Cross-wiki content propagation

Help small wikis grow by translating new sections on mobile and desktop

Problem statement

Millions of speakers of less supported languages have limited access to knowledge. They have access to **few articles with little coverage**.

Translation has helped medium and large wikis, but had limited effect on small wikis so far.

Goal

Provide a fluent and engaging way to expand knowledge anytime by translating.

Approach

Increase content coverage on small wikis by facilitating translation as a way to expand articles with new sections.

Increase the number of translators by supporting their activities on both desktop and mobile.

Mobile support enables to translate when it was not possible before.

Article sections seem a convenient translation unit to transfer and manipulate

Bengali
Malayalam
Tagalog
Javanese

400 Million native
speakers

$\longrightarrow$

Less than 100K
Wikipedia articles

Audience

Our core audience is composed by new and experienced multilingual editors of small Wikipedias, on different devices.

Eko
New editor

Adi
Casual editor

Pal
Experienced editor

These are proto-personas based on our own hypotheses and previous research in different contexts. Specific research is needed to confirm these, and detail further. See https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Personas_for_product_development

Eko, the new editor

Discover translation while reading. Eko looks for information about towers and finds that the Javanese "Menara" article is incomplete compared to the English "Tower" version. She wants to expand the article and finds an easy way to translate the History section into Javanese.

Find interesting sections to expand. Happy after translating her first section, she looks for other topics in the architecture field that she can help expand. She can easily find interesting options, check what is currently missing and translate the missing parts based on either the English or the Indonesian version.
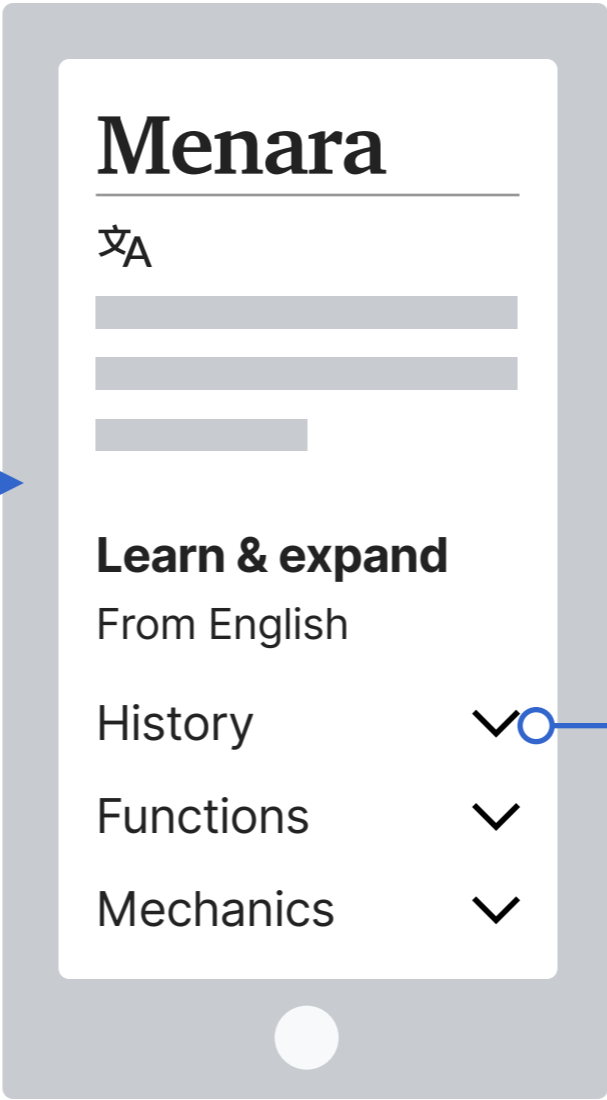
Speaks Javanese, Indonesian, and English.

Lives in Jakarta.

Architecture student.

Often reads Wikipedia on mobile but has not contributed yet.

Discover translation while reading

Tower
文A

History

Functions

Menara
文A

Learn & expand
From English

History ⌄

Functions ⌄

Mechanics ⌄

Menara
文A

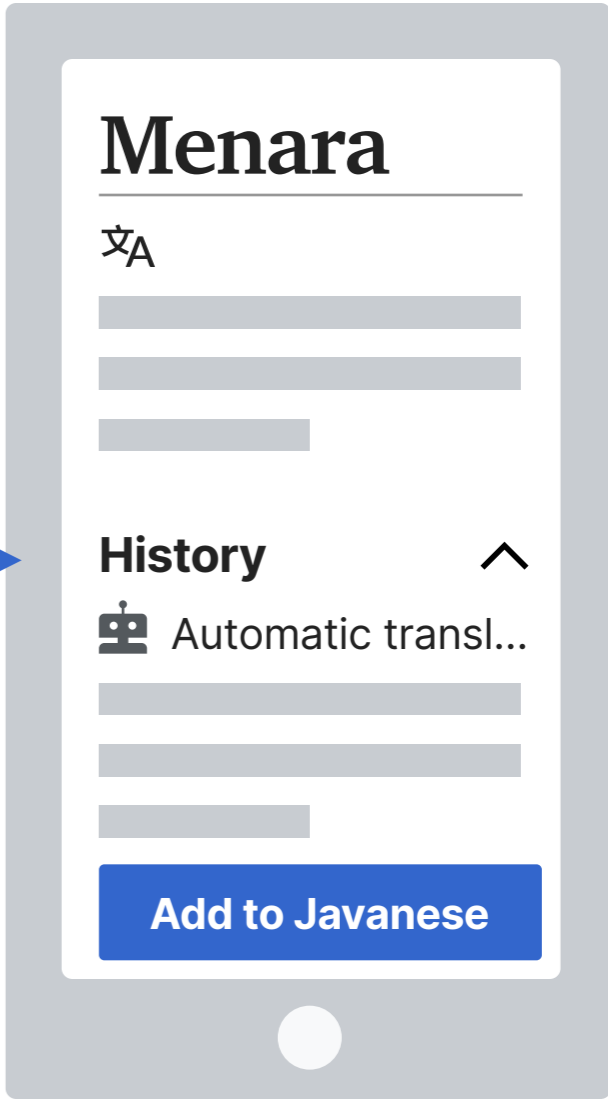**History** ⌃
🤖 Automatic transl...

