# Universal Language Selector

Content language selection and language settings integration

This document analyzes the integration of the language selection and configuration tools on different contexts:
- Wikipedia
- Wikidata

Content language selection in Wikipedia

The current situation does not scale

Language list for
Obama article

Approach 1: Integrate content selection and language settings in interlanguage links

Content selection
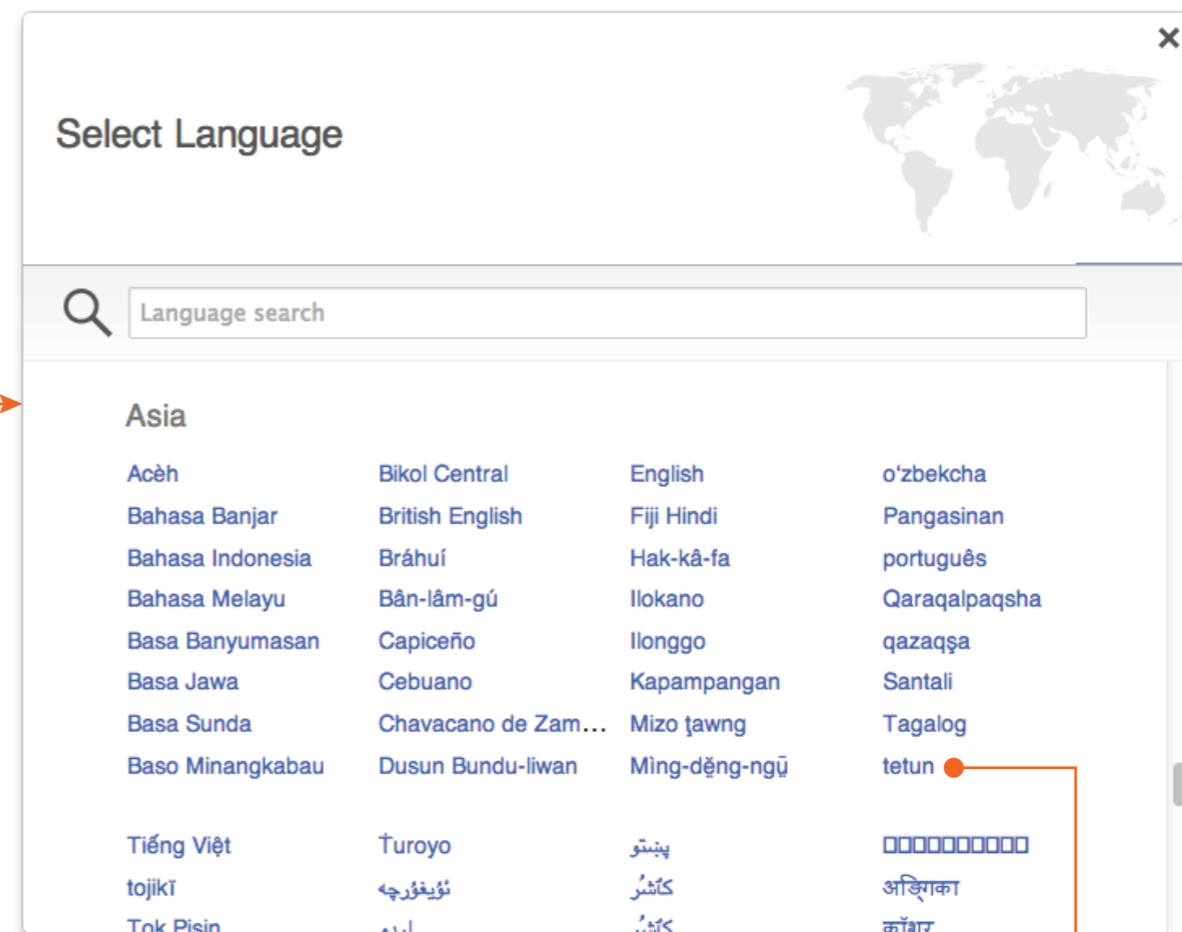(+ access to language settings)
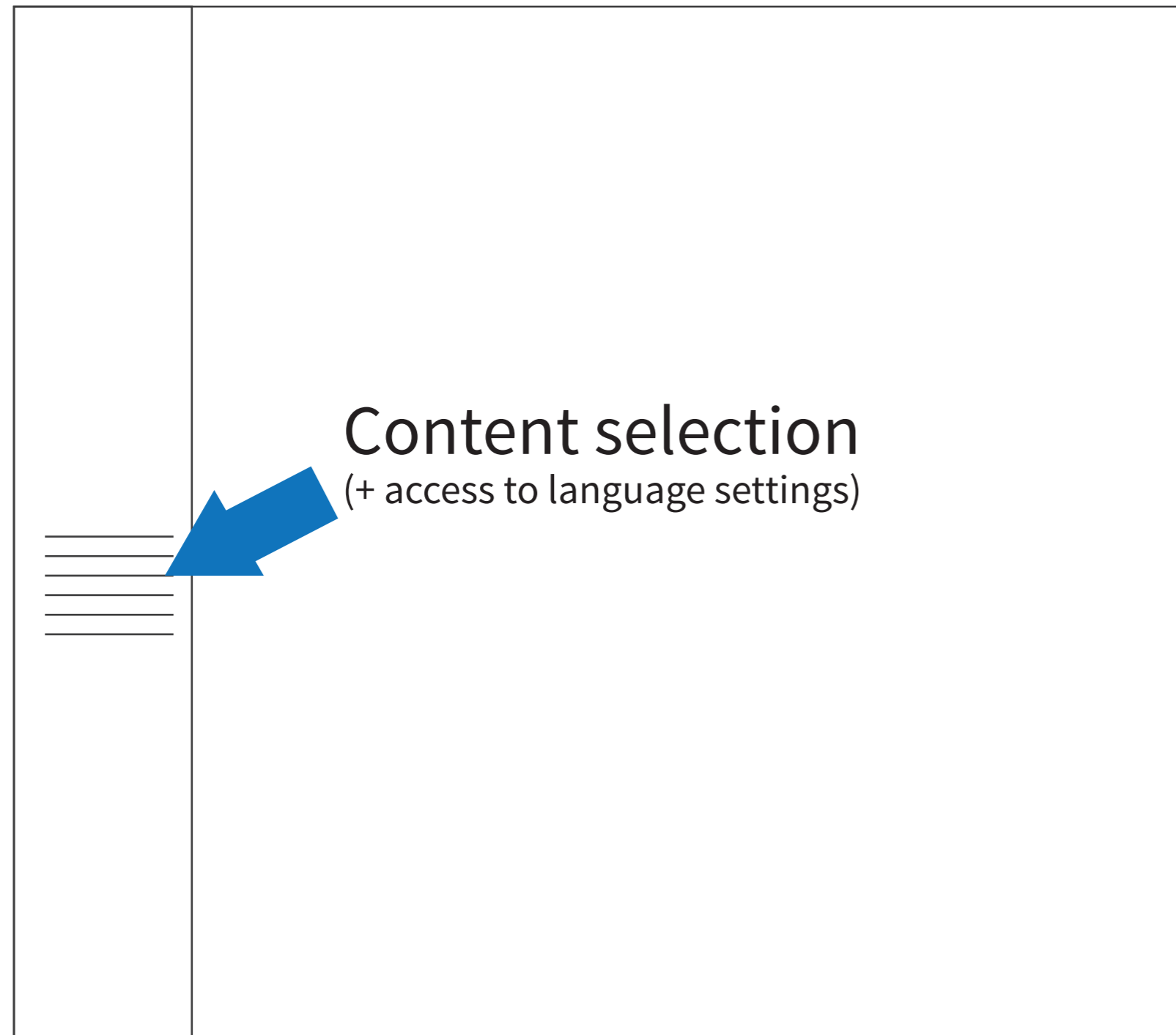
We propose to make the list shorter, show the **most relevant languages**, and provide help when you look for others
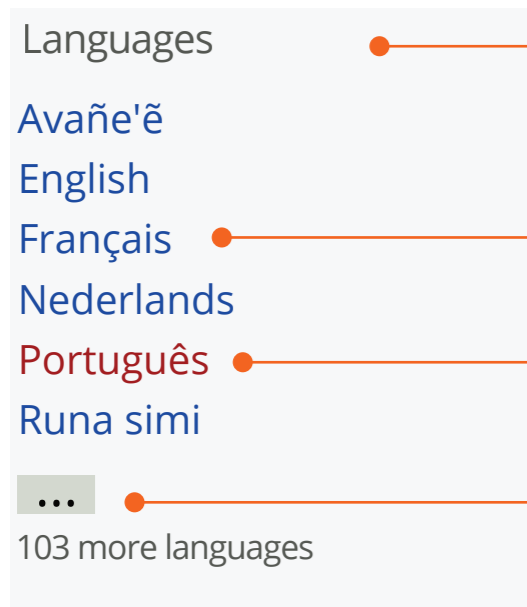
List based on geo-ip, previous choices and browser config.

