Translatable pages setup

Design specification 1.0

T351374 (Phab task)

Glauco Lima and Pau Giner

Translatable pages setup

Translatable pages support the creation of multilingual contents on wikis such as Meta or MediaWiki. Based on recent research, we want to improve the experience for those working with translatable pages to encourage the creation of multilingual content.

This project covers 3 Phabricator tickets:

- Design entry points for marking page for translation (T348519)
- Use the Language selector to switch language of translatable pages (T353231)
- Define actions and empty states on translatable pages with the new language selector (T353235)

Although not yet designed, it can also incorporate the ticket

- Explore options for hiding the page translation mark-up in Visual Editor (T348521)

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Intro

The purpose of this document is to give a brief overview of the entire project and main solution proposals. For a more detailed documentation, you can go to the following Figma file.

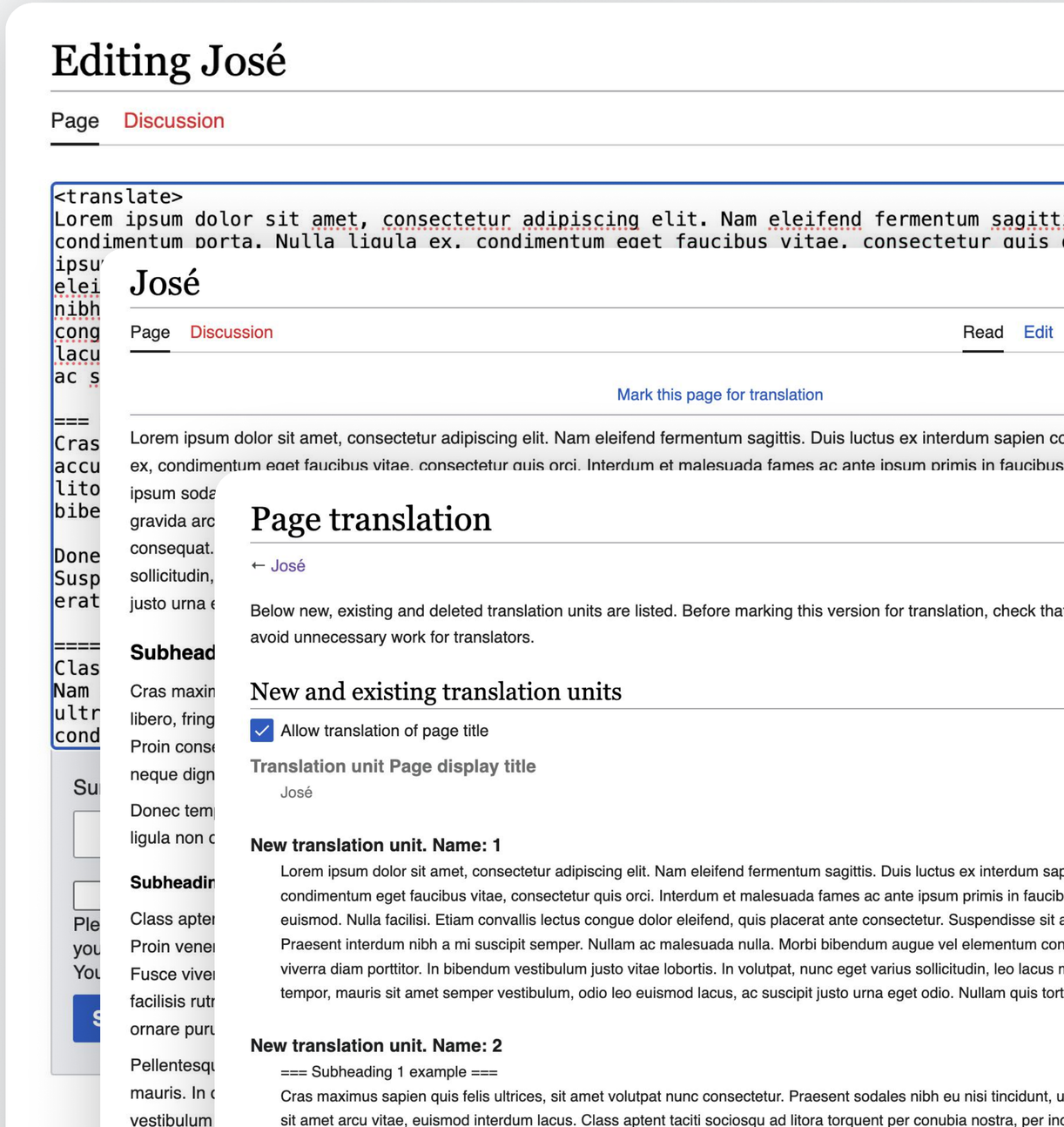
There, you can find the latest design proposal, in depth explanation, and all journeys documented.

Page creation

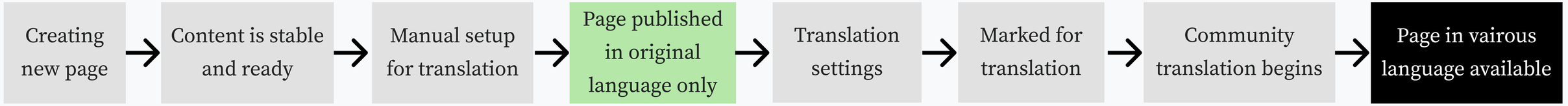
Page creation: Current journey

Page creation:

1. A new page is created by the editor.
2. Once the page is ready (content stable),
3. The <translate> markup is manually added by the editor in the source editing mode before the text and </translate> at the end. (Considered as 'setting up for translation'.)
4. This will activate the system's automatic formatting to split the content into small translation units.
5. Page is saved, also known as published.
6. On the page view, a button that says "mark this page for translation" appears above the content.
7. Editor applies necessary translation settings, and if:
   a. Permitted, the editor marks the page for translation.
   b. Not permitted, the process ends here, the page is added to a queue for marking by others in the community.
8. "Translate this page" link appears on top of page in view mode
9. Translation by the community proceeds.



Page creation: current journey



Page creation: Current problems

Barrier to access

User research found that this feature, while very useful, is a bit too complex for our users, both new and regular. Right now, users can only activate it via the <translate> markup. This means they need to know how to edit source code, remember and understand the <translate> markup, and how to use it.

Unclear Steps

Even when users manage to implement the translate markup, they still need to work through the process, which has some steps that can be a bit confusing due to similar wording but different outcomes. This process is in two parts:

- Setting up Translation: This involves adding the <translate> tag and picking out the language/translation settings, such as choosing/ preventing languages for translation, deciding if the title should be translated, etc.
- Marking for Translation: This is where the page needs to be flagged for translation. If this doesn't happen, editors aren't notified and the page ends up in a queue waiting to be marked for translation.

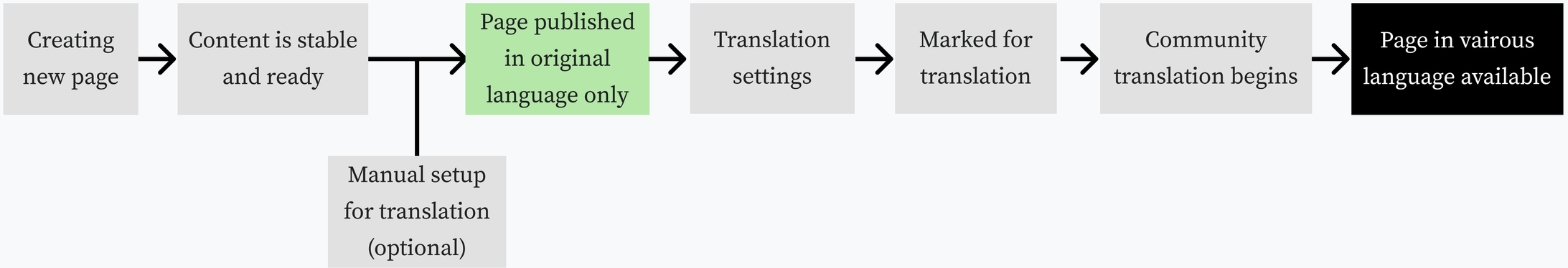
<translate>

Page creation: New journey (almost the same)

Under the proposed changes, after a page is published, it will display the original content prefaced by specific notifications.