Add to Javanese
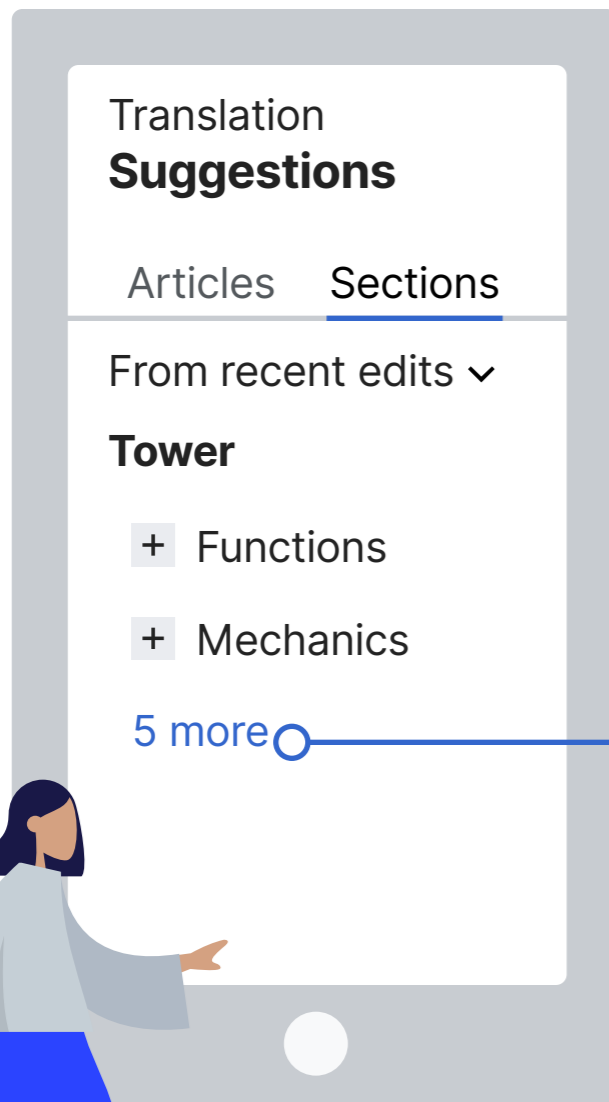
Eko
New editor
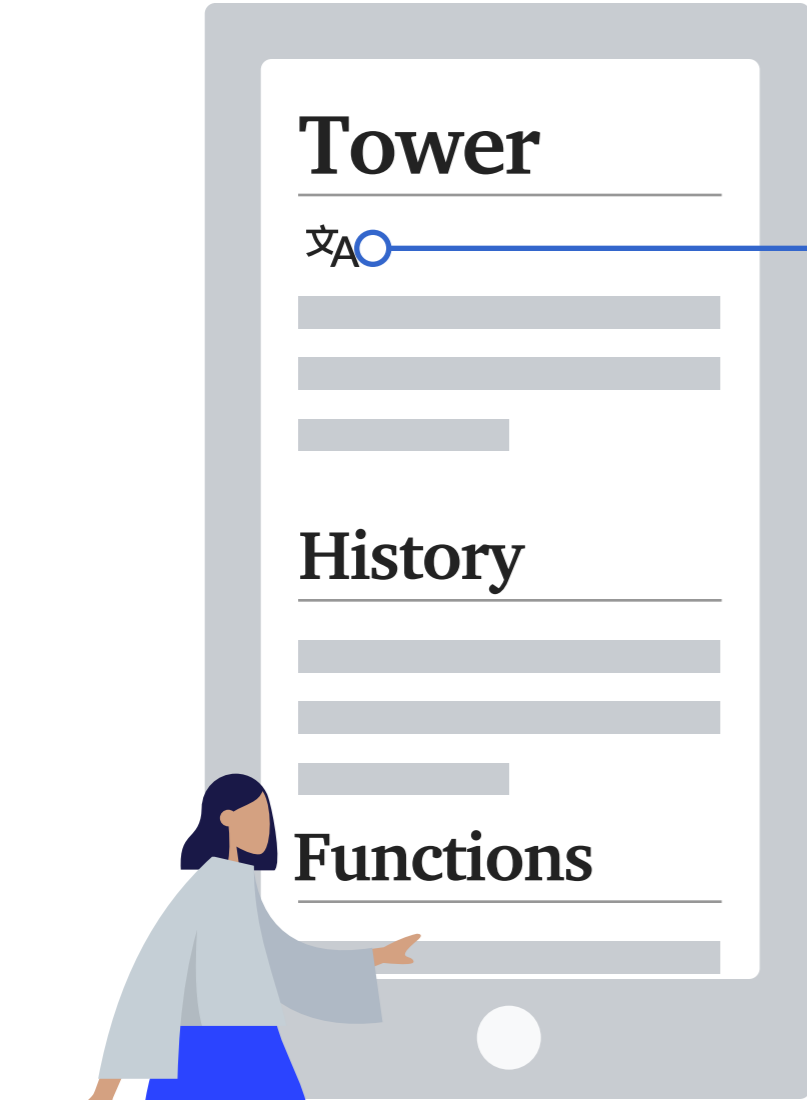
Reads English version.
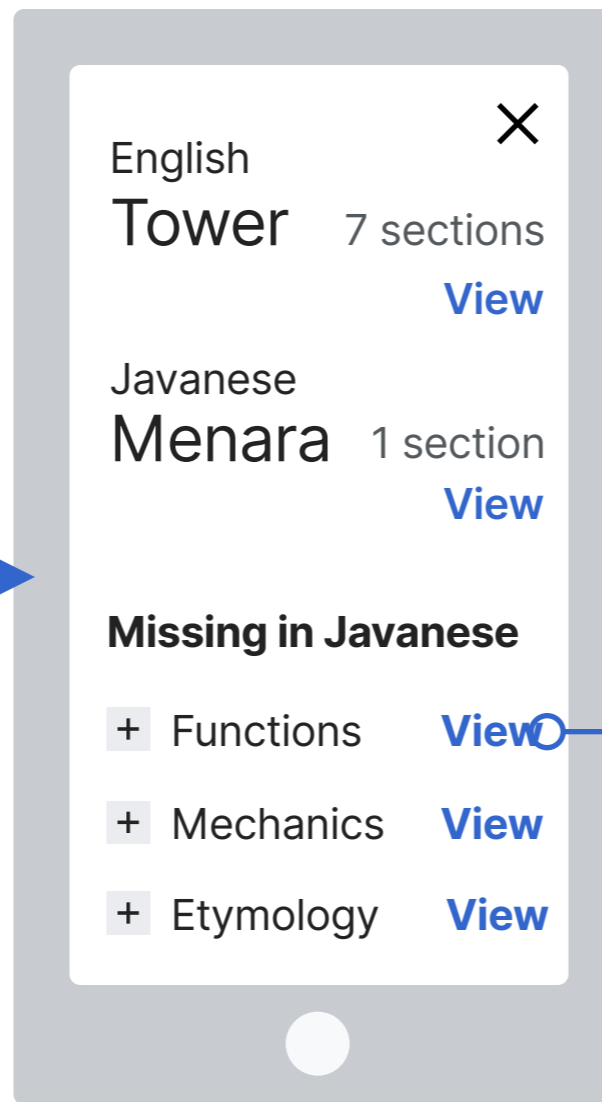
Explores sections to expand the brief Javanese article.