This goes to the article in the French Wikipedia

Content lacking in one of the relevant languages (Optional: if we want to encourage page creation)

Languages

Avañe'ẽ
English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi
...
103 more languages

Select Language

Language search

Asia

Acèh	Bikol Central	English	o'zbekcha
Bahasa Banjar	British English	Fiji Hindi	Pangasinan
Bahasa Indonesia	Bráhuí	Hak-kâ-fa	português
Bahasa Melayu	Bân-lâm-gú	Ilokano	Qaraqalpaqsha
Basa Banyumasan	Capiceño	Ilonggo	qazaqşa
Basa Jawa	Cebuano	Kapampangan	Santali
Basa Sunda	Chavacano de Zam...	Mizo ţawng	Tagalog
Baso Minangkabau	Dusun Bundu-liwan	Mìng-dĕng-ngṳ̄	tetun
Tiếng Việt	Ṫuroyo	پنتو	□□□□□□□□□
tojikī	ئۇيغۇرچە	کٲشُر	अक्षिका
Tok Pisin			कॉशुर

In the rare case you are looking for an unusual language, the language picker helps you to find it.
The list includes only languages for which the content exist in that language.

This goes to the article in the Tetun Wikipedia

Alternatives for shortening the language list

A

Languages

Avañe'ẽ
English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi

...

103 more languages

B

Languages

Avañe'ẽ
English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi

103 more ▾

C

Languages

Avañe'ẽ
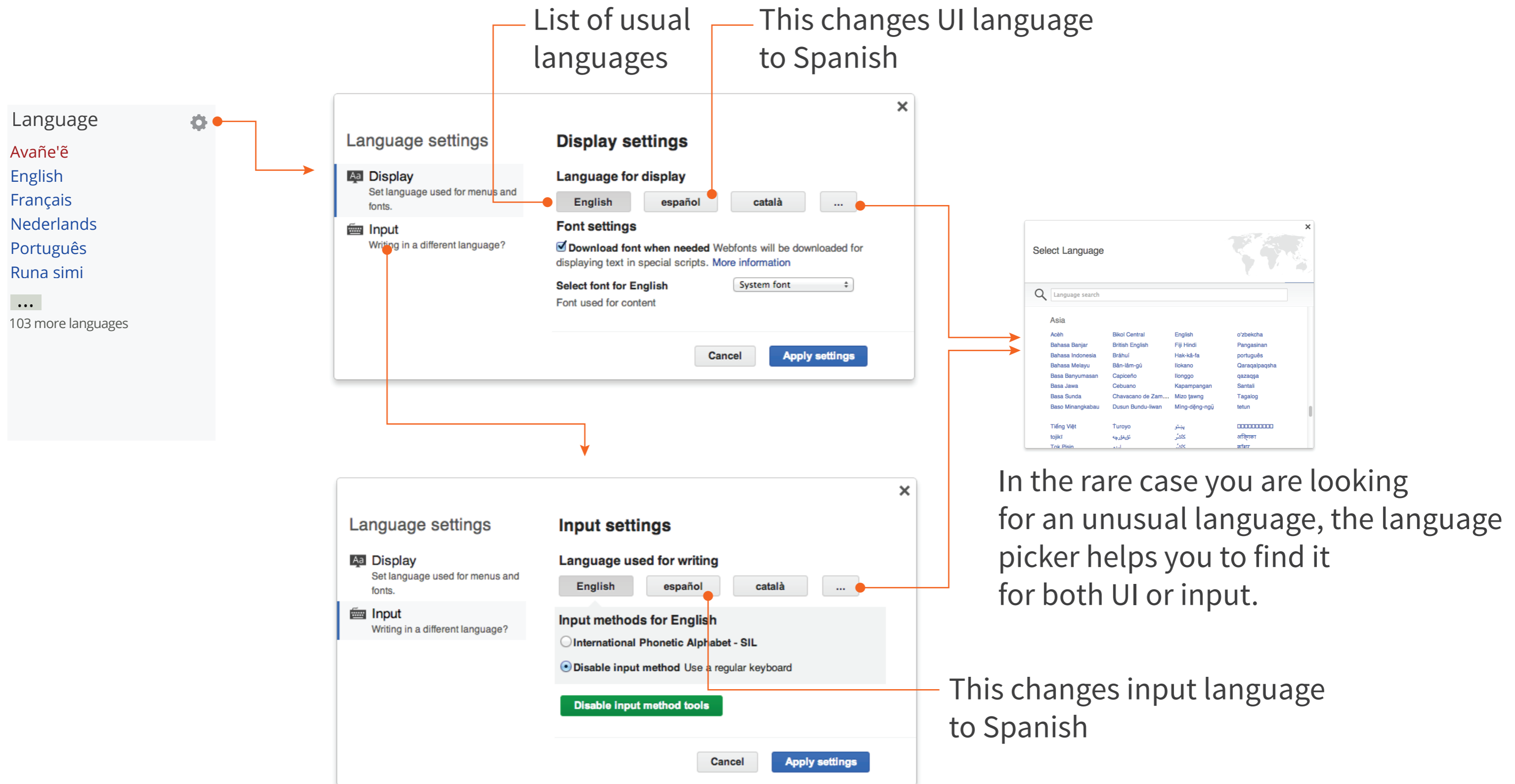English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi

