

English

Select a language

Input settings
Writing in a different language?
Display settings
Customize the language of menus and fonts



User recordings have been edited from this version to allow public sharing.



Search by language name, count

- Asia
- Azərbaycanca
- Bân-lâm-gú
- Български
- Бельга-Валон
- Борзентин
- Курдî
- Kurdî
- Ming-dê-jî-pî-thî
- Mizo ꯀꯂꯀꯇ
- Авар
- Бурман
- Нарингал
- Кыргызтатарчала
- ЧӀаӀаӀа
- ГӀалгӀай
- Адыгъабзэ
- Перем Коми
- Кыаран-Мастыр
- Қазақша (Қазақстан)



Main Page
Welcome
Community portal
Village pump

Participate
Upload file
Recent changes
Latest files
Random file
Help
Contact us
Donate

Toolbox

English Read in Nederlands, Català, Galego and 250+ other languages

Select content language

Language search

Asia

- Azərbaycanca
- Bân-lâm-gú
- Bráhuí
- English**
- Hak-ká-fa
- Konknni
- Kurdî
- Kurdî (latîni)
- Ming-dê-jî-pî-thî
- Mizo ꯀꯂꯀꯇ
- O'zbek
- Qaraqalpaqsha
- Qırımtatarca (Latin)
- Qazaqşa (latin)
- Santali
- Tatarça
- Tojikî
- Tiếng Việt
- Türkçe
- Türkmençe

- Turoyo
- Uyghurche
- Vepsän kel'
- Vahcuengh
- Yup'ik
- zza

- 贛語
- 贛語(簡體)
- 贛語(繁體)
- 湘語
- 日本語
- 한국어
- 한국어 (조선)
- 文言
- 吴语
- 粵語

- 中文
- 中文(新加坡)
- 中文(中国大陆)
- 中文(香港)
- 中文(繁體)
- 中文(台灣)
- 中文(简体)

زۆن
بلوچی مکرانی
بختاری
مِنگلی

Saxa тыла

Tatarça



and 65 other languages

Universal Language Selector

Ten facts about its use

English

(LANGUAGE LIST)

assembly (AIA 304) of NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO). This is a region of the spectrum. For example, similar image [here](#).

Introduction

This presentation summarizes the testing process for the Universal Language Selector prototypes

- **Logistics.** What, when and by whom were prototypes tested.
- **Lessons learned.** What worked, what not, and the solutions applied or proposed.

The testing process

On May 21 we presented the ULS designs to the community

- 17 Users were initially interested in participating
- 16 Were contacted for participation
- 10 Tests were finally performed

Users background in Wikimedia projects:

- 2 content consumers
- 8 content contributors (and consumers)
- 2 WMF employers (for pilot tests)

The testing process

Users spoke from 2 to 5 languages including Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, Gujarati, English, Hebrew, Dutch, French, German, Catalan, Spanish, Italian, Nepali, and Esperanto.

5

Hindi
speakers

From India, USA,
UK, and Nepal

4

Dutch
speakers

From Netherlands

1

Hebrew
speaker

From Israel

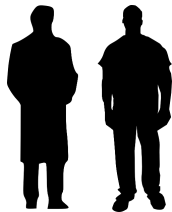
1

Catalan
speaker

From Spain

One also spoke
Esperanto

The testing process



May

June

2 users
for pilot tests

5 - 6 May

4 users
for 1st round

25 May - 4 Jun

6 users
for 2nd round

11 - 22 Jun

Update designs based on feedback

The prototypes

Interactive prototypes were elaborated to test the following:

- Content language change. [View prototype](#)
- Input method change. [View prototype](#)
- UI language change. [View prototype](#)
- Edit context support. [View prototype](#)
- Language-specific versions for Dutch, Hindi, and Hebrew
- Adaptation to different locations: inter-language and top-right.

YouEye was used initially but due to compatibility issues, the screen sharing capabilities of Google Hangouts were used instead.

The prototypes

Tests were based on the user profiles we defined earlier in the project.



George

Architect from Georgia.

- Georgian is his only language.
- Reads content from his tablet.
- He is not aware of language tools.



Nambi

Nurse from Paraguay.

- Native Guaraní speaker, also speaks Spanish.
- Contributes content in Guaraní from her laptop.



Rakha

Musician from India visiting Belgium.

- Speaks Tamil and has a little notion of English.
- Searches and reads content from a desktop computer at the hotel.



Lev

Professor from Israel.

- Speaks Hebrew and Russian, and studies Old Aramaic
- Makes extensive use of language tools and contributes content.

Related documents:

- Test scenario definition. [View](#)
- User scenarios solved with the ULS design. [View](#)

The results

Observations are organized according to the different aspects of the designs:

ULS = Language picker + settings + integration

- **Language picker.** How can the user find a language between more than 400 options?
- **Settings.** How can the user change Content, Input and UI languages?
- **Integration.** At which placement works the ULS better?

1 Language picker

Languages and navigation aids

Select a language

Display settings
Set language of menus and fonts.