Reads the automatic translaiton and starts a new translation.

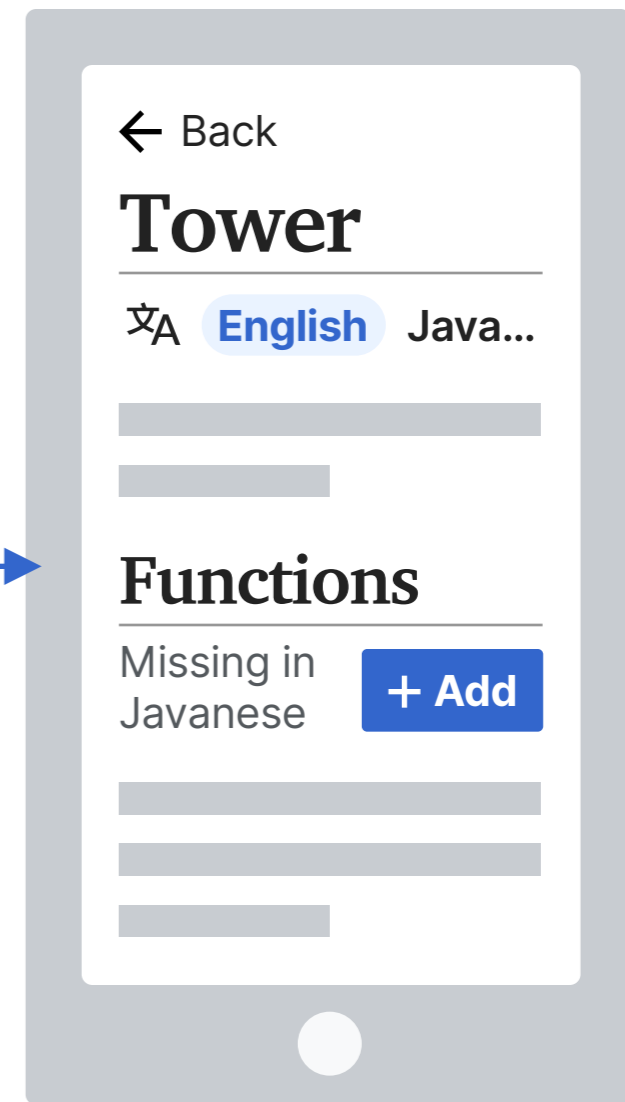# Find interesting sections to expand

Translation
Suggestions

Articles   **Sections**

From recent edits ⌄

Tower

＋ Functions

＋ Mechanics

5 more

✕

English
Tower   7 sections

View

Javanese
Menara   1 section

View

Missing in Javanese

＋ Functions   **View**

＋ Mechanics   **View**

＋ Etymology   **View**

← Back

Tower

🅰 **English**   Java...

Functions

Missing in Javanese   **＋ Add**

Finds relevant suggestions

Explores missing sections.

Checks content in different languages to find what's worth translating.

Eko
New editor

Adi, the casual editor

Speaks Malayalam and English.

Lives in Alappuzha.

Musician.

Contributes on music-related articles from time to time, using mobile and desktop.

Expanding a stub. Adi is editing the Ukulele article in Malayalam, which is a very short one. He can easily identify missing sections that are available in English and translate them to expand the Malayalam version.

Continue a previous contribution. Adi started an article in English a few months back about the Tanpura, a musical instrument. Now he discovers that a new section was recently added to the English version that is missing in Malayalam. After translating the section, he easily finds another missing section, and he is motivated to continue expanding the article.

