

حالة لغات الإنترنت

LAPORAN KONDISI BAHASA-BAHASA INTERNET  
GAKLHE LLUNLELLO LLÍN XTILO KA LUE DAN NÉ INTERNET

ইন্টারনেটের ভাষাপরিস্থিতি রিপোর্ট

ÉTAT DES LIEUX DES LANGUES D'INTERNET

**STATE OF THE INTERNET'S LANGUAGES**

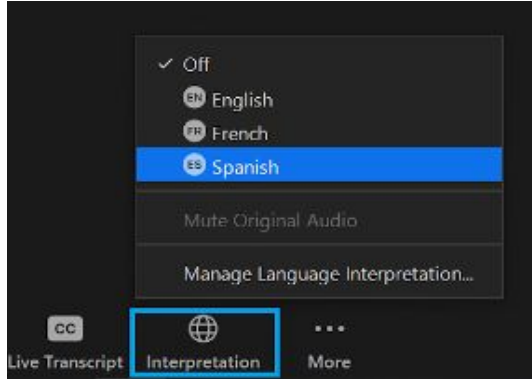
RELATÓRIO DO ESTADO DOS IDIOMAS DA INTERNET  
INFORME SOBRE EL ESTADO DE LAS LENGUAS EN INTERNET

RIPOTI YA LUGHA YA HALI YA MTANDAO

網路語言狀態報告

Report launch  
February 23, 2022

# Interpretation / Interpretación / Interpretação ব্যাখ্যা / ترجمة



- In your meeting controls, click Interpretation.
- Click the language that you would like to hear.
- To only hear the interpreted language, click Mute Original Audio.

- En tu menú de opciones, selecciona el ícono de “interpretation”
- Elige el idioma que quieres escuchar.
- Para escuchar solamente el idioma interpretado, selecciona Mute Original Audio

- Em seus controles de reunião, clique em Interpretação.
- Clique no idioma que você gostaria de ouvir.
- Para ouvir somente o idioma interpretado, clique em Mute Original Audio.

- في قائمة عناصر التحكم، يرجى الضغط على interpretation (الترجمة الفورية)
- يرجى اختيار اللغة التي تود (ين) سماعها.
- للاستماع إلى الترجمة فقط، يرجى الضغط على Mute Original Audio (كتم الصوت الأصلي).

- আপনার সামনের মিটিং কন্ট্রোল প্যানেলে, দয়া করে ইন্টারপ্রেটেশনের ওপর ক্লিক করুন।
- আপনি যে ভাষায় শুনতে ইচ্ছুক, সেই ভাষার ওপর ক্লিক করুন।
- আপনি যদি শুধু অনুবাদিত ভাষা শুনতে ইচ্ছুক হন, তাহলে মূল অডিওটি মিউট বা নিঃশব্দ করে দিন।

**Welcome!**  
**Bem vindes!**  
**¡Bienvenides!**  
أهلا بكم  
স্বাগত

# Love, Respect, Solidarity practices

- **Love**

- Be your fully present multiple selves
- Bring your love of languages (on the internet) into the room/chat box!

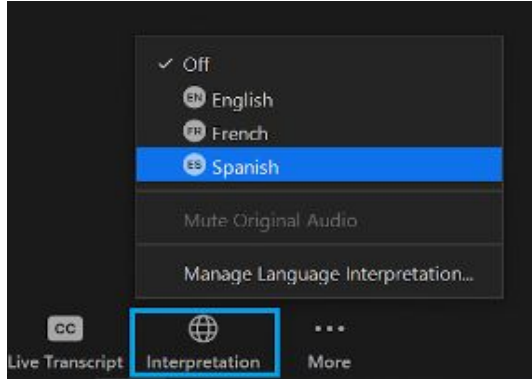
- **Respect**

- Respect yourselves, each other, and time
- Affirm multiple lived experiences (including of language) and diversities of bodies and gender expressions

- **Solidarity**

- Be aware of privilege as we create together...
- Speak slowly and chat clearly so we can understand each other and
- Express solidarity in language and action!

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# Share your thoughts on social media

- **Follow us and tag us!**
  - Twitter: @whoseknowledge
  - Instagram: @whoseknowledge
  - Facebook: WhoseKnowledge
- **Use our hashtags**
  - English: #InternetsLanguages
  - Portuguese: #IdiomasdaInternet
  - Spanish: #LenguasenInternet
  - #DecolonizingTheInternet or #DecolonisingTheInternet
- **We're also live-streaming this event to our YouTube channel (link in the chat!)**

# Who we are



**...and over 100 contributors globally!**

# Why language?

Language is more than a way of communicating...

**We express what we think, believe, and know  
through our languages.**

To be multilingual is to honor and affirm  
the full richness and textures  
of our many selves and our different worlds better.