Input settings
Writing in a different language?

Worldwide America Europe Middle East Africa Asia Oceania

Asia

Azərbaycanca	Qaraqalpaqsha	Turoyo	贛語贛语(简体)	中文中文
Bân-lâm-gú	Qırımtatarca	Uyghurche	贛語(繁體)	中文(中国大陆)
Bráhuí	Qazaqşa	Vepsän kel'	湘語	中文(香港)
English	Santali	Vahcuengh	日本語	中文(繁體)
Hak-kâ-fa	Tatarça	Yup'ikzza	한국어	中文(台灣)
Konknni	Tojikī		한국어 (조선)	中文(简体)
Kurdî	Tiéng		文言	
Ming-dêng-ngū	Viêt		吴语	
Mizo ṭawng	Türkçe		粵語	
O'zbek	Türkmençe			
Авар	ҚазақшаҚ	Саха тыла	زۇن	بختیاری
Буряад	Адыгэбзэ	Татарча/Tatarça	بلوچی مکرانی	گیلیکی

Languages

English

Avañe'ë

English

Français

Nederlands

Português

Runa simi

...

103 more languages

English

Log in

3 Integration in the page

2 Settings

Display and input options

Language settings

Display settings

Display
Set the language of menus and fonts.

Input
Writing in a different language?

Language used for menus

English Español Avañe'ë

Font settings

Download fonts automatically when needed. Web fonts will be downloaded when text in special scripts is displayed. [More information](#)

Set your preferred fonts to use

Font for English
Used for content and menus

Font for Hindi
Used for input
[Change input language](#)

Cancel Apply changes

Language settings

Input settings

Language used for menus

English Español Avañe'ë

Input methods supported for English

Phonetic input. Type words as they sound. [More information](#)

Transliteration. Use keyboard shortcuts to generate the desired characters. When available, a virtual keyboard will show the keyboard mapping. [More information](#)

Disabled. Text is displayed according to system defined settings. [More information](#)

Cancel Apply changes

Language picker

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia language picker interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links. The main area is titled "Select a language" and features a world map with "Asia" and "Oceania" highlighted. Below the map is a search bar and a list of languages under the "Asia" category. Annotations with blue arrows point to the "Map", "Search", and "Short list of languages" elements.

Short list of languages

- English
- Avañe'ë
- English
- Français
- Nederlands
- Português
- Runa simi
- 103 more languages

Map

Search

Languages by script type and region

Asia				
Azərbaycanca	Qaraqalpaqsha	Ṭuroyo	贛語贛语(简体)	中文中文
Bân-lâm-gú	Qırımtatarca	Uyghurche	贛語(繁體)	中文(中国大陆)
Bráhuí	Qazaqşa	Vepsän kel'	湘語	中文(香港)
English	Santali	Vahcuengh	日本語	中文(繁體)
Hak-kâ-fa	Tatarça	Yup'ikzza	한국어	中文(台灣)
Konknni	Tojikī		한국어 (조선)	中文(简体)
Kurdî	Tiếng		文言	
Mìng-dĕng-ngṳ̄	Việt		吴語	
Mizo ṭawng	Türkçe		粵語	
O'zbek	Türkmençe			
Авар	ҚазақшаҚ	Саха тыла	زُون	بختیاری
Буряад	Адыгэбзэ	Татарча/Tatarça	بلوچی مکرانی	گیلکی

Alarm clock Telefunken ca. 1995, Design

This component can be used in any context that requires language selection (in the same way that a Date or Color picker are context-independent).

Fact #1: Short lists work better than long ones

When a short list with few options is presented, it is noticed and used by the user.

If the language is not in the list, the user knows how to access the rest of languages.

By optimizing the options presented to the user, time to select a language is dramatically reduced.

Language used for input

English

Español

Avañe'ë

...

Input methods supported for English

Print/export

Languages

English

Avañe'ë

English

Français

Nederlands

Português

Runa simi

...

103 more languages

3 Other works

4 Personal life

5 See also

6 References

7 External links

Career



Fact #2: Layout and grouping help the user

Grouping languages by region and script help when scanning the list.

Division in 10-item chunks communicates the alphabetical order correctly.

The screenshot shows the 'Select content language' page on Wikimedia Commons. The page is titled 'Select content language' and includes a search bar and various settings. The main content is a list of languages, grouped by region (Asia). The list is divided into three columns, each containing 10 items. A yellow box highlights the 'Asia' group, and arrows indicate the vertical scrolling of the list. The page also includes a search bar, display settings, and input settings.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Azerbaycanca	O'zbek	Turoyo
Bân-lâm-gú	Qaraqalpaqsha	Uyghurche
Bráhuí	Qırımtatarca (Latin)	Vepsän kel'
English	Qazaqşa (Latin)	Vahcuengh
Hak-ká-fá	Santali	Yup'ik
Konknni	Tatarça	ᱥᱟᱱᱛᱟᱲ
Kurdí	Tojikí	ᱥᱟᱱᱛᱟᱲ
Kurdí (latín)	Tiêng Viêt	ᱥᱟᱱᱛᱟᱲ
Ming-dêh-jî-gú	Türkçe	ᱥᱟᱱᱛᱟᱲ
Mizo ᱠᱤᱨᱫᱟᱹᱜᱟᱲ	Türkmençe	ᱥᱟᱱᱛᱟᱲ

Users were able to discard big groups of languages based on their grouping.