Expanding a stub
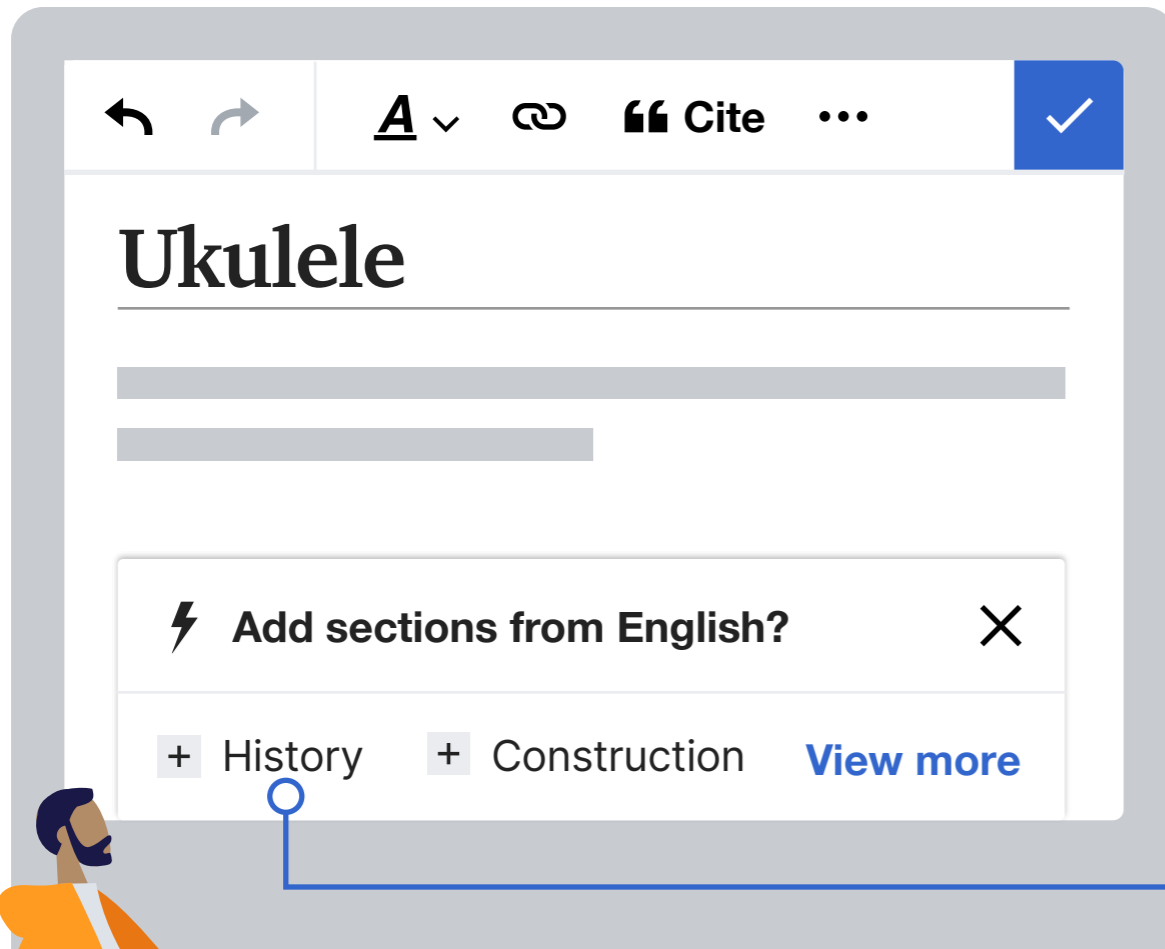
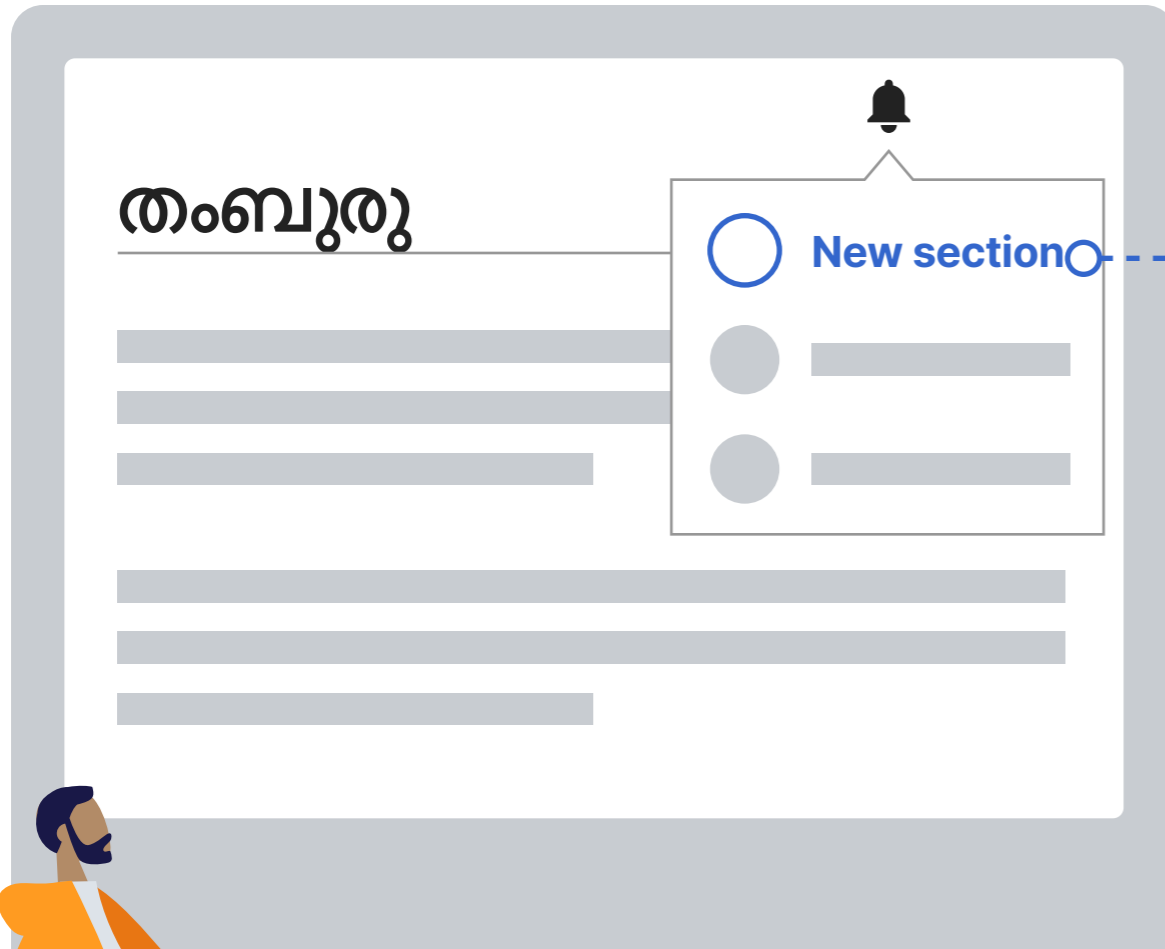Finds missing sections to add by translating as an alterntive.