*This is the language of friendship, the reconciliation of skies  
An ocean of art and knowledge, this world of language  
(Latif Siddiqi, Urdu!)*



# What we asked and aimed for

**With over 7000 (spoken and signed) languages in the world...**

How many can we fully experience online?

What would a truly multilingual internet look, feel and sound like?

- Map the current status of languages on the internet
- Raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities in making the internet more multilingual
- Advance an agenda for action

# What we did

## Stories

- 12 countries
- Every continent
- 13 languages (stories + translations)

## Numbers

- 11 websites
- 12 Android apps, 16 iOS apps
- Google Maps, Wikipedia

## Summary

- Weaving together
- Community review and resource
- Solidarity in action

...and always a work-in-progress!

# What we learned

**The internet is nowhere near as multilingual as we imagine or need it to be.**

Only about 500 of our 7000+ languages are represented online in any form of information or knowledge.

**Most people have to use their nearest European colonial language (English, Spanish, Portuguese, French...) or regionally dominant language (Mandarin Chinese, Arabic...) to access the internet.**

Historical and ongoing structures of power and privilege are intrinsic to the way languages are accessible (or not) online.

# Today's event

- **Stories and Contexts**, going deep into our lived language experiences
- **Numbers and Patterns**, going broad with the patterns we're seeing
- **Calls to Action**, a space to imagine our actions together



**Claudia Pozo**  
BOLIVIA  
(she/her/ella)



**Anasuya Sengupta**  
INDIA/UK  
(she/her)



**Adele Vrana**  
BRAZIL/USA  
(she/her/ela)



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মুকুন্দ

**[internetslanguages.org](https://internetslanguages.org)**

**Welcome!**  
**Bem vindes!**  
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স্বাগত

# Stories and Contexts





**Ana Alonso Ortiz**  
MÉXICO  
(she/her/ella)



**Ishan Chakraborty**  
INDIA  
(he/him)

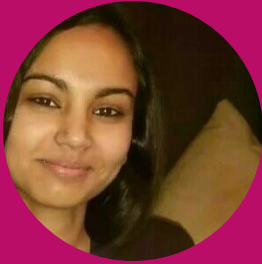


**Claudia Soria**  
ITALIA  
(she/her)



**Josia Paska Darmawan**  
INDONESIA  
(they/them)

# Numbers and Patterns



**Puthiya Purayil Sneha**  
INDIA  
(she/her)



**Martin Dittus**  
UK / GERMANY  
(he/him)



**Mandana  
Seyfeddinipur**  
IRAN / GERMANY  
(she/her)



**Hillary Juma**  
KENYA / UK  
(she/her)

# How many are affected by digital language exclusion?

**More than 7,000 languages are in use today.**

Yet, **digital platforms don't reflect this language diversity.**

As we heard today, many of us cannot use our preferred languages to access websites and apps.

**How many people are affected by this digital exclusion, on the basis of their language?**

Hanapin sa Google

Google खोजी

Penelusuran Google

„Google“ paieška

Google Find

Resers Google

יותר מזל משכל

# A platform survey: languages on major sites & apps

We present the first ever survey of the **interface languages** (written text forms) supported by digital platforms.

Our focus: popular websites and mobile apps for **knowledge access, language learning, and communication**. We reviewed 11 websites, 12 Android apps, and 16 iOS apps.

We asked:

*Is the interface for this website or app available in different languages?*

*Which ones?*



## We find: highly unequal language support

Interface language support is often limited to particular languages:

- Certain **European** (en, fr, es, pt) and certain **Asian** languages (Mandarin Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean) are **very widely supported**
- However, **thousands of languages are not supported at all**, including languages of the Global South spoken by hundreds of millions

Some platforms do better than others:

- **Wikipedia, Google Search, Facebook** support more than 100 languages
- Among messaging apps: **Signal Messenger** supports 50-70 languages
- **They are the exception:** many others only support around 10-30

