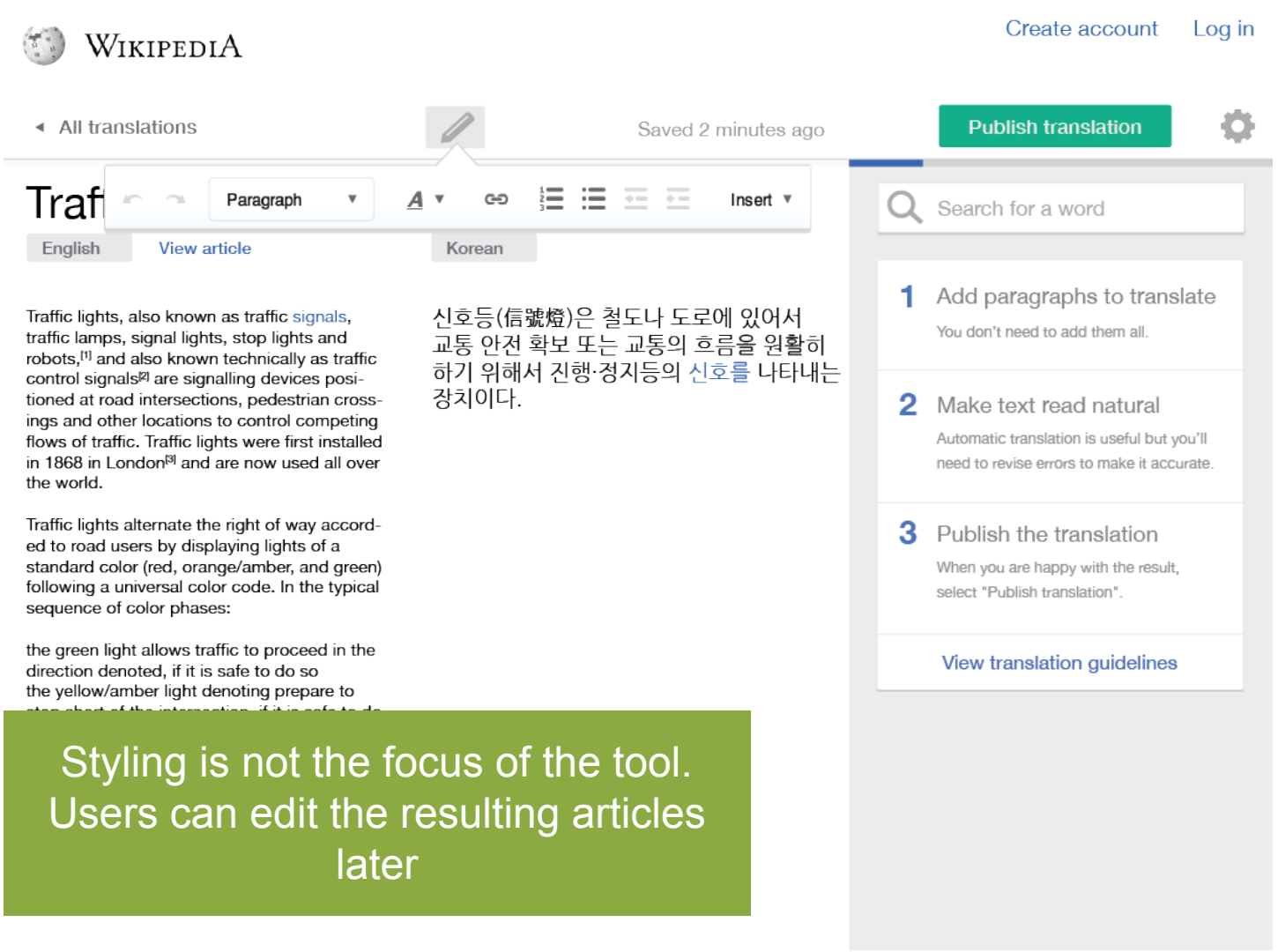
Quality matters

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.




WIKIPEDIA
Create account
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Traf
Paragraph
Insert
English
View article
Korean
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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
Styling is not the focus of the tool. Users can edit the resulting articles later