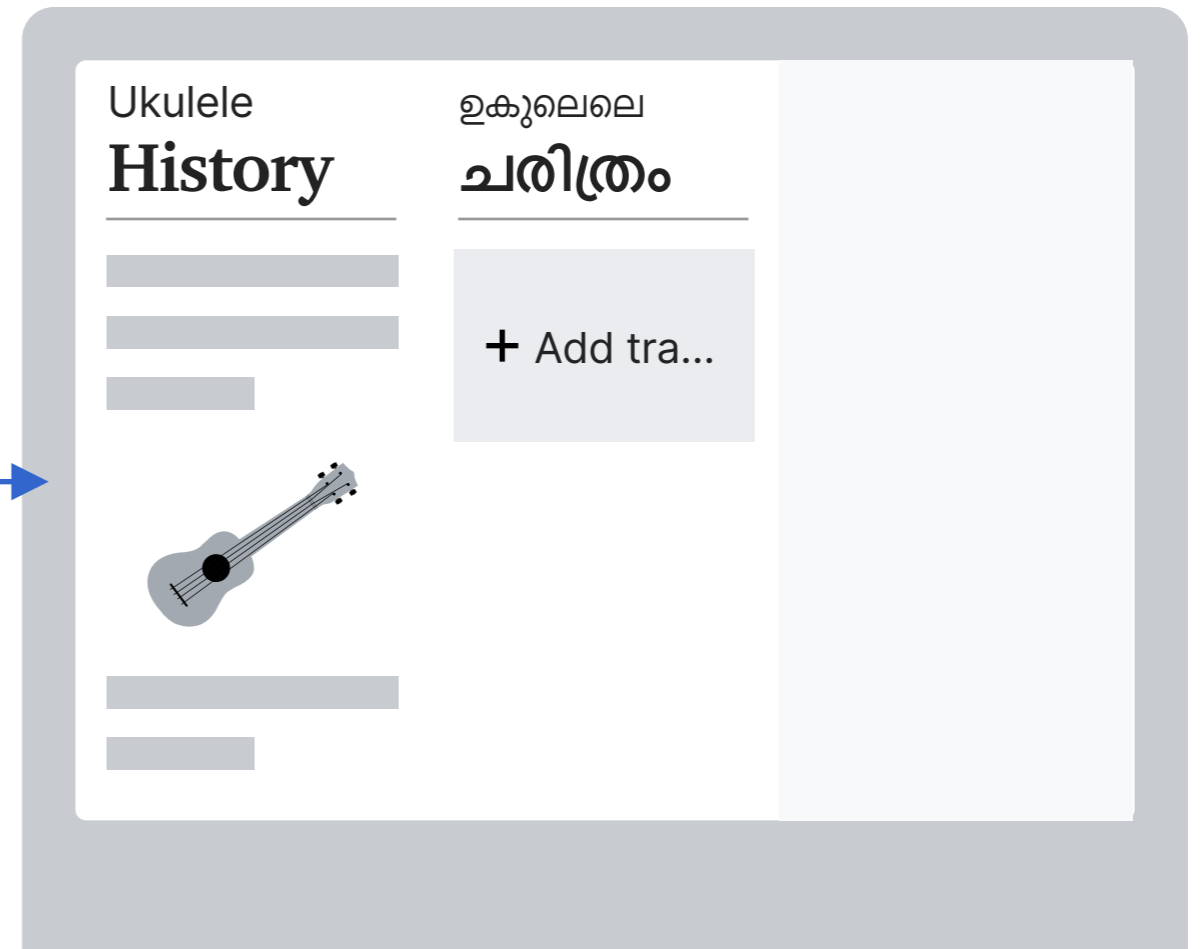
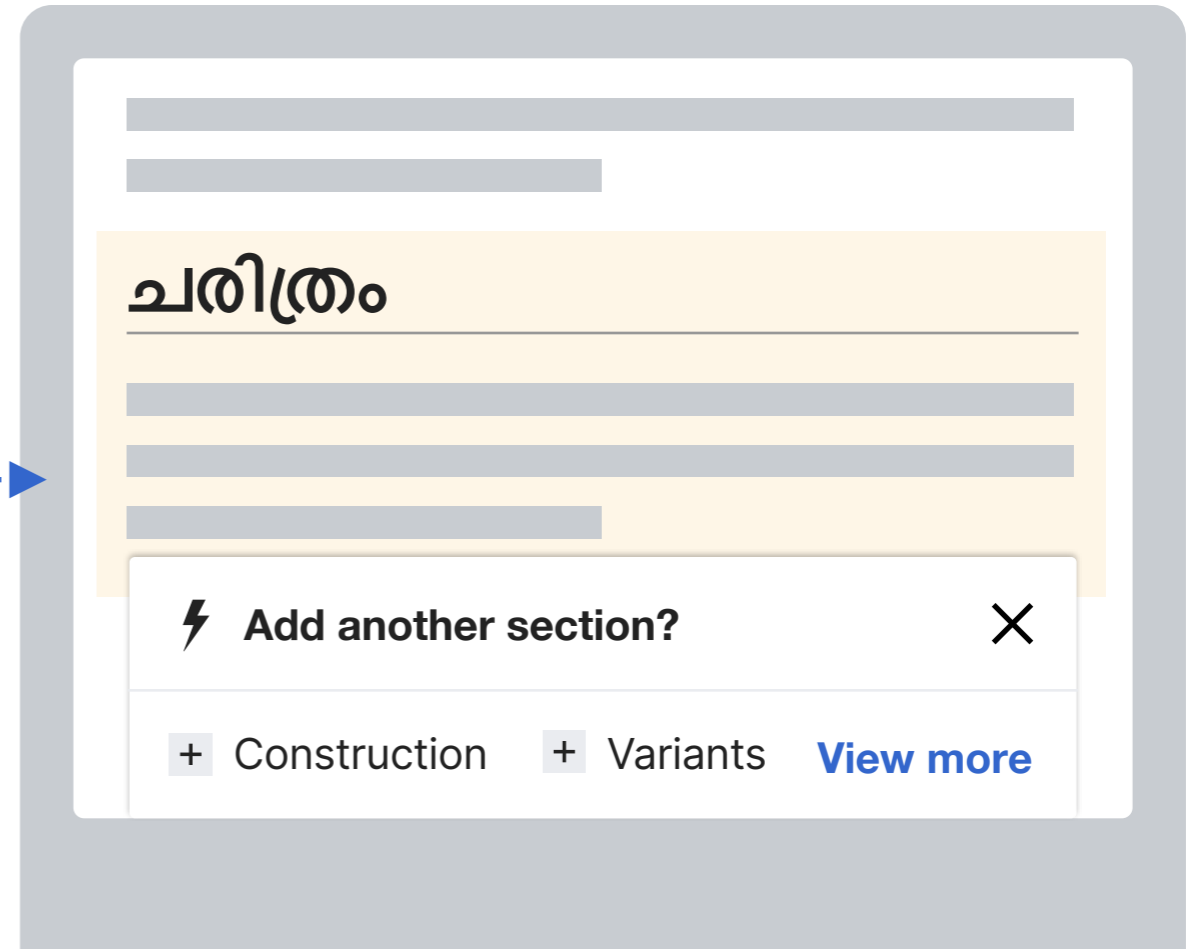Content translation is used on desktop to translate a single section in the usual way