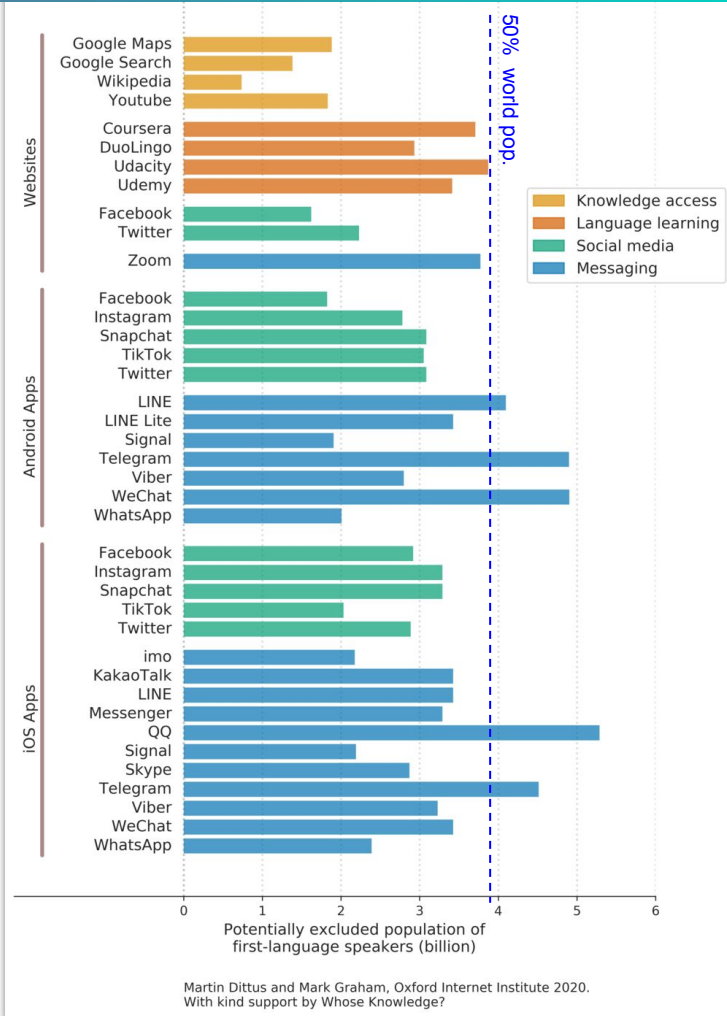
# How many people are excluded?

Unfortunately, data about language *literacy* is scarce. Ethnologue has estimates of *oral* language populations.

We add up: how many people are potentially unable to access a platform if a certain language is not supported?

We find potential **digital exclusion of billions of people** on the basis of their language preference.

We estimate that at least 3-5 billion people cannot use their preferred language in order to access these widely used websites and apps.