108 languages

Different visual styles can be used to indicate that there are more elements than the ones currently shown in the list. The "..." button was selected since it can be located in a foreign language.
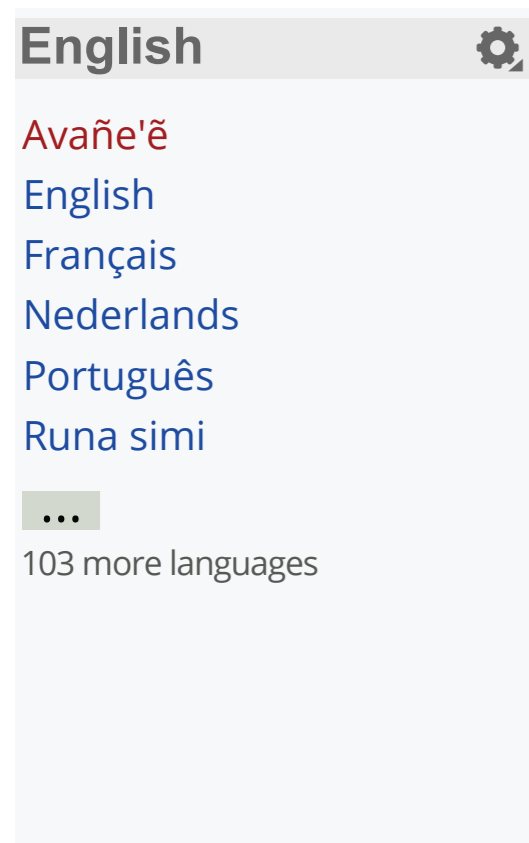
Language settings in Wikipedia