More details

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

4 translations ▾

3 days ago

Parc Güell

A garden complex with architectural elements

Català → English

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 ▾

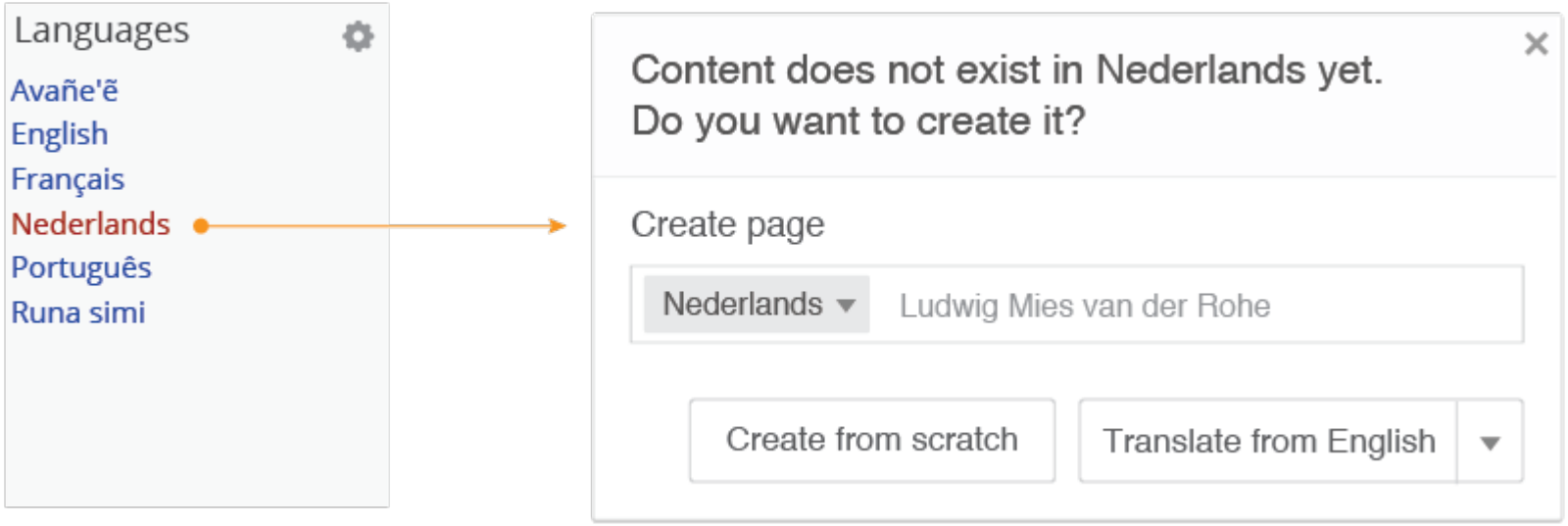
More suggestions

Completed

3 articles published

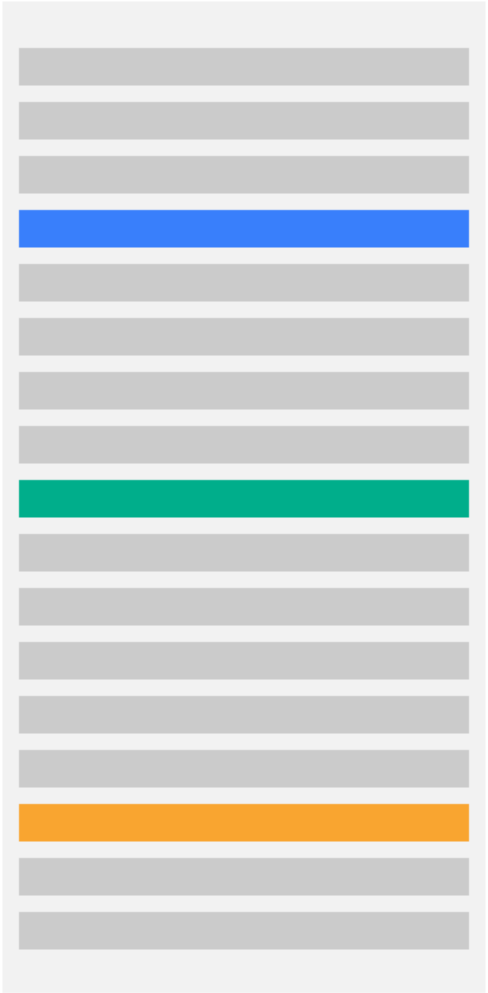
250 readers per day