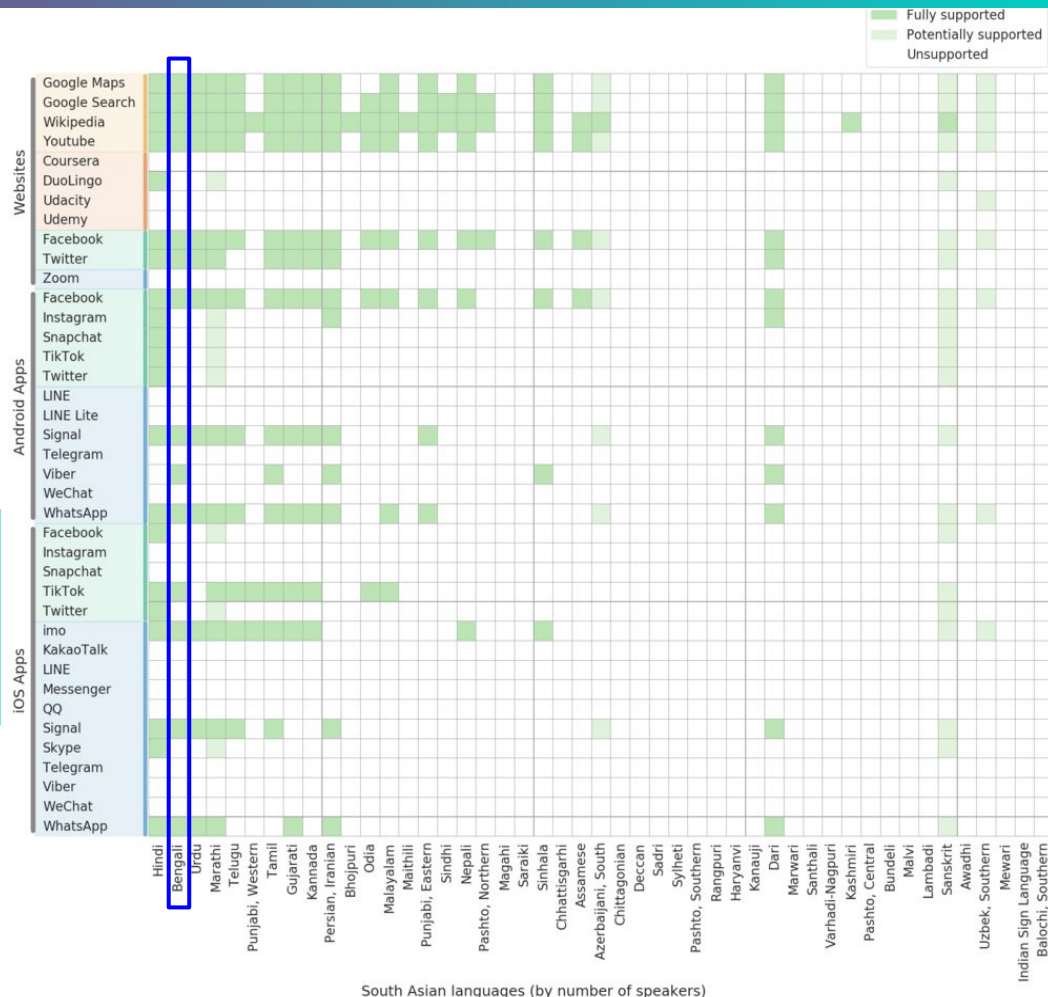


# South Asian languages



**Only half of the platforms offer interface support for *any* South Asian language.**

Hindi and Bengali, spoken by hundreds of millions of people, are not as widely supported as we might expect.



South Asian languages (by number of speakers)





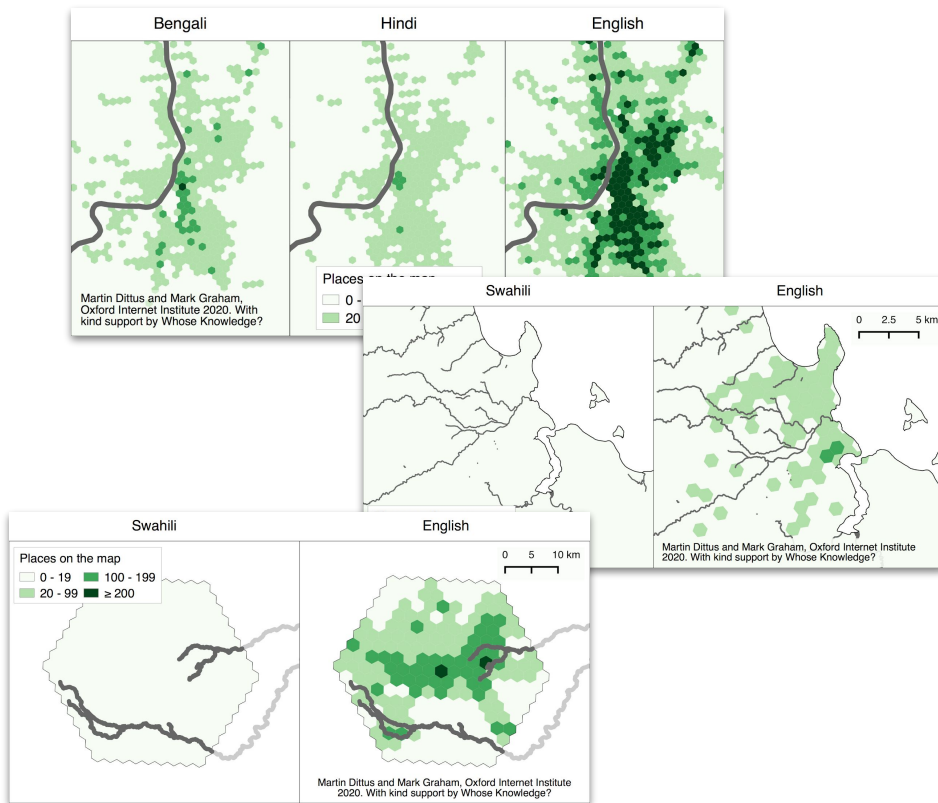
# Does Google Maps show the world in your language?

Can everyone use Google Maps to navigate the world in their own language?

We ran millions of searches to find out. Again, we find **significant gaps**.

For example, on the map for **Kolkata** (India) we find many English-language results but less in Hindi and Bengali – yet all three languages are spoken there.

On the maps of **Dar es Salaam** (Tanzania) and **Nairobi** (Kenya) we find few results in Swahili, but many in English.



## In closing...

**Many, many more examples** in the report!

The platform survey is available as a free and open data set.

**We want to reset expectations.** It's not enough for a platform to add support for one or two more languages. The vast gap might require fundamentally different approaches.

Most of all, **we look forward to shared creative approaches** to explore these issues!

# Calls to Action

**What's the 1 action you'd most like to see  
for a multilingual internet?**

**Qual é a ação que você mais gostaria de ver  
para uma internet multilíngue?**

**¿Cuál es la acción que más te gustaría ver  
para una internet multilingüe?**

# Closing

**What is one emotion or feeling you are leaving  
this launch with?**

**Com qual emoção ou sentimento você está  
saindo desse lançamento?**

**¿Cuál es una emoción o sentimiento con el que  
te vas de este evento?**

# Share your thoughts on social media

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- **We'll be sharing recordings of this event in different languages later on our YouTube channel and websites**



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**Thanks!**

ধন্যবাদ

**Gracias!**

أهلاً بكم

**Obrigada!**