Page creation:

1. A new page is created by the editor.
2. Once the page is ready (content stable),
3. The <translate> markup can still be manually added as before but **it is no longer the only entry point to the translation journey**.
    a. If manually added, will activate the system's automatic formatting to split the content into small translation units (as is).
    b. If not added, no changes happen to the page and journey continues.
4. Page is saved, also known as published in its original language

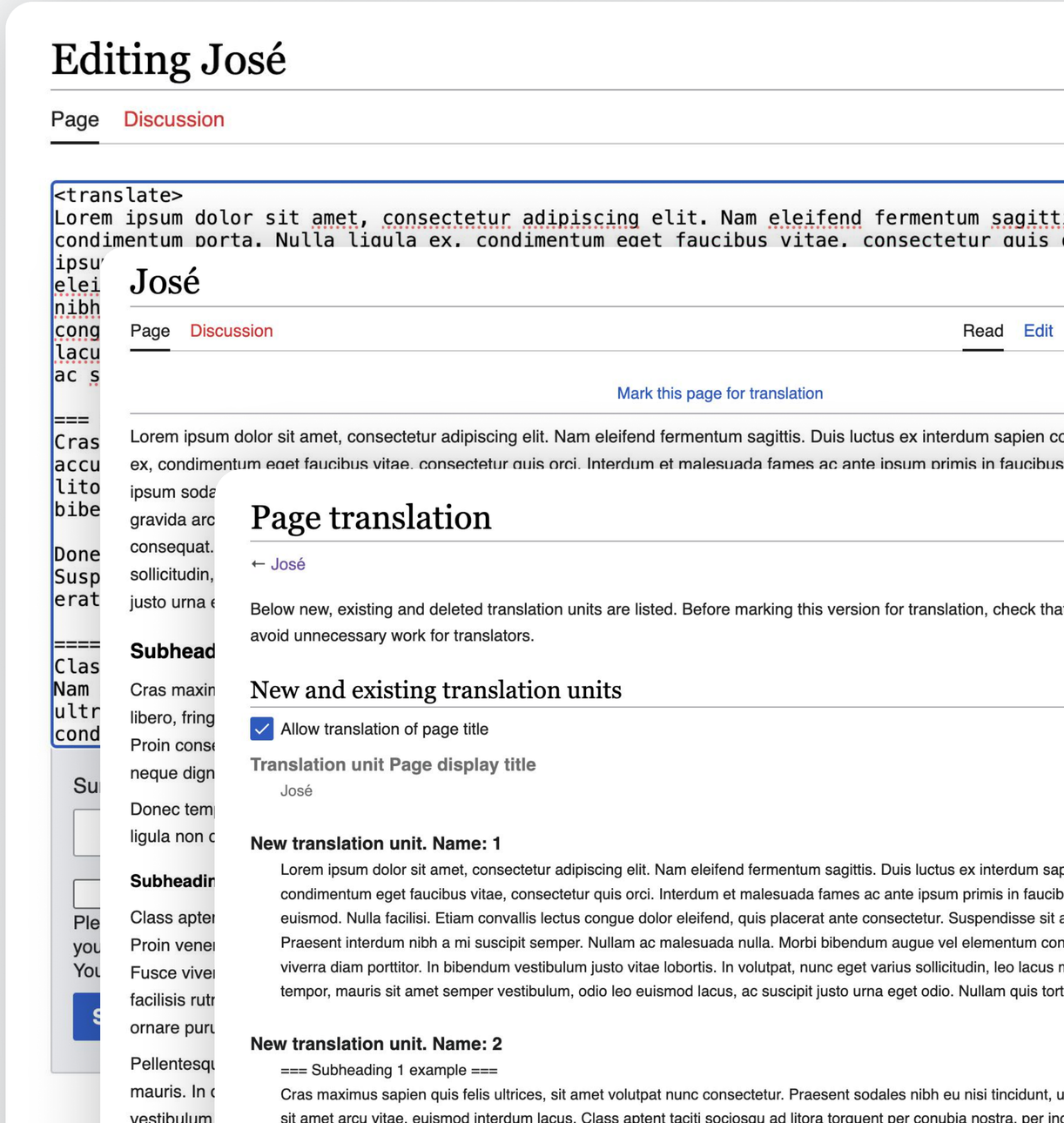


Page editing

Page editing: Current journey

For Page Edits:

1. An existing page is edited.
2. Once the update is ready (content stable again),
3. Changes are saved, also known as published.
4. A button that says "mark this page for translation" reappears above the content on the page view.
5. Editor applies necessary translation settings, and if:
   a. Permitted, the editor marks the page update for translation.
   b. Not permitted, the process ends here, the update is added to a queue for marking by others in the community.
6. "Translate this page" link appears on top of page in reader view
7. Translation of the update by the community proceeds.

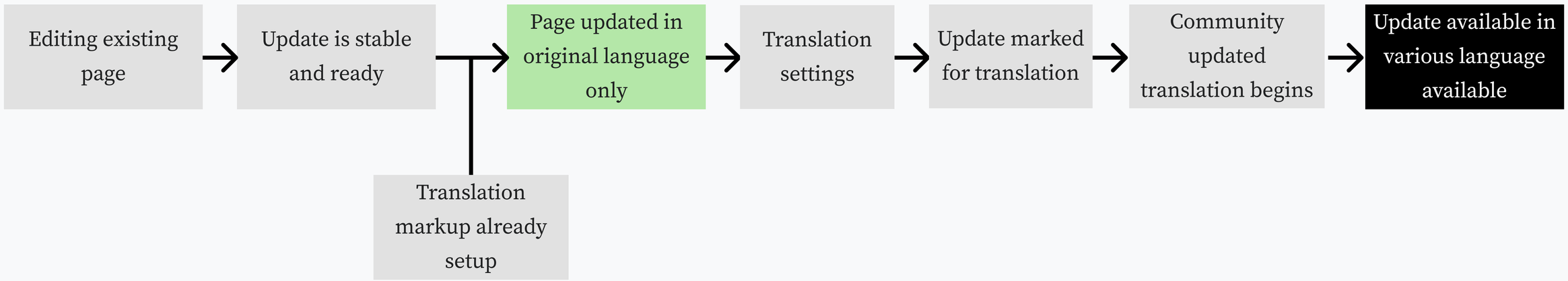


Page editing: Journey unchanged

After a published page is edited and content is stable and ready for translation, it will display the updated content prefaced by specific alert (more on it later).

Page creation:

1. An existing page is edited.
2. Once the edit is ready (content stable),
3. Page is saved, also known as published in its original language
4. Updated is marked (again) for translation
5. Community translation begins