Allow translating where the lack of content is detected

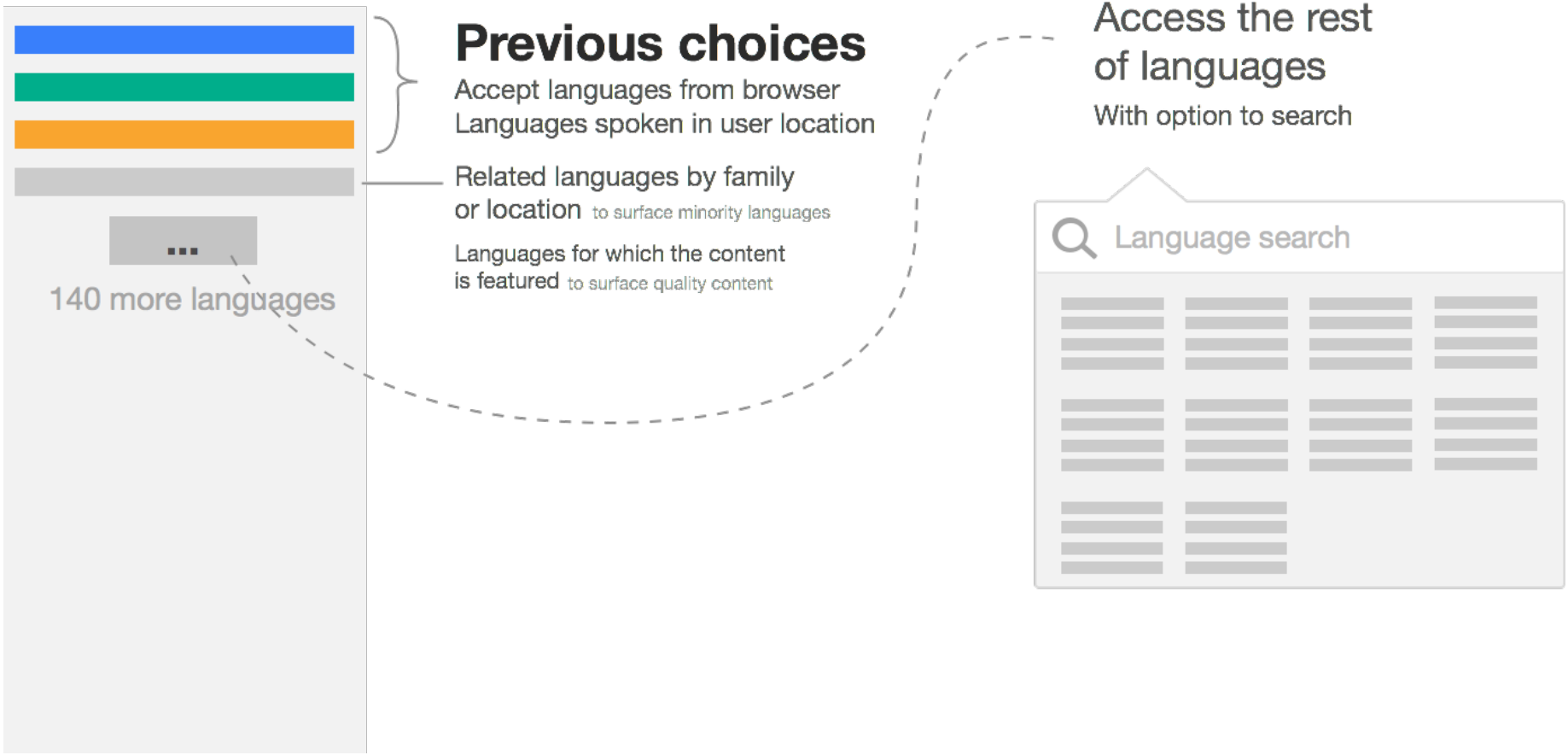


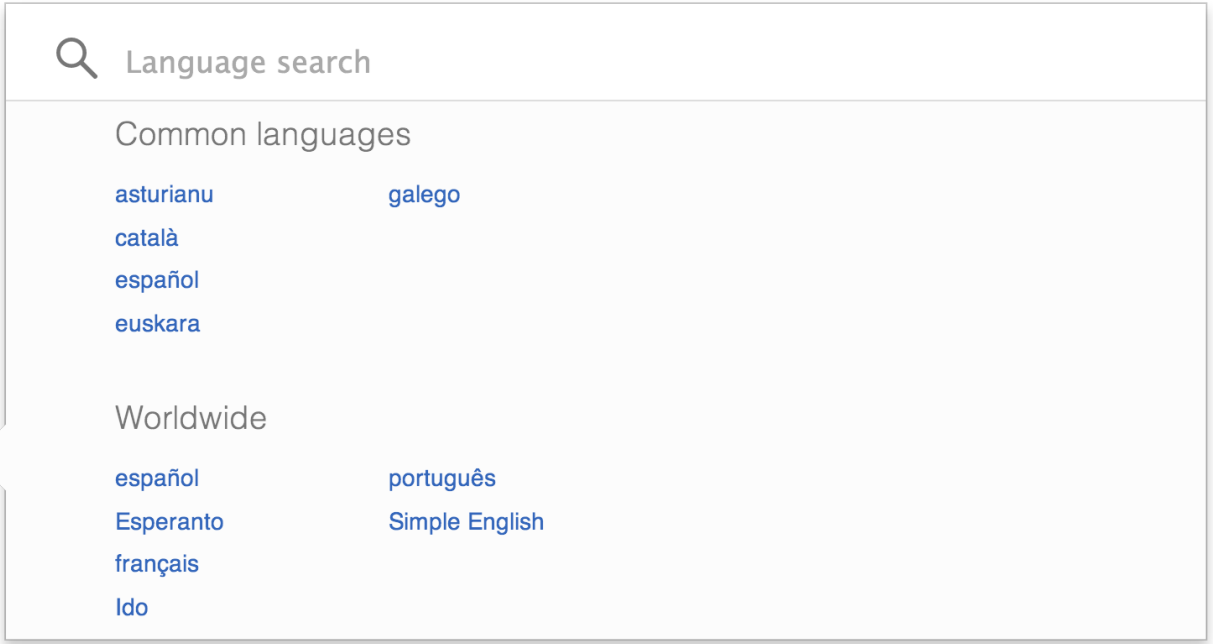
Selecting languages

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



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
...
140 more languages
Access the rest
of languages
With option to search
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