Adi
Casual editor

Continue a previous contribution

Notification shows that a new section was added to a relevant article.

After completing the translation, options to translate the next section surface.
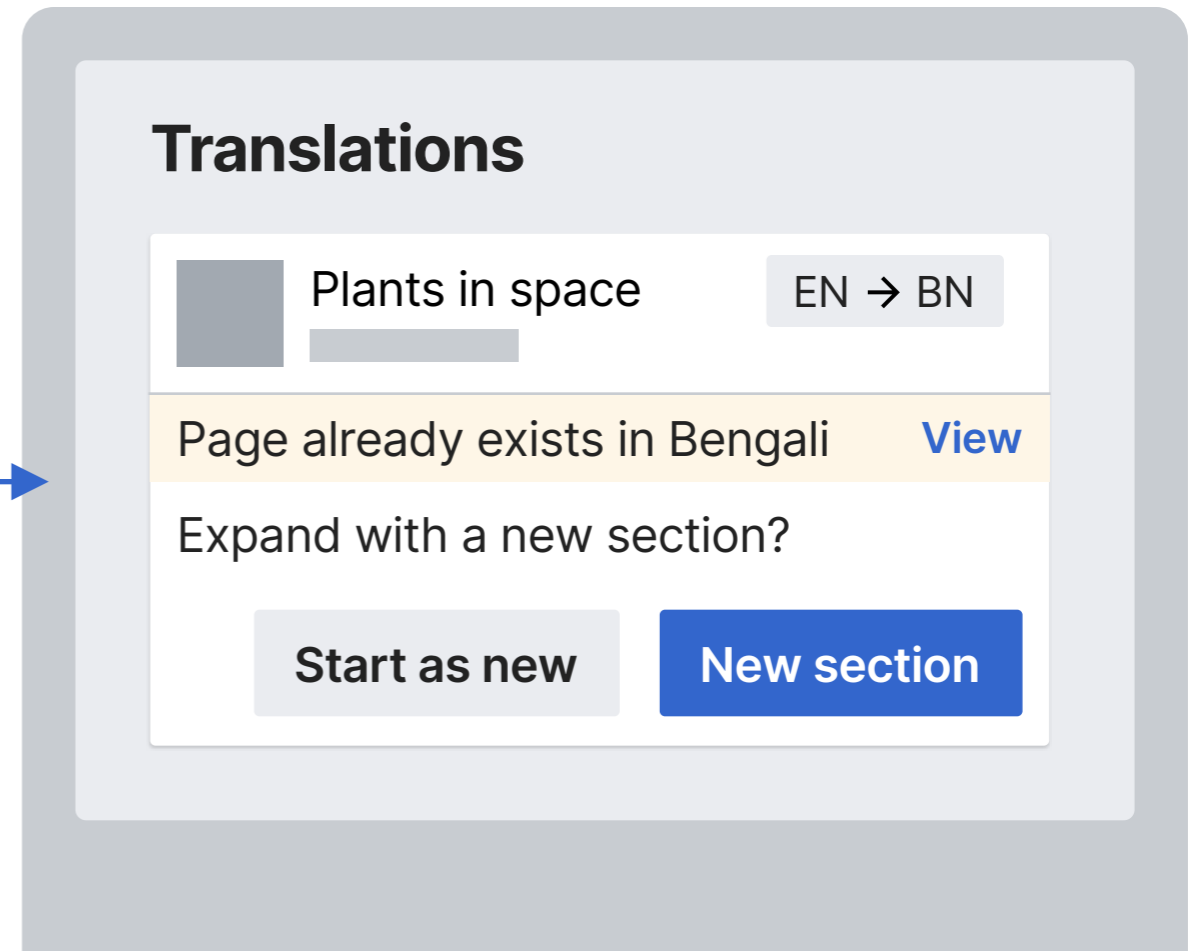
Pal, the expert editor

Expand a specific article. Pal, after reading the news on a recent space mission, looks for the plants in space article in Bengali to expand it with the new discoveries. She is able to easily transfer the relevant information including references, and review that the translation is accurate and reads natural, makign further edits to polish the final result.

Start a new article on the go. Pal is in her commmunte when she finds that an article on the Jupiter's moon "Io" is missing in Bengali. Despite not being a frequent mobile contributor, she is able to translate the lead section of the article to make an initial contribution. Later at home, she expands the initial article created by translating a few new sections.
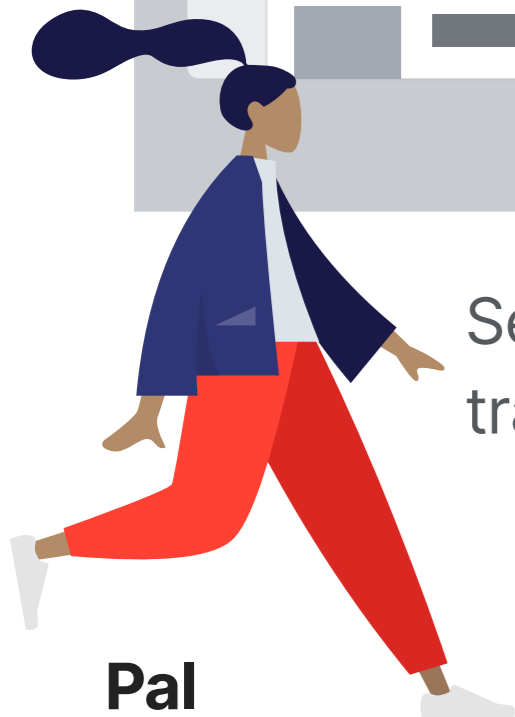
Speaks Bengali and English.