We propose to make the language settings discoverable (not hidden in general settings) since switching them is critical for some users. We present this settings in a less prominent way than content selection (which is the main usecase in this context) but close to it.
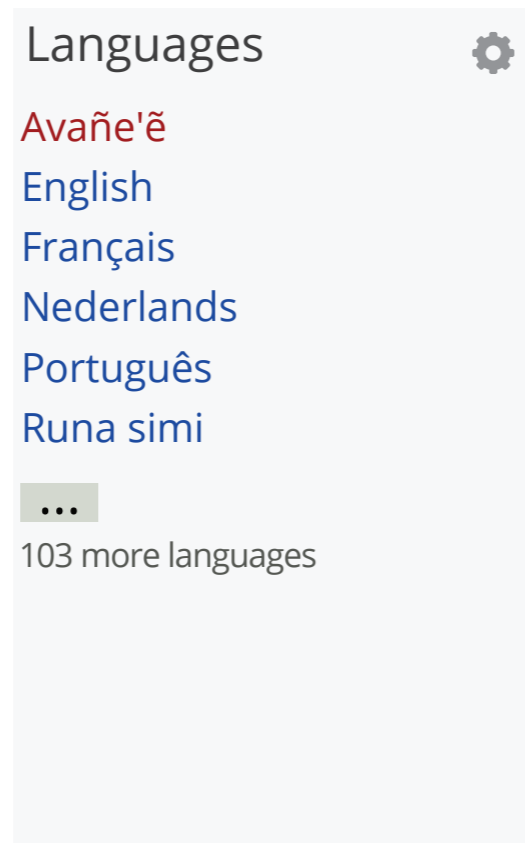
List of usual languages

This changes UI language to Spanish
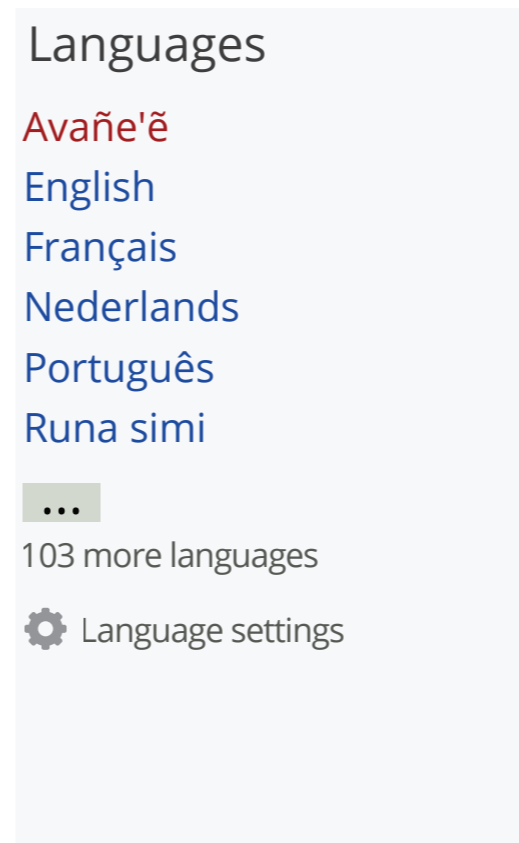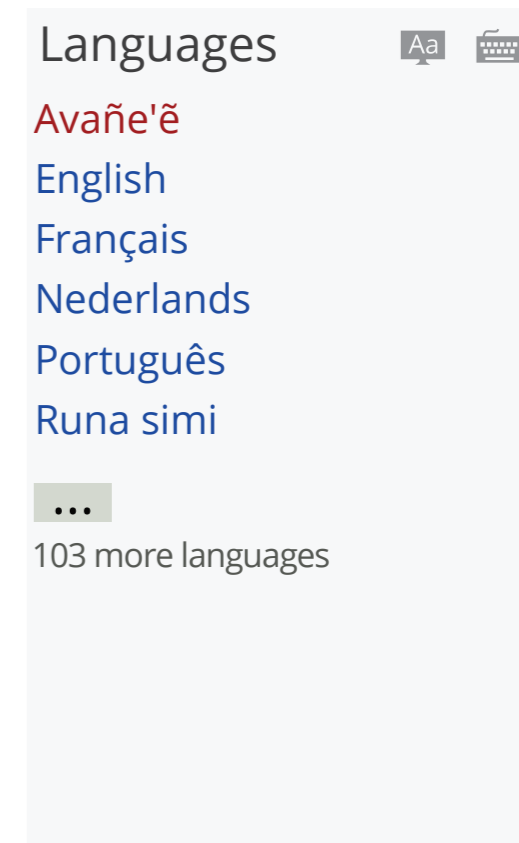
Language ⚙

Avañe'ẽ
English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi

...
103 more languages

Language settings

Aa **Display**
Set language used for menus and fonts.

⌨ **Input**
Writing in a different language?

Display settings

Language for display

English   español   català   ...