It was important to preserve vertical scrolling and avoid long reading jumps.

Fact #3: Search, Search, and Search

Users preferred to search most of the time as the first option for looking up a language.

The more flexible search is, the better.

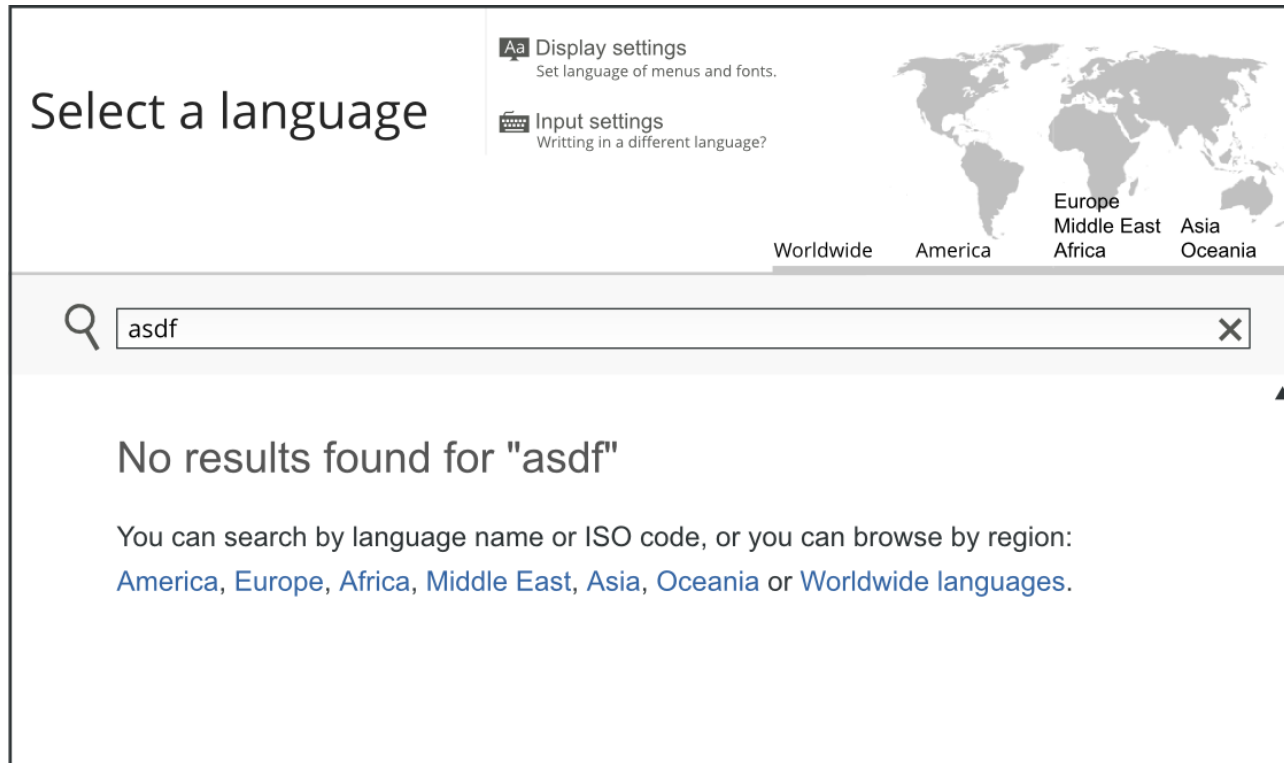
Map and browsing were first options for some users



User making several attempts for searching before using the map. 32 seconds

Users try different search terms before using the map or exploring the list.