Lives in Philadelphia.

Scientist.

Contributes regularly to scientific topics, mainly on desktop.

Expand a specific article

Translations

🔍 |Search a page to translate   EN

Suggestions

Translations

▢ Plants in space   EN → BN

Page already exists in Bengali   View

Expand with a new section?

Start as new   New section
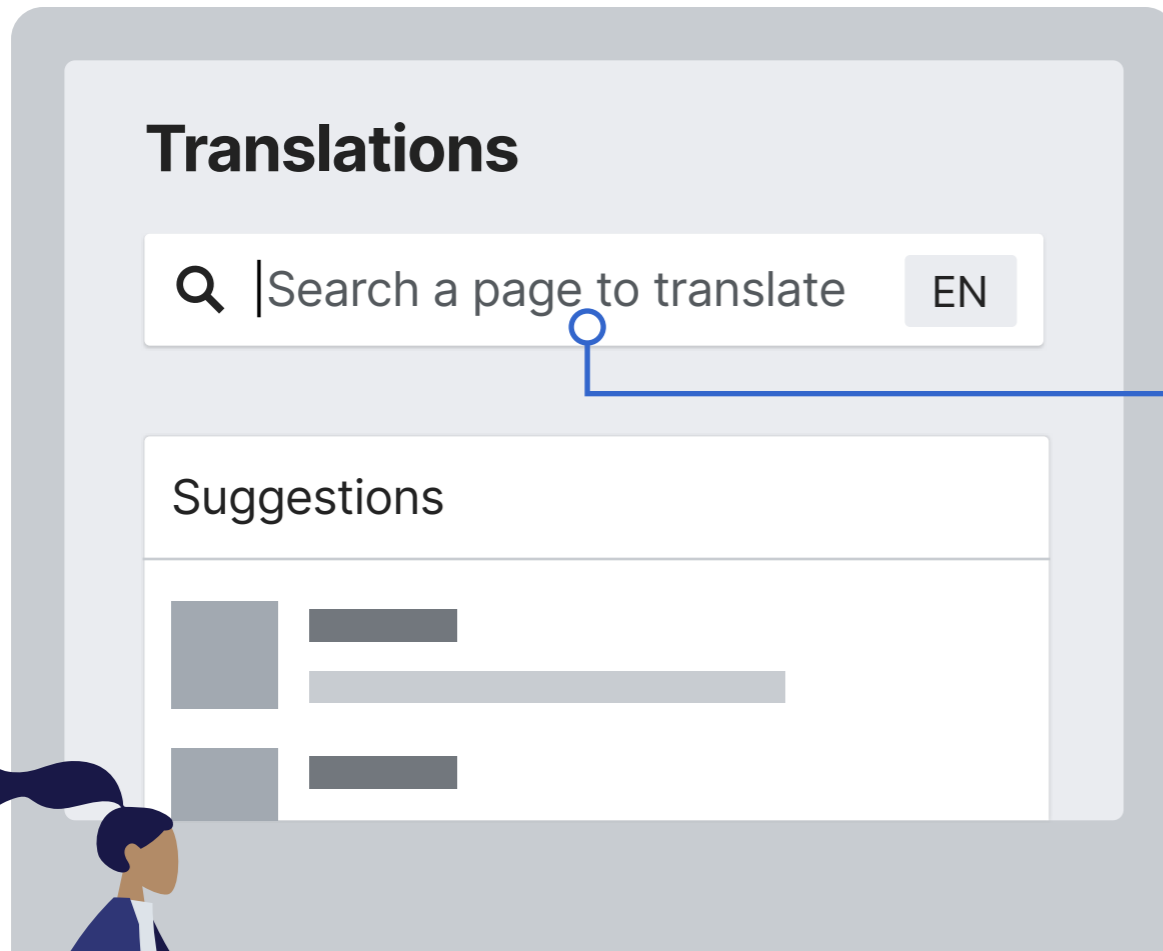
Searches for a page on the translaiton dashboard