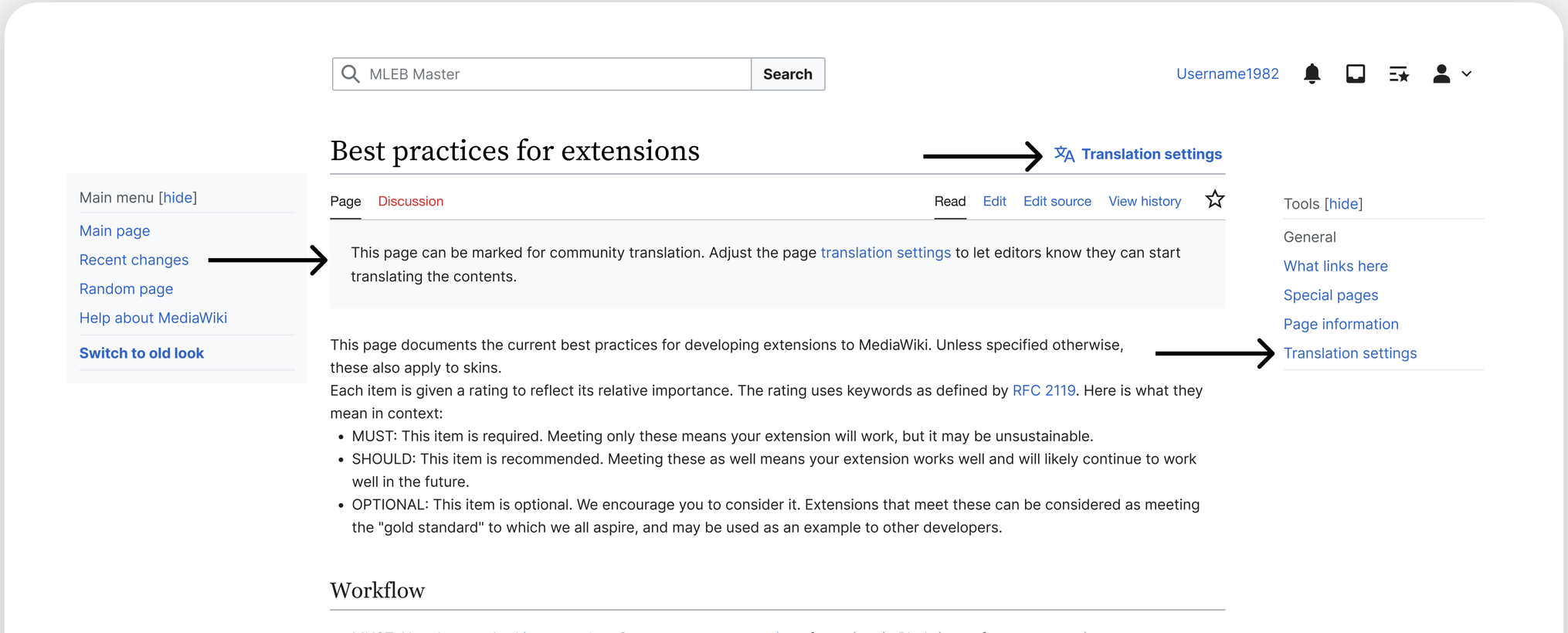


Entry points: 3 options

Entry points: 3 options

After a page is created or updated, the authors who have edited the page can access the new "translation settings" page (more on it later) through the same 3 entry points:

- A new banner on published page: above the content
- Through the tools menu: new link added
- Through the language selector: link to page settings below language list



Entry point 1: Page alerts

Entry point 1: Page alerts for new pages

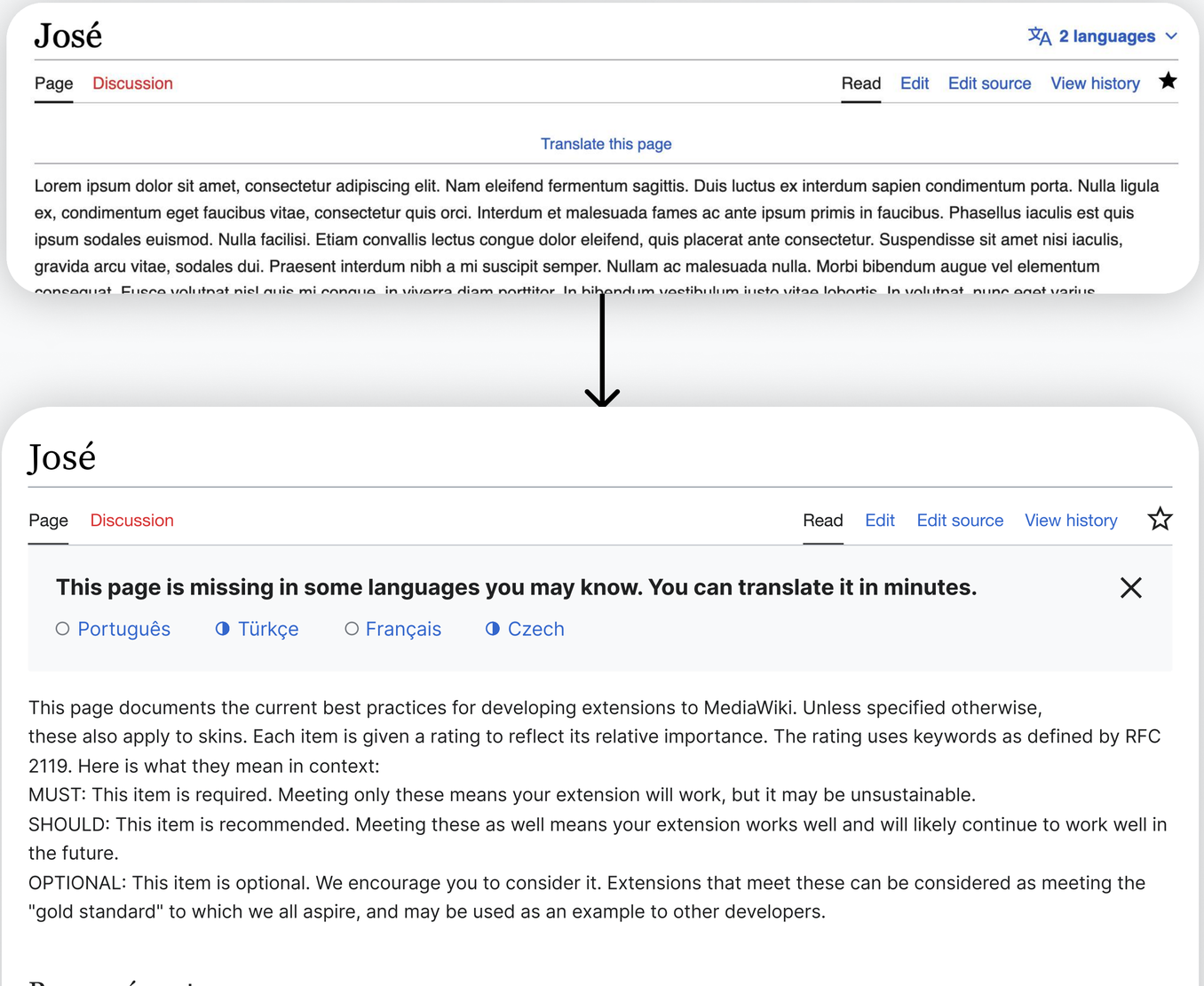
Changes to the translatable page's alerts have been proposed to further improve user adoption. Changes both in copy (storytelling) and function (user centered).

The current alert for translatable pages is somewhat vague, consisting only of a button that reads ”translate this page” on top of the copy, without any other context to guide the user. To fix that, the new alert proposal:

- **Adds context (copy) to further clarify its purpose**: ”This page is missing in some languages you may know. You can translate it in minutes.”

- **Offers user related options (function)**: displaying to the reader only languages related to them (determined by their profile preference, browser language, history... parameters yet to be officially determined).

This gives users more clarity of actions and meanings while also facilitating by displaying only what is relevant to them.