Fact #3: Search, Search, and Search



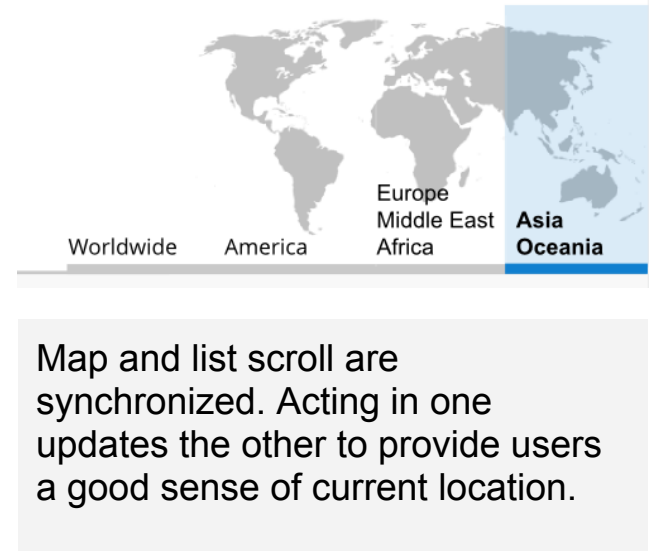
The screenshot shows a user interface for selecting a language. At the top left, it says "Select a language". To the right, there are two settings sections: "Display settings" (Set language of menus and fonts.) and "Input settings" (Writing in a different language?). Below these is a world map with regional labels: Worldwide, America, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. A search bar contains the text "asdf" and has a magnifying glass icon on the left and a close button (X) on the right. Below the search bar, a message reads: "No results found for 'asdf'". Underneath this message, it says: "You can search by language name or ISO code, or you can browse by region: [America](#), [Europe](#), [Africa](#), [Middle East](#), [Asia](#), [Oceania](#) or [Worldwide](#) languages."

A "no results found" message was added to make the user aware of any typo in the search and provide alternative mechanisms for search.

Fact #4: A small map is enough

A 4-region map was enough as an index for the list of languages.

A special "Worldwide" region was added to include constructed languages such as Esperanto.
Esperanto speaker confirmed location.

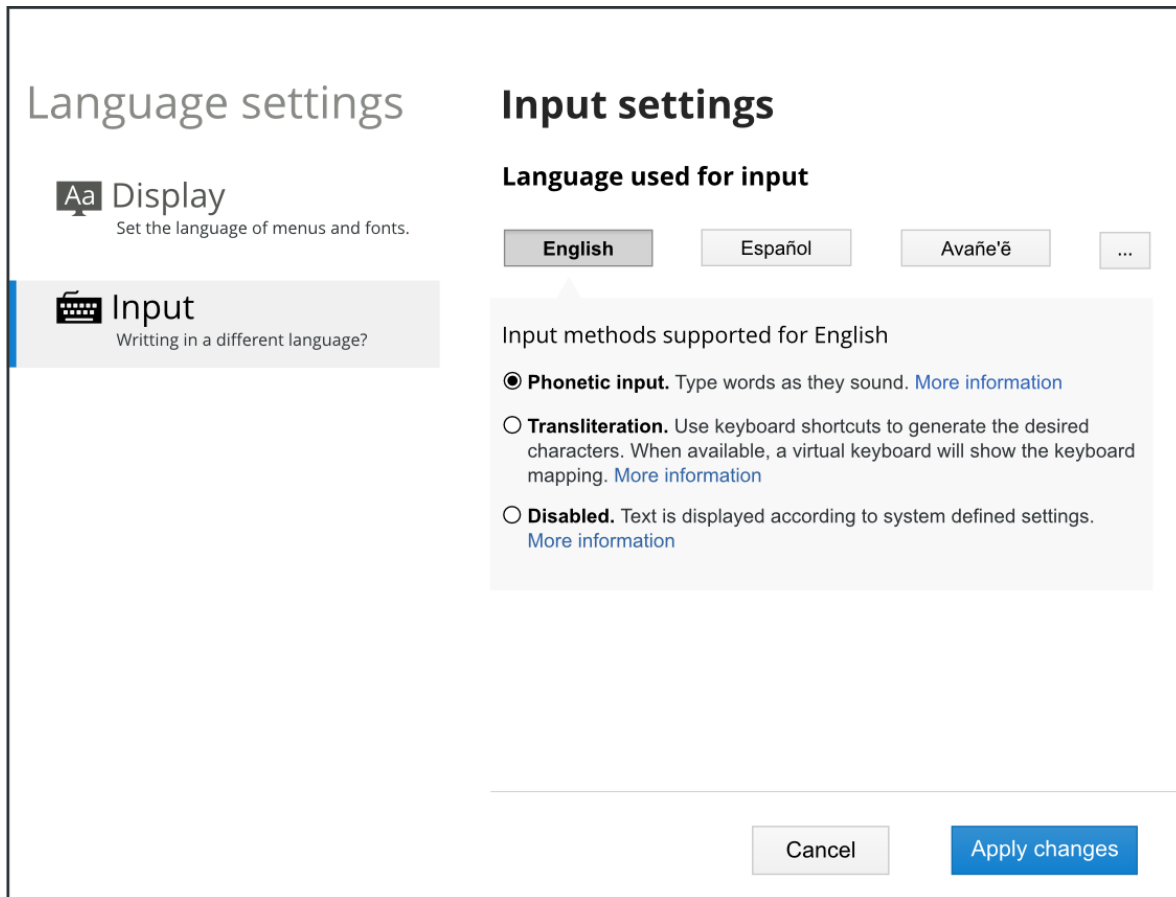


World languages were also added to the Worldwide region for quick access.

Change Input language

Users were asked to modify an article to include content with some characters in Ancient Greek.