Font settings

☑ **Download font when needed** Webfonts will be downloaded for displaying text in special scripts. More information

Select font for English   System font ▾
Font used for content

Cancel   **Apply settings**

Select Language

🔍 Language search

Asia

Aceh	Bikol Central	English	o'zbekcha
Bahasa Banjar	British English	Fiji Hindi	Pangasinan
Bahasa Indonesia	Brāhuī	Hak-kâ-fa	português
Bahasa Melayu	Bân-lâm-gú	Ilokano	Qaraqalpaqsha
Basa Banyumasan	Capiceño	Ilonggo	qazaqsa
Basa Jawa	Cebuano	Kapampangan	Santali
Basa Sunda	Chavacano de Zam...	Mizo ṭawng	Tagalog
Baso Minangkabau	Dusun Bundu-liwan	Ming-dĕ̤ng-ngṳ̄	tetun
Tiếng Việt	Turoyo	پښتو	ᱥᱟᱱᱛᱟᱲᱤ
tojikī	تۆرکجه	كٲشُر	अवधी
Tok Pisin			

In the rare case you are looking for an unusual language, the language picker helps you to find it for both UI or input.

Language settings

Aa **Display**
Set language used for menus and fonts.

⌨ **Input**
Writing in a different language?

Input settings

Language used for writing

English   español   català   ...

Input methods for English

◯ International Phonetic Alphabet - SIL

◉ **Disable input method** Use a regular keyboard

Disable input method tools

Cancel   **Apply settings**

This changes input language to Spanish

Alternatives for integrating language settings

A

English	⚙

Avañe'ẽ
English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi

...

103 more languages

B

Languages	⚙

Avañe'ẽ
English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi

...

103 more languages

C

Languages

Avañe'ẽ
English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi

...

103 more languages

⚙ Language settings

D

Languages	Aa ⌨

Avañe'ẽ
English
Français
Nederlands
Português
Runa simi

...

103 more languages

Explored possibilities:
- Include an indicator of current language
- Provide link to general language settings or specific display/input settings
- Show it on top or bottom of the list

Testing approach 1 with users

Users make use of the familiar language links to change content language, and are capable to discover the settings.

Example where the user switches to the Greek version of an article and adjustes the UI language to export it to PDF:

```
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibeeZ8T5fMg
```

Approach 2: Provide language settings at top-right and keep interlanguage links

This approach is **not recommended** since it generates confusion to users to have two different language-related selections

Access to language settings
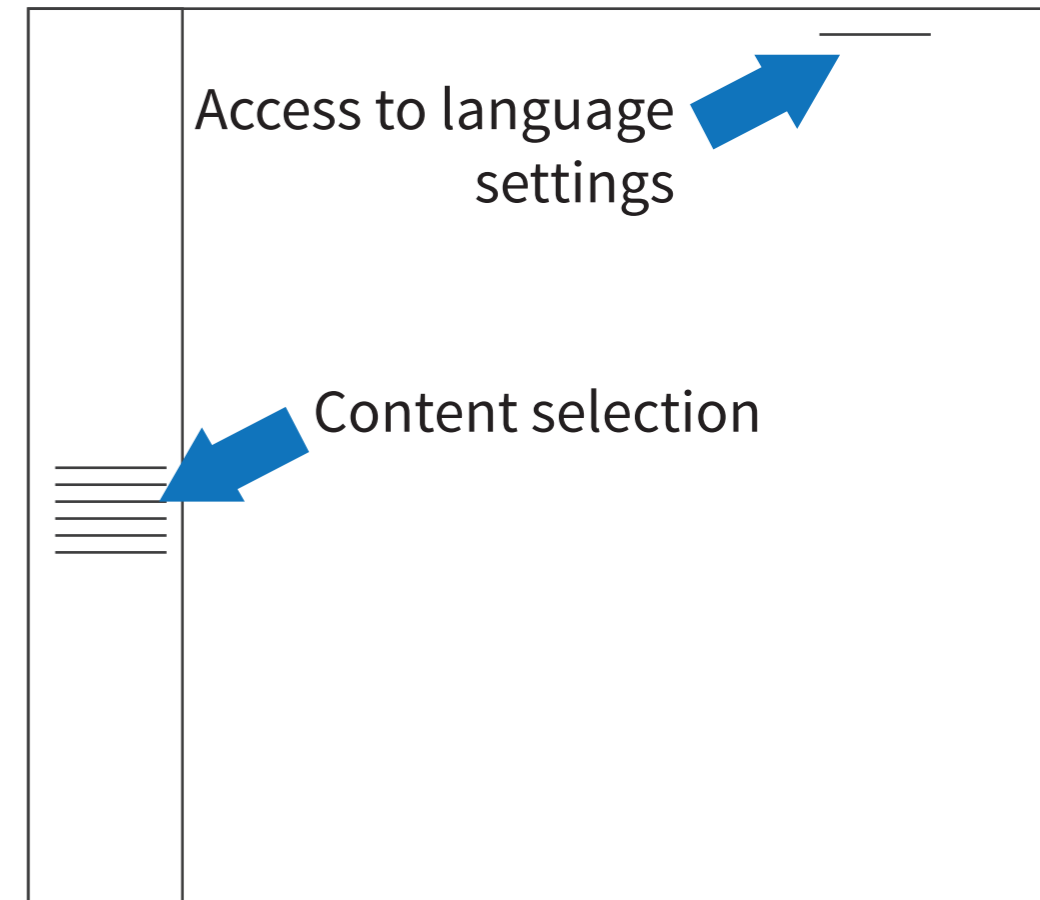
Content selection