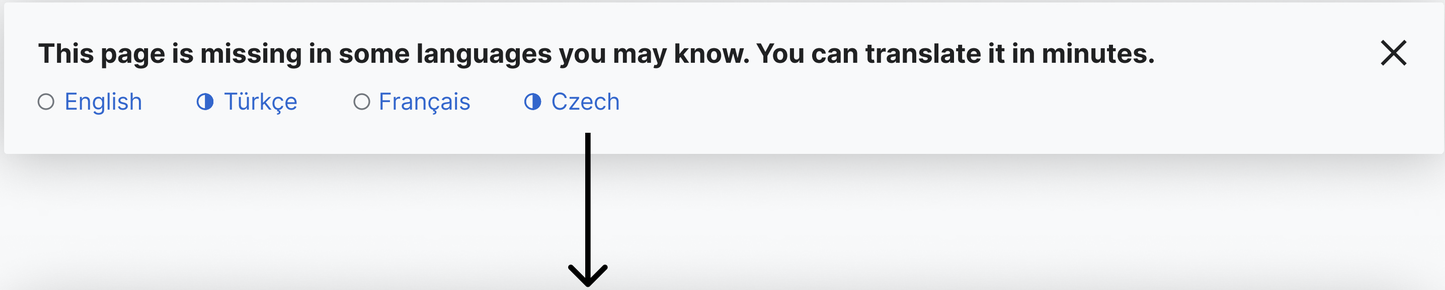


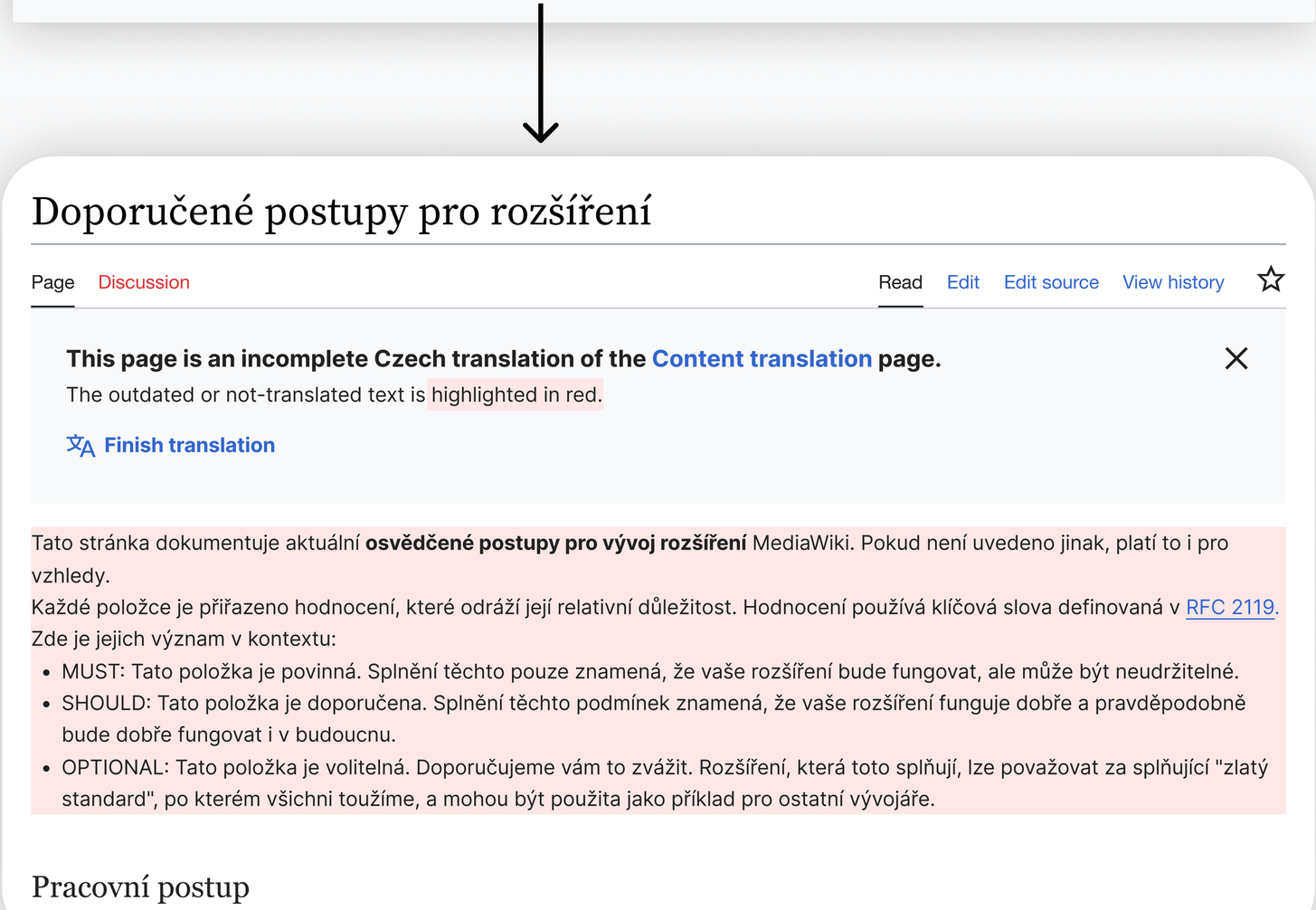
Entry point 1: Page alerts for updated pages

Similar to the page creation translation, after re-marking the updated page for translation, the missing languages alert remains unchanged in the original language page.

Each listed language will take the reader to the outdated translated version of that page.
Indicating the outdated parts with a red highlight.
Everything that is not in red has either:

- Not been changed (updated)
- Has already been translated





Entry point 2: Language selector

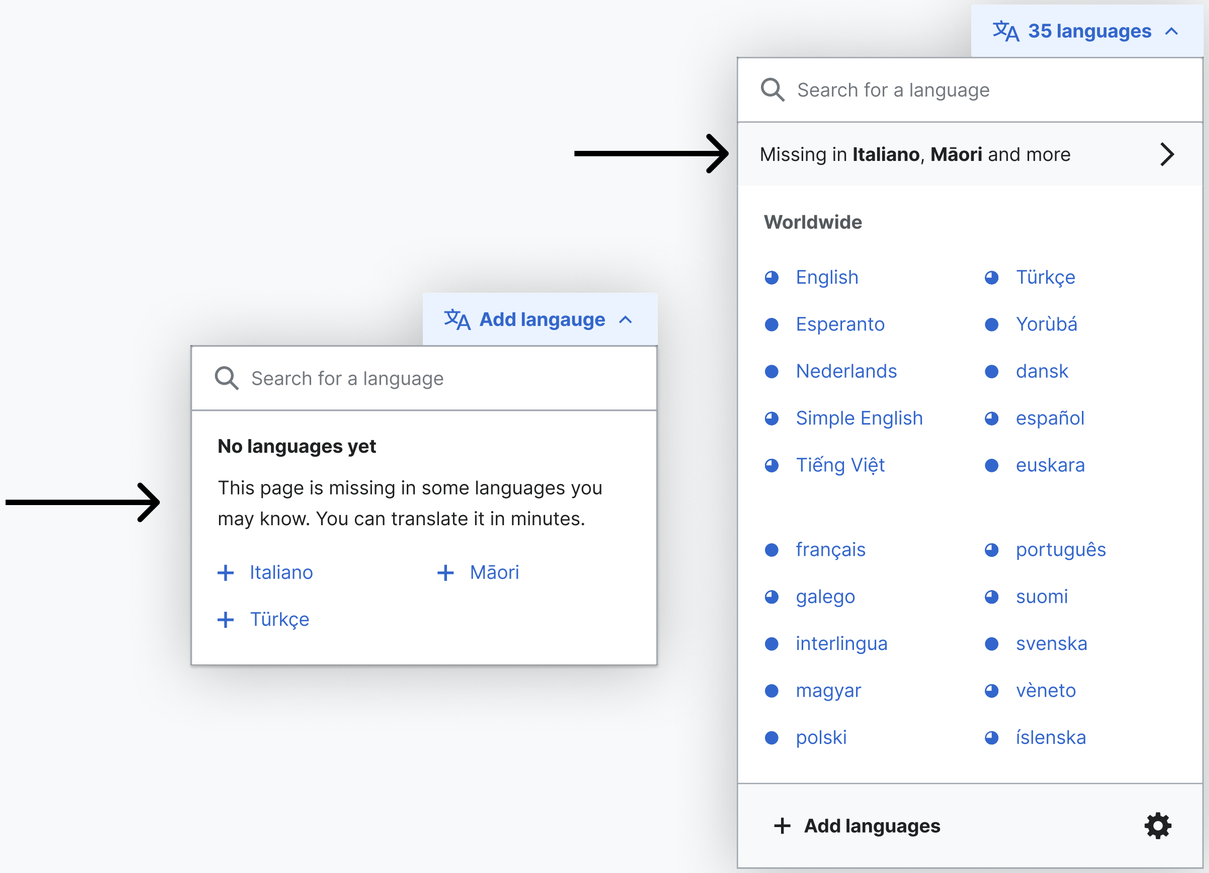
Entry point 2: Language selector

Another entry point for reader translation is through the language selector (T353231). Most of its functionality and layout is kept unchanged.

If a page has no translation, the language selector would only display a message encouraging the user to translate this page, giving them a list of languages that are related to that profile (determined by user history, browser settings, preferences...)

If a page has translations, the major difference being the addition of another entry point at the top of the selector through a one line alert about missing translations.