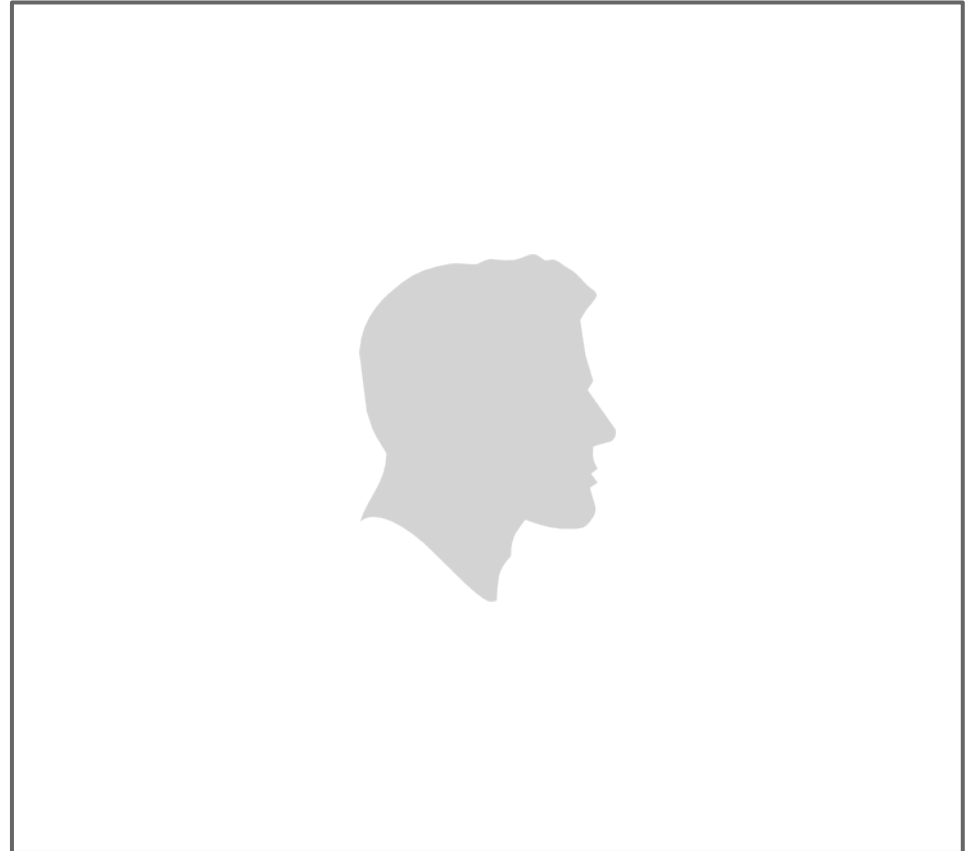
For illustration purposes, two input methods were associated with English in this example. Languages lacking input methods, will not show this part of the UI.



Fact #5: Setting sections can be difficult to distinguish

It was not clear for some users whether they were changing input or display settings.

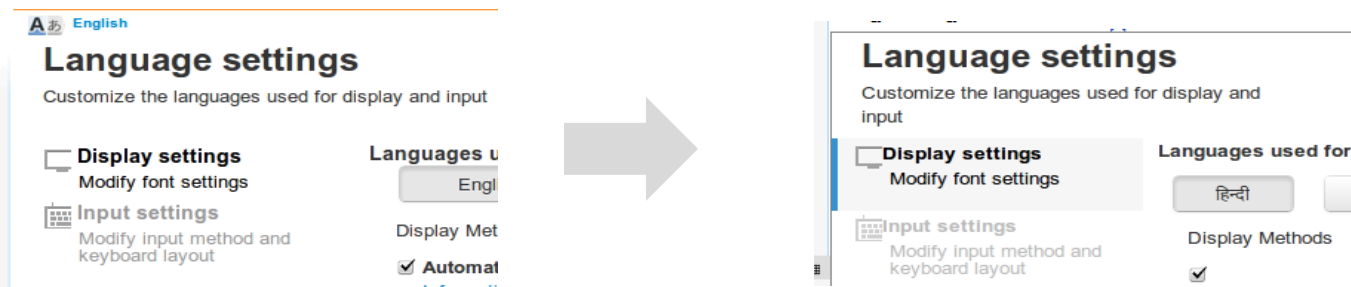
The language buttons attracted the user attention more than the setting sections menu.