Example where the user tries to switch content language but opens the top-right selector and tries to select the content language there without success:

`https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkkz0qXeWxE`

Approach 3: Integrate content and language selection on top

This requires to remove the current interlanguage links, which is problematic in the specific case of Wikipedia but can be considered for Wikidata

Content language selection
(+ access to langage settings)
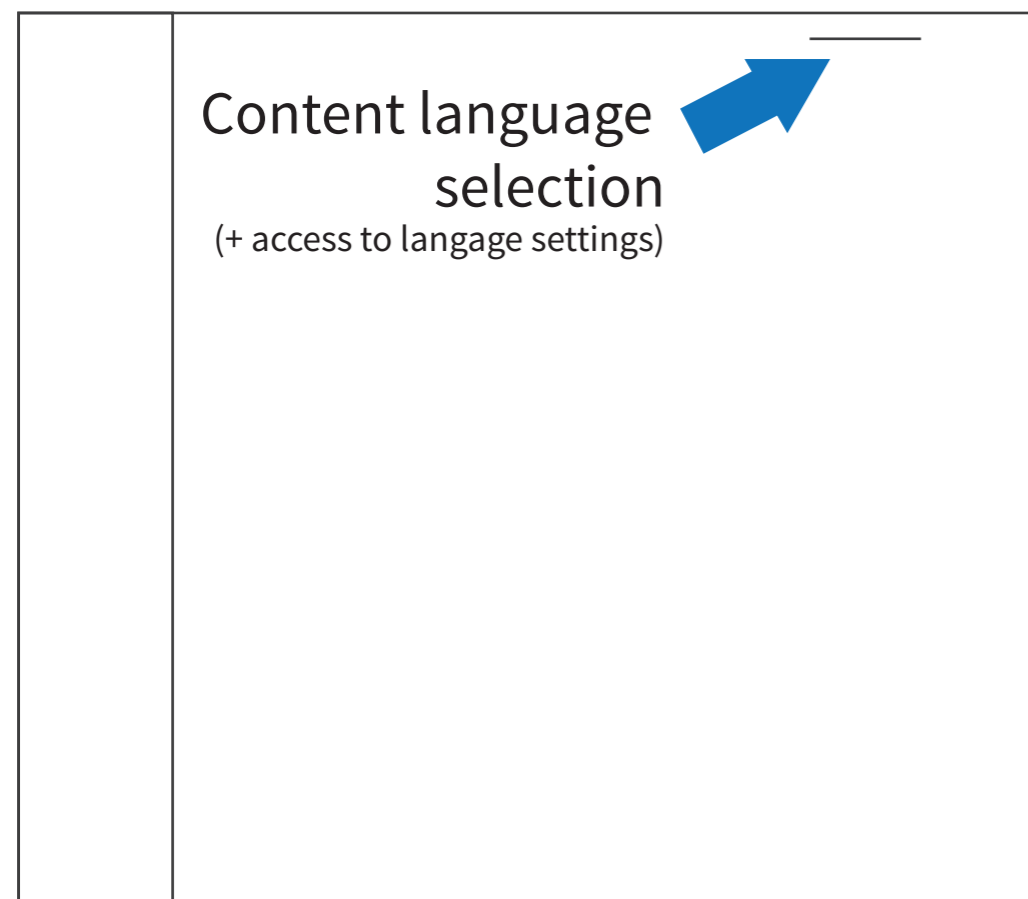
Language selection in Wikidata