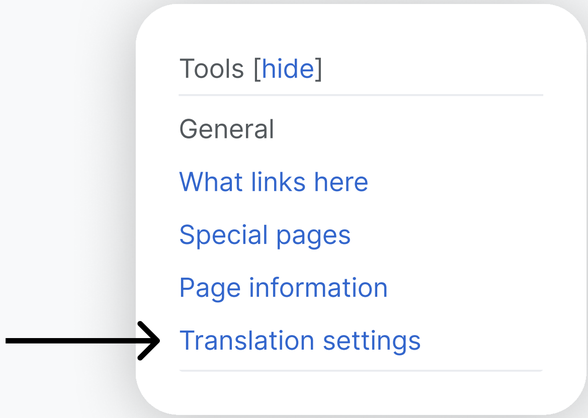
Different from the alert, both of these options would take the user directly to the translation page where they can define which language they want to translate the page into and start translating.



Entry point 3: Tools menu

Entry point 3: Tools menu

The last option to access a page's translation settings page is through the tools menu. It is a straight forward proposal that will not change the tools menu behavior, just add another option.



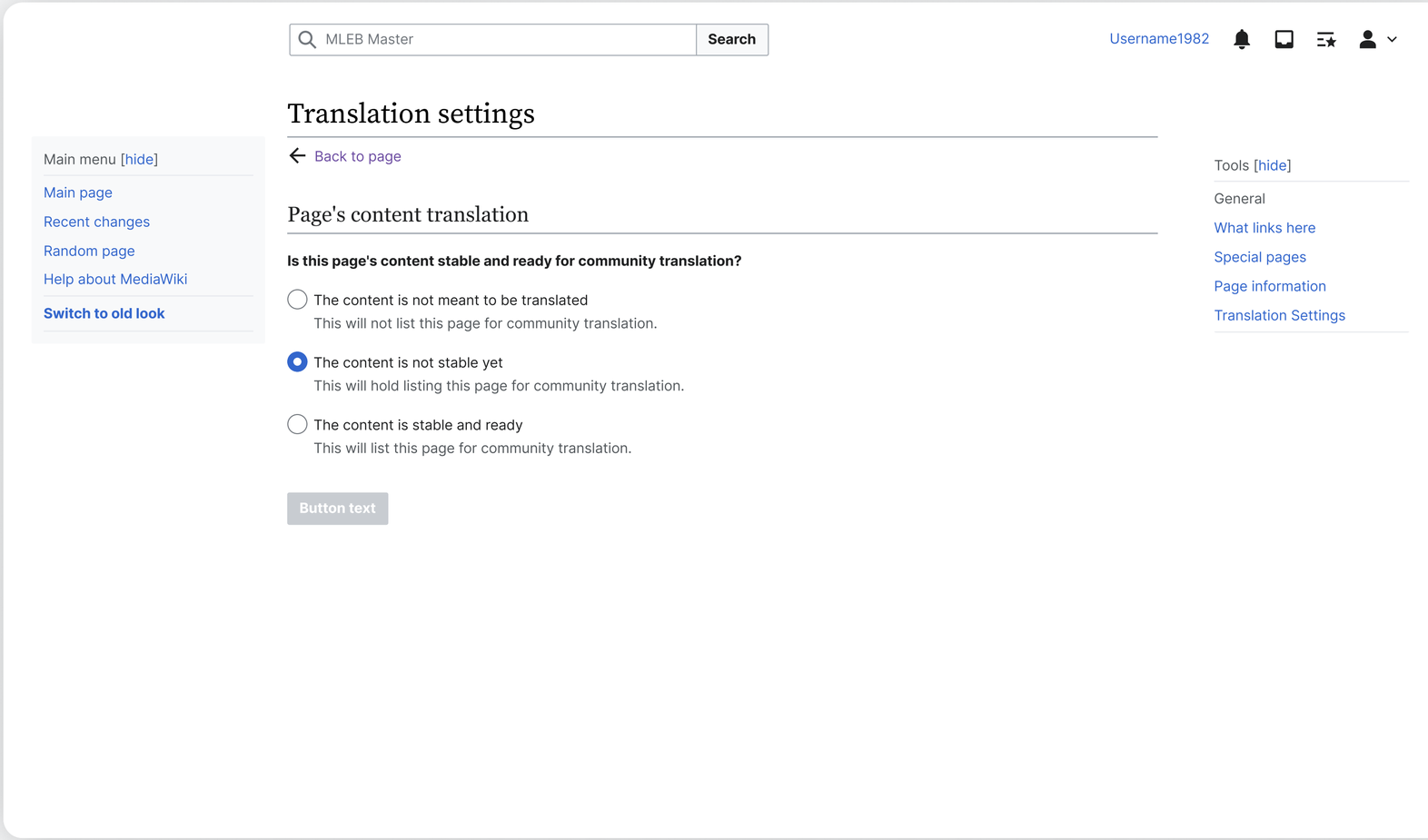
Translation settings

Translation settings: New page (page creation)

Easier access:
Contrary to the current journey, where the editor will only access the translation settings page IF they have manually added the <translate> markup, every new content page will have a designated translation settings page.

As previously stated, this page can be access through 3 entry points on a page: banner, tools menu, and language selector.

Even if the content page is not set to be multilingual, entry points are always on, page will only be made multilingual if editor decides to do so in translation settings page.

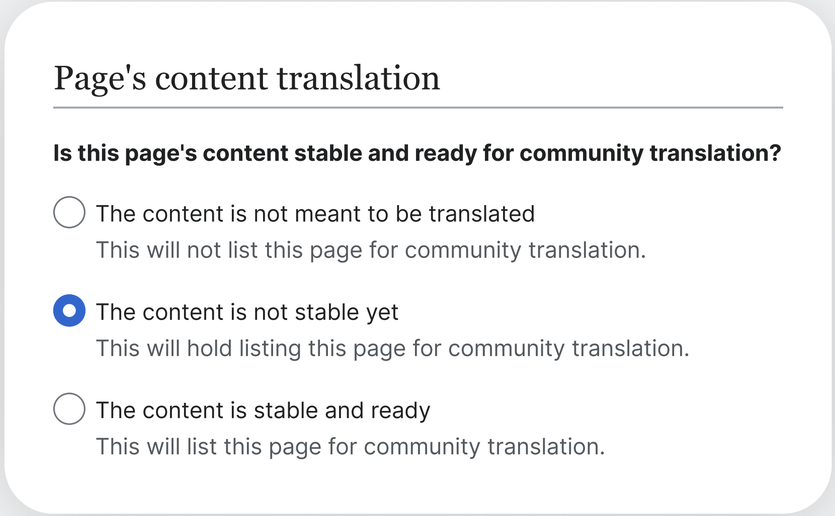


Translation settings: New page (page creation)

Clear actions:
Inside translation settings page, the editor will be able to set the page translation status. Unless a translation markup has been manually added, every new page will come with a default translation status of:

The content is not stable yet
This will hold listing this page for community translation.

This means it is a common non-translatable, single language page (as it is today).

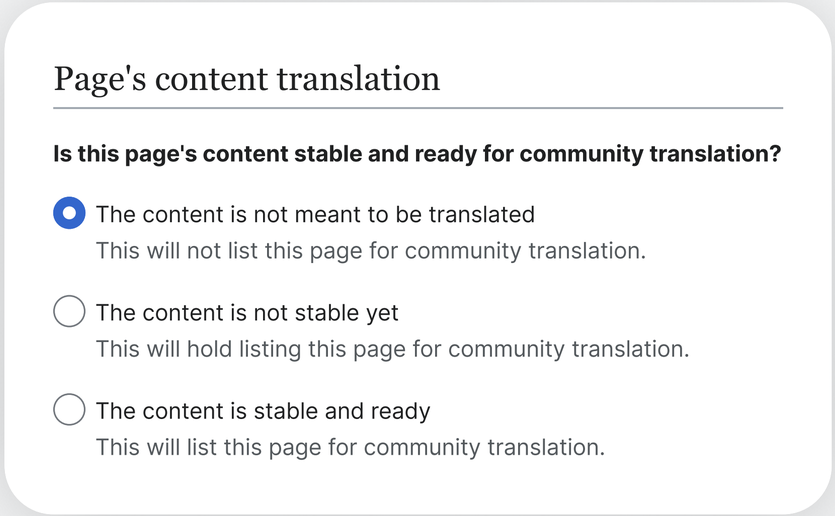


Translation settings: New page (page creation)

Clear actions:
The other translation option is:

The content is not meant to be translated
This will not list this page for community translation.