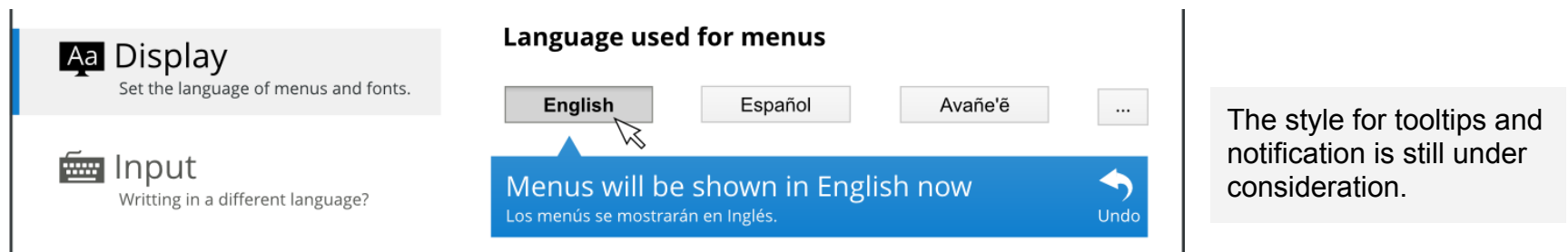
User do not realizes he is at display settings instead of input settings. 31 seconds

Fact #5: Setting sections can be difficult to distinguish

We made current selection more prominent and the problem was solved in the second round of tests:

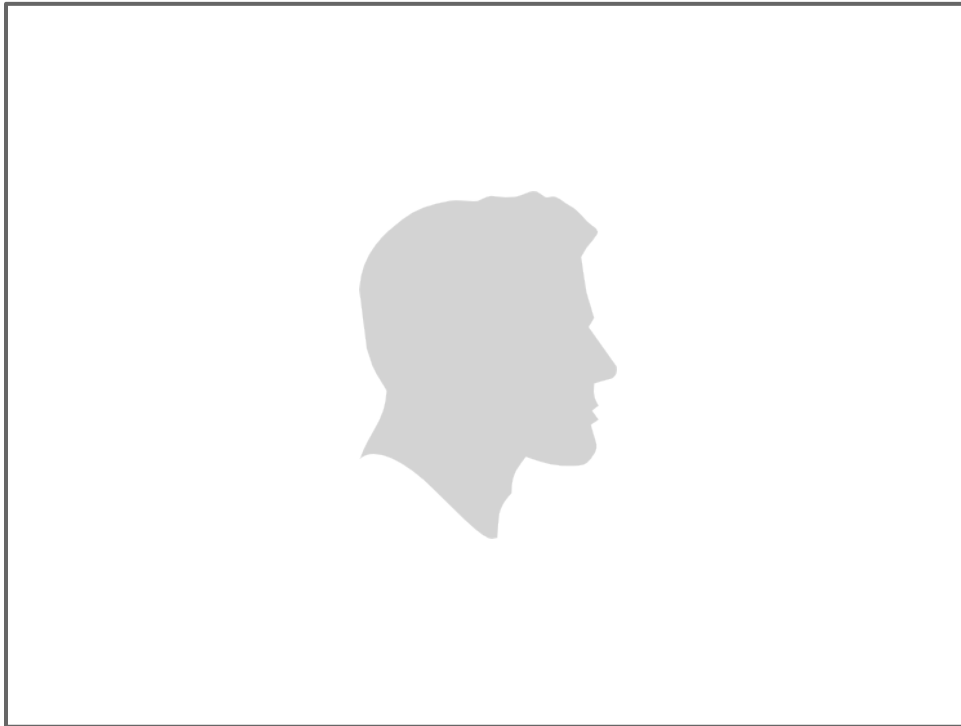


More changes are defined in the specification such as providing feedback on language change:



Fact #6: Input settings are expected to be closer to input

Users expect to find input-related settings closer to the text area. For example, at the Special Character section.