Currently there are two language selection mechanisms and there is little difference between UI and content in this case.

Access to language settings

Content language selection

UI
Content

Most of the real content is multilingual

Approach 3: Integrate content and language selection on top

The default selection will set content language, but also UIlanguage (unless the user explicitly selected a UI language)

Aあ English Create account Log in

Read View source View history Search

Select Language

Language search

Common languages

asturianu   euskara
català   galego
English
español

Worldwide

English   Lingua Franca Nova
español   Lojban
Esperanto   Novial
français   português
Ido   Toki Pona

Display settings   Input settings

List of usual
languages

This sets the UI language
to Spanish

Language settings

Display
Set language used for menus and
fonts.

Input
Writing in a different language?

Display settings

Language for display

English   español   català   ...

Font settings

☑ Download font when needed Webfonts will be downloaded for
displaying text in special scripts. More information

Select font for English   System font ⌄
Font used for content

Cancel   Apply settings

Select Language

Language search

Asia

Acèh   Bikol Central   English   o'zbekcha
Bahasa Banjar British English Fiji Hindi   Pangasinan
Bahasa Indonesia Bràhui   Hak-kâ-fa   português
Bahasa Melayu Bân-lâm-gú   Ilokano   Qaraqalpaqsha
Basa Banyumasan Capiceño   Ilonggo   qazaqşa
Basa Jawa   Cebuano   Kapampangan   Santali
Basa Sunda   Chavacano de Zam... Mizo ţawng Tagalog
Baso Minangkabau Dusun Bundu-Iwan Ming-dĕ̤ng-ngṳ̄ tetun

Tiếng Việt   Turoyo   ...
tojiki   ...   ...   afrikan
Tok Pisin   ...   ...   arîel

In the rare case you are looking
for an unusual language, the language
picker helps you to find it
for both UI or input.

This will go to
Wikidata with content
and UI in Esperanto
(the UI may be in a different
language if previously setted by user)

List of usual
languages

Language settings

Display
Set language used for menus and
fonts.

Input
Writing in a different language?

Input settings

Language used for writing

English   español   català   ...

Input methods for English

○ International Phonetic Alphabet - SIL

● Disable input method Use a regular keyboard

Disable input method tools

Cancel   Apply settings

This changes input language
to Spanish

Testing approach 3 with users

Users are able to discover the top-right corner and select the language from the first selector to "see things in language X".
When they need a more advanced feature, can find settings.

Example of one user changing language on commons using the top-right selector to see the description of an image in Dutch:

`https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d84fl3kUTt8`

Language selection as input in Wikidata

When creating new wikidata entries, you need to indicate a language.

Search is not flexible ("español" not appears when searching for "es") and the free-form input makes it unclear whether I need to write the whole language name or not.

Select language ▼   article   [save|cancel]

🔍 |Language search

Common languages

Azərbaycanca   Qaraqalpaqsha   Ťuroyo   贛語
Bân-lâm-gú   Qırımtatarca   Uyghurche   日本語
Bráhuí   Qazaqşa   Vepsän kel' 한국어
English   Santali

Worldwide

English   Lingua Franca Nova
español   Lojban
Esperanto   Novial

A compact version of the language picker can be used.

Focus is on search bar so the user can start typing and benefit from flexible search (autocompletion, ISO codes, and language names in other languages)

Relevant languages (geo-ip, previous choices, browser config.) are presented on top to anticipate user needs.

español ✕   article   [save|cancel]

Selection can be undone

Further analysis on specific Wikidata needs may be needed to fully cover their usecases.