Just like the previous option described, this status will not format or change the page in any fashion. The difference from the previous option is that this one is for pages which contents are not meant to be translated, ever. Such as non-linguistic and discussion pages. This eliminates ambiguity and confusion of a page's translation status.

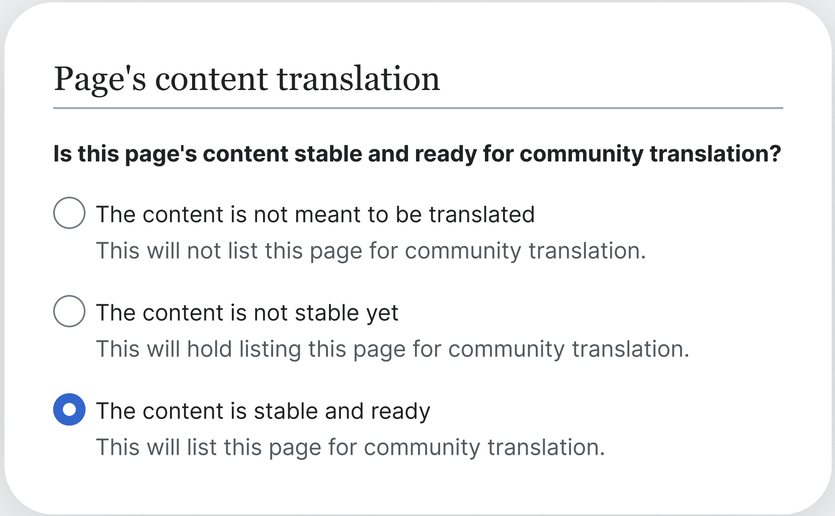


Translation settings: New page (page creation)

Clear actions:
The last translation option is:

The content is stable and ready
This will list this page for community translation.

Contrary to the first 2 options, this is the only one that will format the page for translation (automatically and instantly add the <translate> markup and separate the contents into translation units) AND activate all necessary translation settings for the user to proceed with translation setup.



Translation settings: New page (page creation)

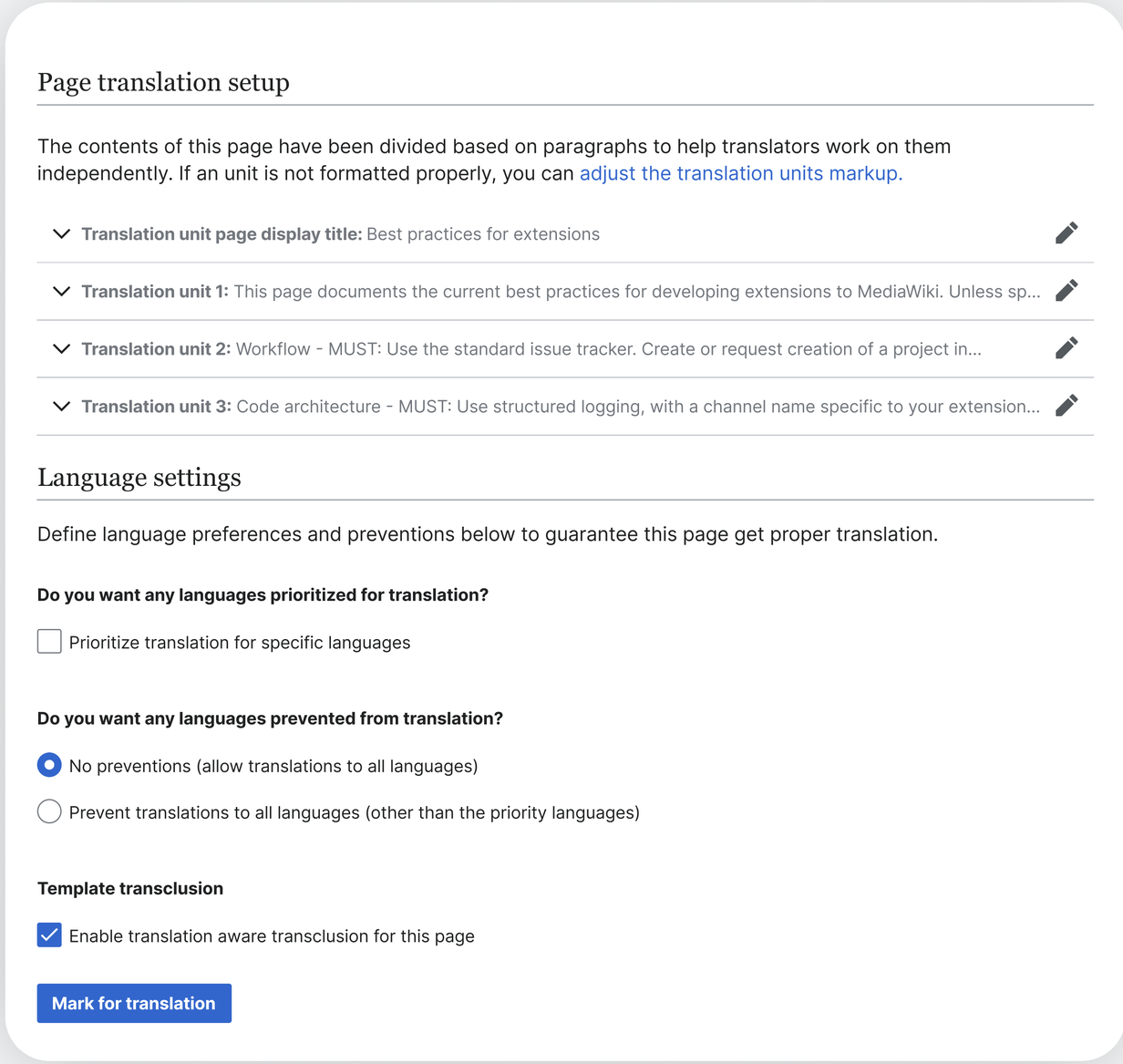
Once editor selects

The content is stable and ready

This will list this page for community translation.

The remaining needed settings remain unchanged compared to what it is today. Settings like:

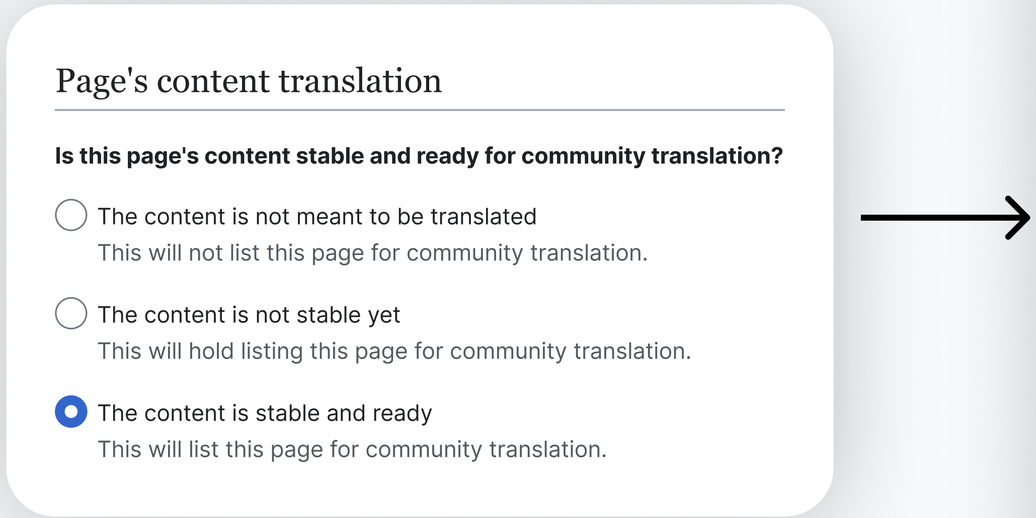
- Translation units
- Language priorization
- Language prevention
- Transclusion and template translation