User unable to find input settings to write in a different language. 41 seconds



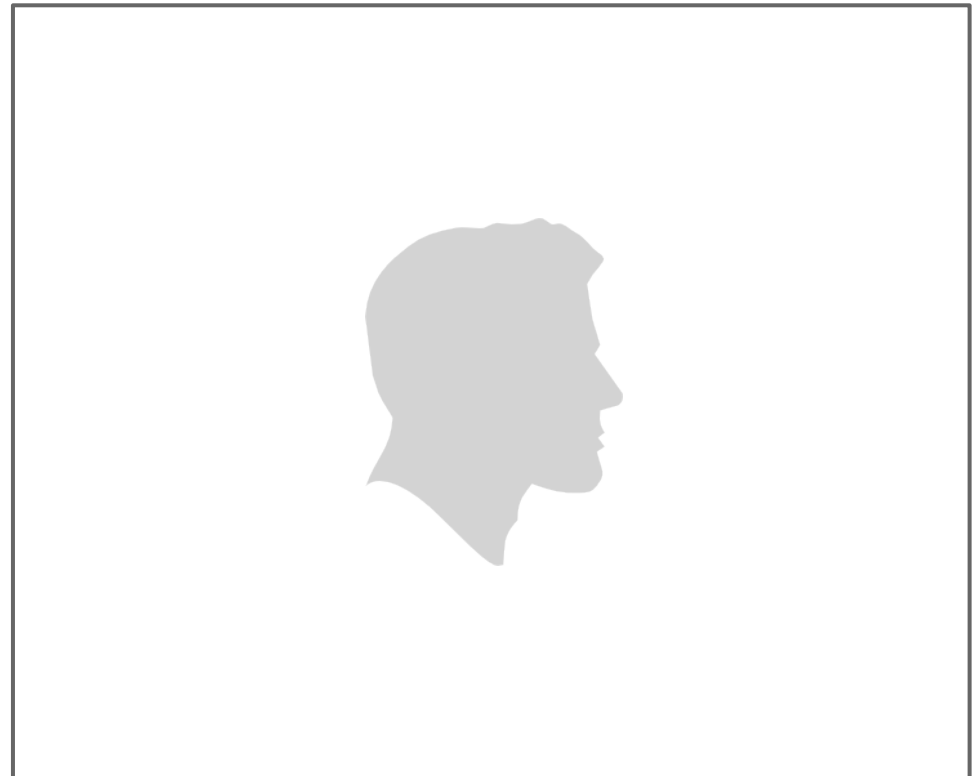
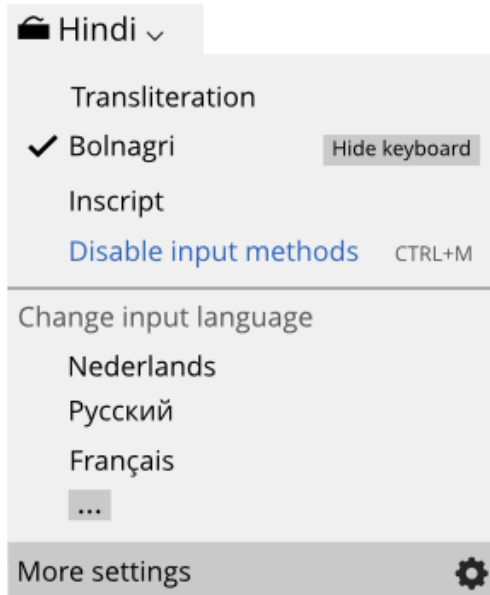
Top-right location works slightly better since it is associated with settings more easily.

35 seconds

Fact #6: Input settings are expected to be closer to input

A contextual menu was designed to be placed closer to edit areas.

dipiscing elit. Aenean id purus.
er id, placerat ac, ante.
 eget sem.



User manipulating the edit context adaptation prototype.
25 seconds

Change UI language

Users were asked to print the Greek version of an article for a friend. To locate the "export to PDF" link, UI language change was needed.

The screenshot shows a settings dialog box with two main sections: "Language settings" and "Display settings".

Language settings

- Display** (Aa icon): Set the language of menus and fonts. This option is currently selected.
- Input** (Keyboard icon): Writing in a different language?

Display settings

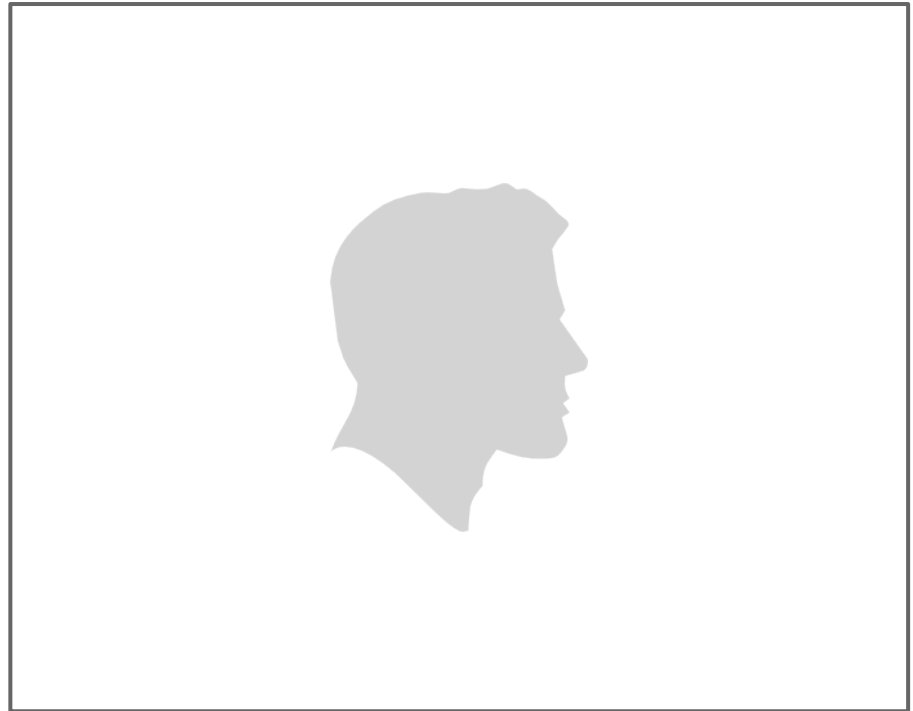
- Language used for menus**: A row of buttons for "English", "Español", "Avañe'ẽ", and an ellipsis button.
- Font settings**:
 - Download fonts automatically when needed. Web fonts will be downloaded when text in special scripts is displayed. [More information](#)
 - Set your preferred fonts to use**:
 - Font for English** (Used for content and menus): Font 2
 - Font for हिन्दी** (Used for input): Font 3. Includes a [Change input language](#) link.