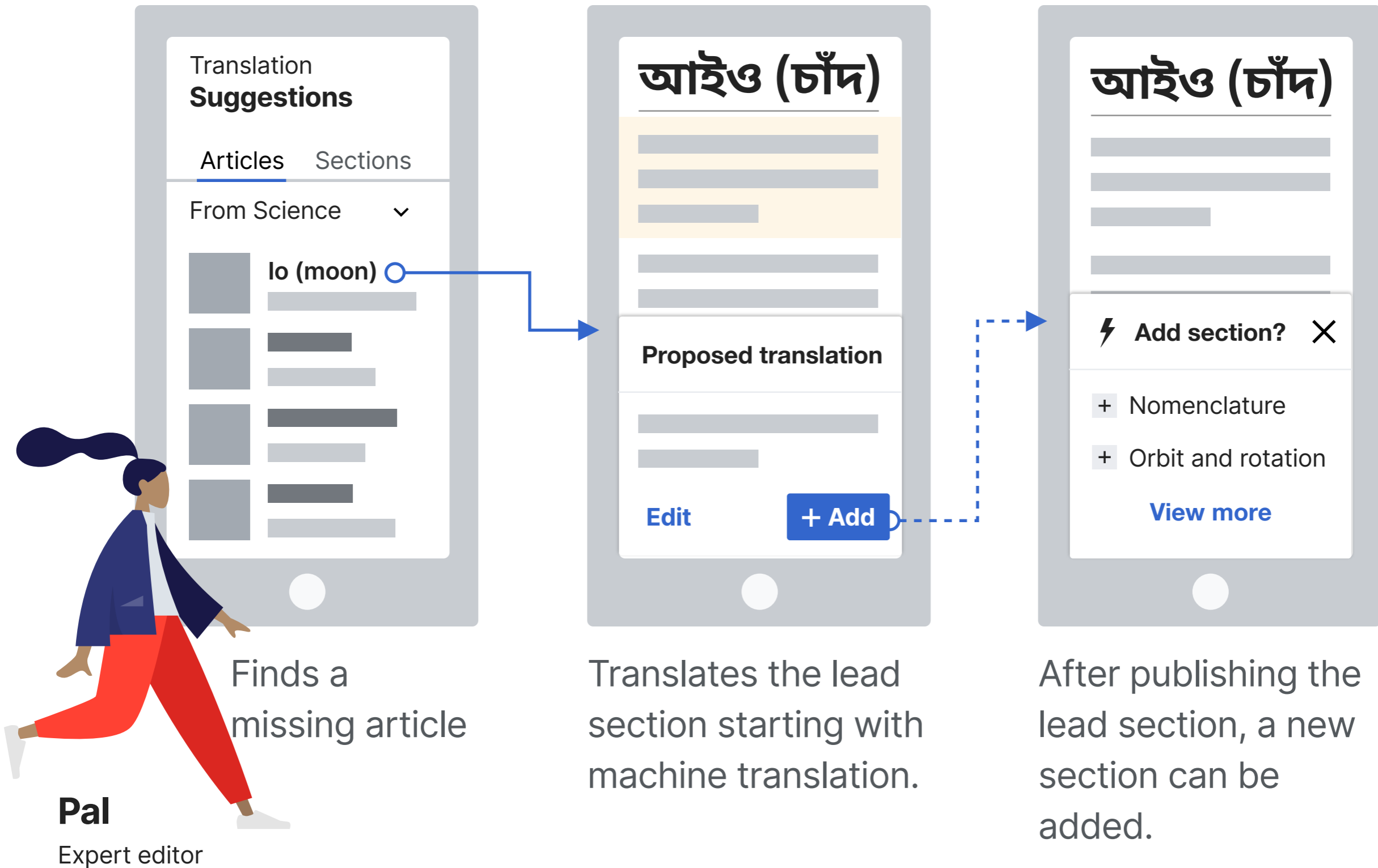Since the page exists, options to expand it with new sections are provided.

Pal
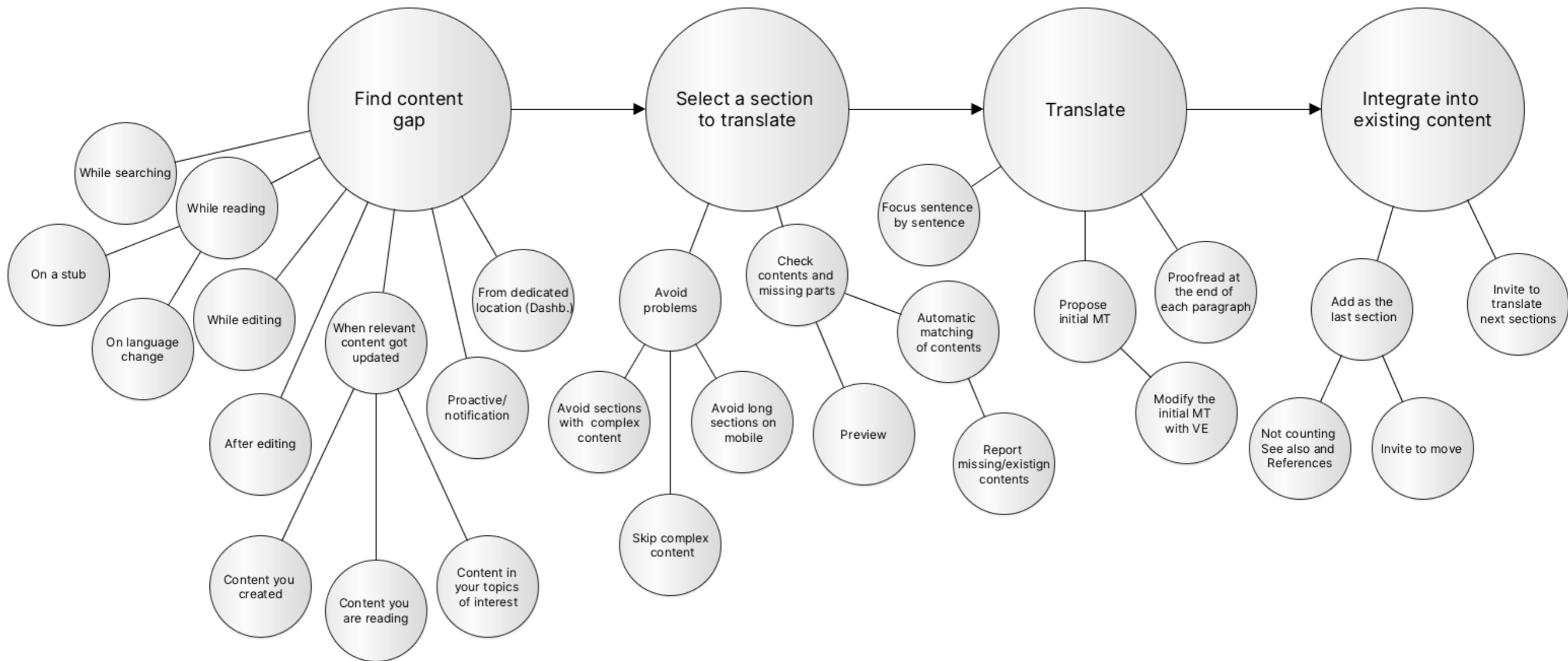Expert editor

Start a new article on the go

Translation
Suggestions

Articles   Sections

From Science ⌄

Io (moon) ○

আইও (চাঁদ)

Proposed translation

Edit   **+ Add**

আইও (চাঁদ)

⚡ **Add section?** ✕

+ Nomenclature

+ Orbit and rotation

View more

Finds a missing article

Translates the lead section starting with machine translation.

After publishing the lead section, a new section can be added.

Pal
Expert editor

Exploration (to be continued…)

Board with research, open questions, and design
ideas to explore at https://trello.com/b/vjGjm9NJ