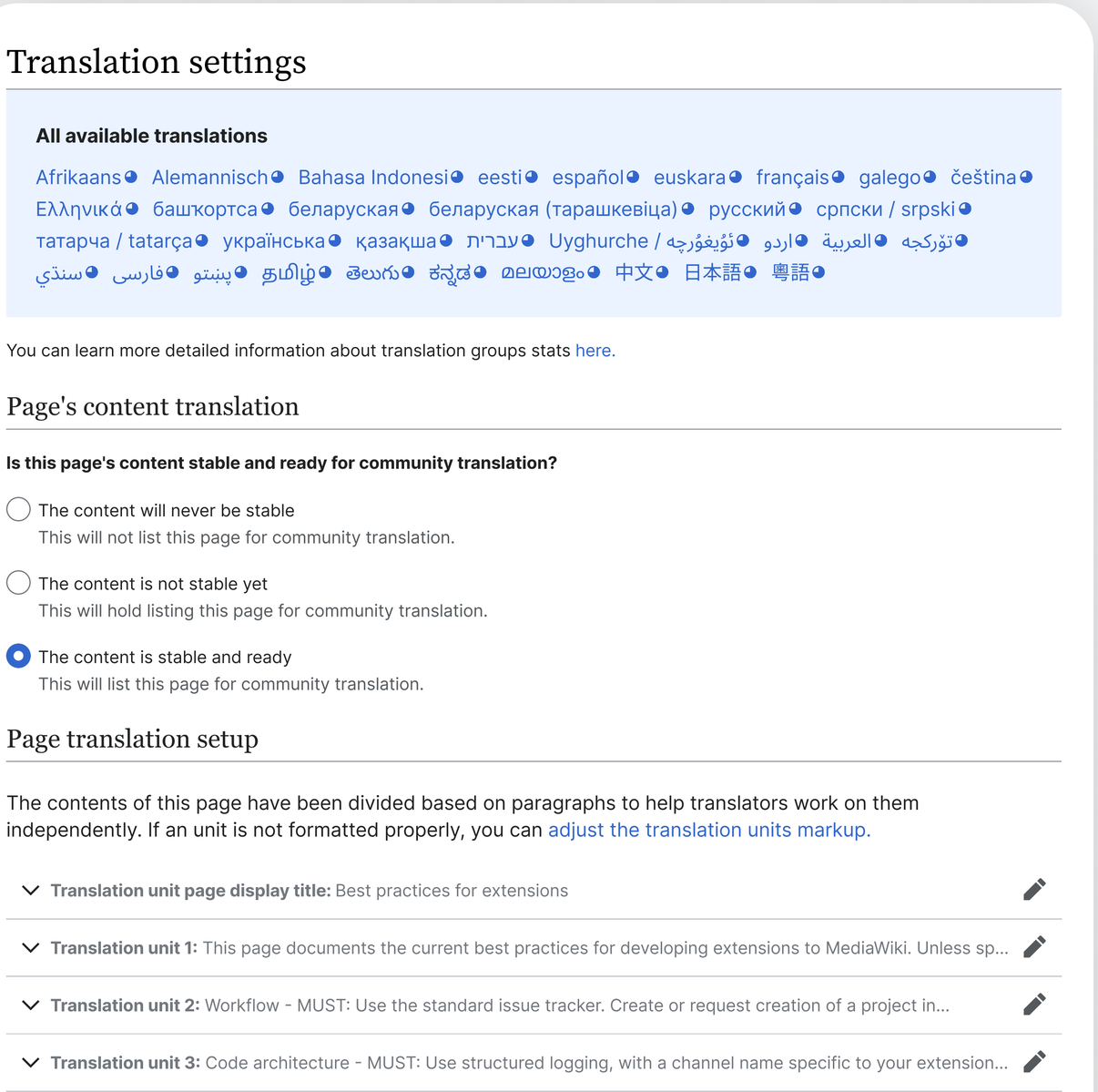


Translation settings: Edited page

After a page's content is updated, its previous translation settings will remain unchanged (even the setting that marks the content as stable and ready). This does not mean it is automatically marked for translation.

The editor will need to re-mark for translation once an update is stable and ready.



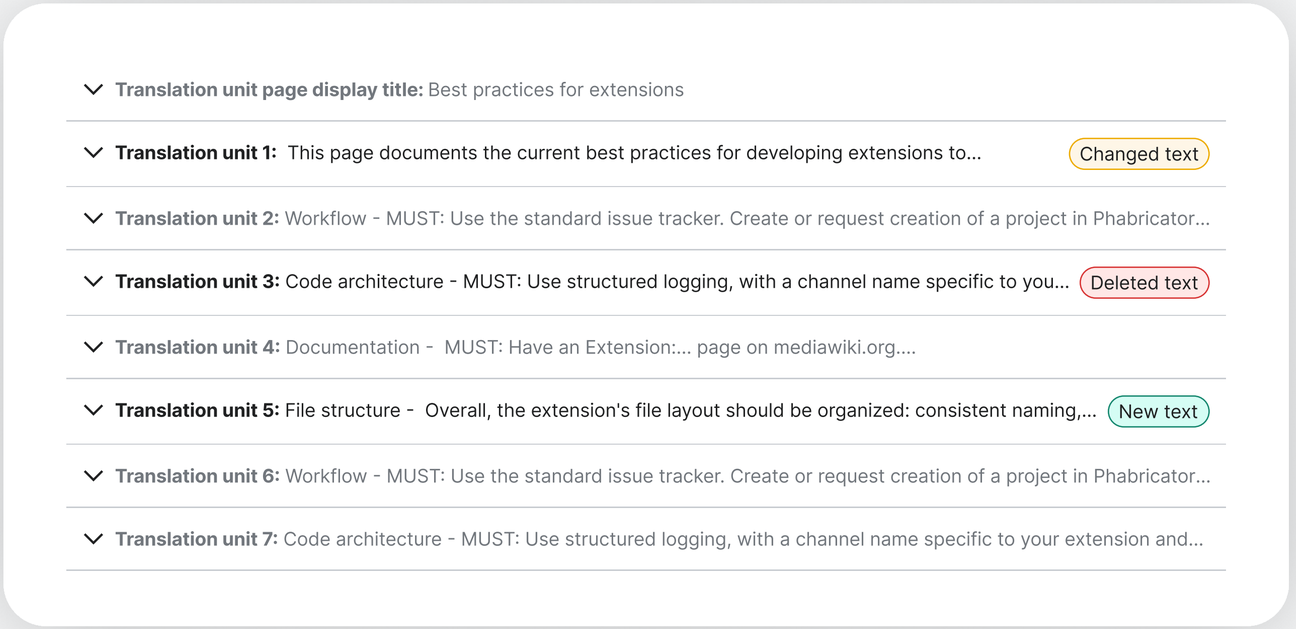


Translation settings: Edited page

The translation units section has also been changed (slightly) in order to make it clear to new users. The visual changes proposed are:

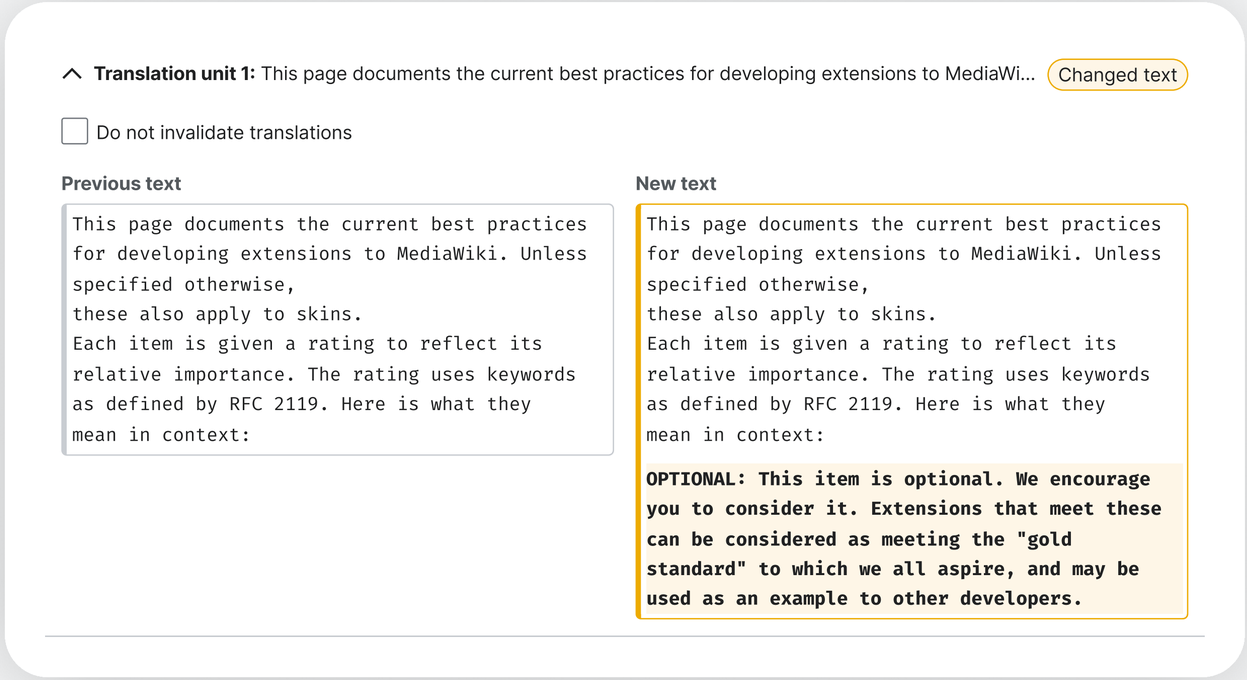
- Addition of labels to updated translation units
- Addition of labels to new translation units
- Addition of labels to deleted translation units
- Change in color of unaltered translation units

This will let editors focus on what is needed without the need to expand every single unit to see if they have been changed/updated/deleted.



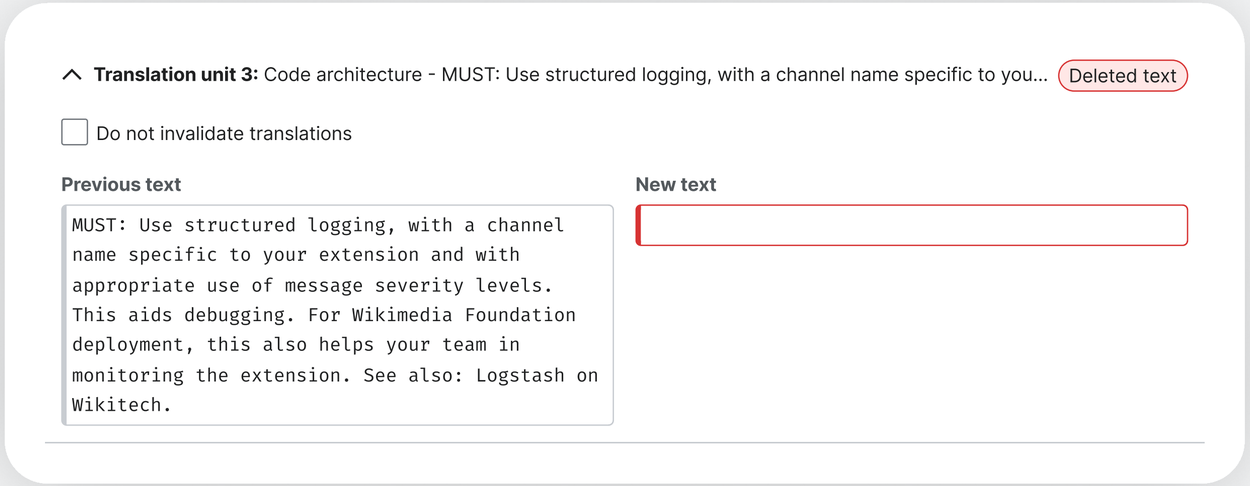
Translation settings: Edited page

Edited units will display the edited text with a yellow highlight.



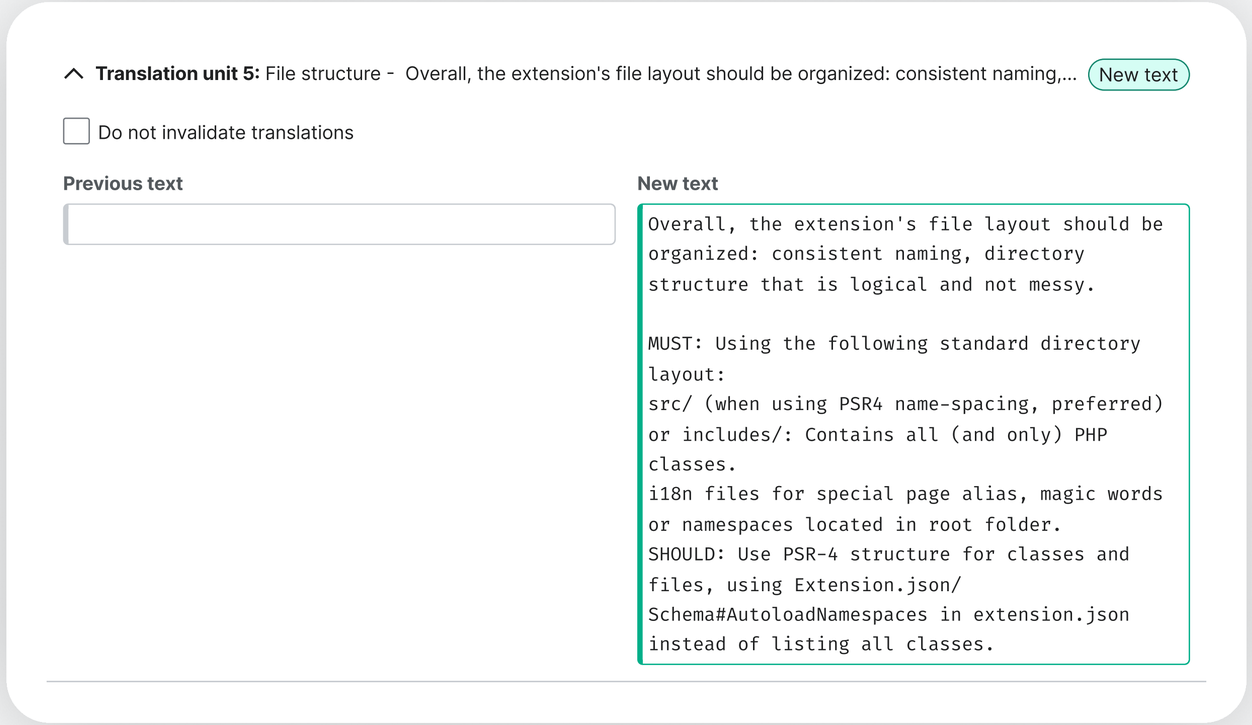
Translation settings: Edited page

Deleted units will display the edited text with a red highlight.



Translation settings: Edited page

Deleted units will display the edited text with a red highlight.



Next steps and considerations

Next steps and considerations

Engineers' approval

The implementation of these proposals has been throughly discussed with the engineering team, many considerations and changes have been made prior to this documentation. But there is still a need of a final walk-through and official approval from the engineers.

User testing

This new journey proposal has not yet beed tested with the community. Next recommended step before any other adjustment is to gather key members of the community for user testing and feedback before proceeding with more changes or implementation.

Mobile version

Although the journey has been through many changes and iterations, a mobile version has not yet been design. It does not seem like it will need any out of the ordinary adjustments since it mostly uses common components that will be easy to translate for a smaller device.

Important links

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Phabricator tickets:

- Design entry points for marking page for translation (T348519)
- Use the Language selector to switch language of translatable pages (T353231)
- Define actions and empty states on translatable pages with the new language selector (T353235)
- Explore options for hiding the page translation mark-up in Visual Editor (T348521)

Research and documentation

- Design exploration
- Survey results
- Interview Results
- Research brief
- Research brief
- Research planning
- Survey results
- Interview Results
- Research brief
- Research planning