At the bottom right, there are "Cancel" and "Apply changes" buttons.

Fact #7: Language selector can be used even in a foreign language

Users were able to change the UI language from Greek to English despite not knowing Greek.

Users had used the ULS previously for content and UI selection.



When the user changes the language, the ULS previews it immediately allowing users to confirm or revert the change.

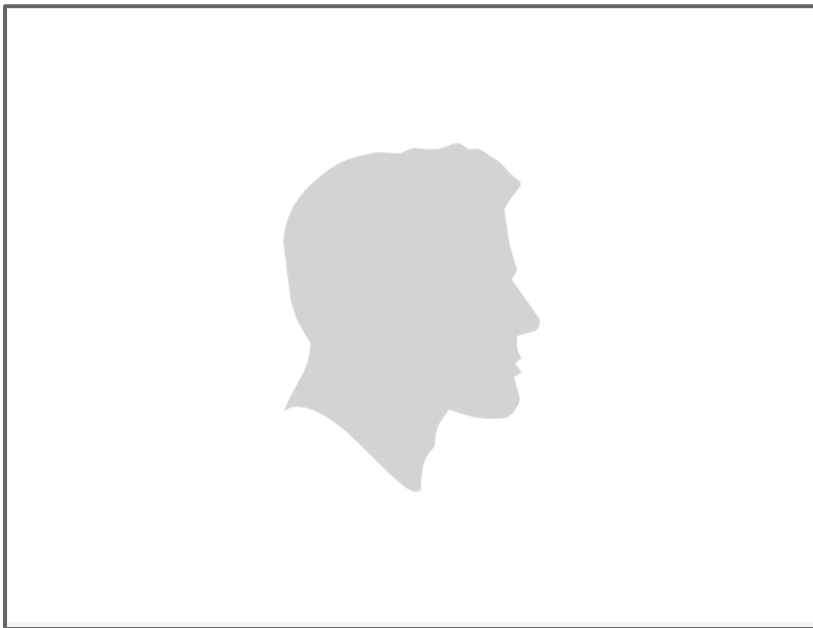
Content language

Users were asked to move between their local language and English for a Wikipedia article and a Commons image. Two alternative locations were tested:

The image shows a screenshot of a Wikipedia article interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with various navigation options. The 'Languages' section is highlighted, showing 'English' as the current language, with a gear icon next to it. Below 'English', other languages like 'Avañe'ẽ', 'Français', 'Nederlands', 'Português', and 'Runa simi' are listed, along with a '103 more languages' link. A blue arrow points to this section with the text 'Integrated in the interlanguage link zone'. In the center, the 'Contents' section is visible, listing various sub-sections like '1 Career', '2 Design', '3 Other works', etc. On the right, the main article content is shown. A blue arrow points to the top-right corner with the text 'At the top-right zone'. This area includes a language selector (currently set to 'English'), a 'Log in / create account' link, a search bar, and navigation buttons like 'Read', 'View source', and 'View history'. Below the search bar, there is a coordinate display for 'Niagara Falls' (43.080°N 79.071°W) and a small image of the falls. The article text mentions 'Niagara Falls (disambiguation)' and 'the name for the Horseshoe Falls and along with the comparatively small the Niagara River which drains Lake'.

Fact #8: Left and top-right locations work for the ULS

Left bar and top-right locations work well if all the language selection is in the same zone



Inter-language integration for content language selection. 30 seconds



Top-right integration for content language selection. 32 seconds

Fact #9: Confusion is produced with multiple entry points

When the language selector is placed at the top-right (for input and UI) and interlanguage links are at the left (for content), the purpose of each element becomes confusing to the user.



User confused with top-right location and inter-language links. 50 seconds

Fact #9: Confusion is produced with multiple entry points

Inter-language integration

- Familiar to users
- Input methods not expected there for some users.
- Integrates with current solution

Top-right location

- Incompatible with inter-language links (all language selection needs to be in the same place).
- Users notice the big change but they adapt well
- Overloaded region



User: "The icon certainly gets the attention"
10 seconds

Fact #10: Each user finds it useful according to their needs



"This looks very good and promising because in Nepali Wikipedia users don't find the input settings they want [...] and get away. "

"[With the ULS] there are multiple ways I can find the language I want. "

37 seconds



"I think it's pretty neat. Separation of those three [language-related settings] can be very useful."

"Separation between content and menus may only be useful in limited situations, but the process is pretty straightforward"

39 seconds

Next steps

- Development started
- A PhD student offered to perform Eye Tracking tests
- Other adaptations
 - **Multiple selection**
 - Considered already, [examples in the design documentation](#).
 - Will be tested internally
 - **Mobile devices**
 - The designs were made considering desktop and tablets. So, touch was considered but not small screen size.
 - **Wikidata team showed interest**
 - Adapt to edit list of languages

More information

More information is available on

- [Test observations](#)
- [Interaction specification details](#)