

practical applications, to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the invention and various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
 - displaying a plurality of icons on a touch-sensitive display, wherein a respective icon in at least a subset of the plurality of icons corresponds to two or more symbols;
 - detecting a contact by a user with the touch-sensitive display that corresponds to the respective icon;
 - determining a respective symbol in the two or more symbols to which the contact further corresponds; and
 - modifying the displayed respective icon to indicate that the contact corresponds to the respective symbol.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the respective symbol when the user breaks contact with the respective icon.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising capitalizing the respective symbol when contact is maintained for a time interval exceeding a pre-determined value.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the modifying includes changing a shape of the respective icon.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein changing the shape includes an asymmetric distortion of the shape.
6. The method of claim 4, further comprising displaying the respective symbol in a region within the shape of the respective icon and outside of a region corresponding to the contact.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting includes detecting rolling of a finger over a region that corresponds to the respective symbol.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the two or more symbols for the respective icon are determined in accordance with a lexicography model.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the lexicography model corresponds to a user usage history, and wherein the user usage history occurs prior to the establishment of the contact.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein the lexicography model corresponds to a frequency of usage of symbols in a language.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein an initial shape of the respective icon includes an arc.
12. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a visual indicator corresponding to the respective symbol.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the visual indicator includes visual illumination proximate to the respective icon.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the visual illumination includes a band around at least a portion of the respective icon.
15. The method of claim 12, wherein the visual indicator is in accordance with a user usage history that occurs prior to the detecting of the contact.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the contact includes a gesture that is selected from the group consisting of one or more taps, a swipe and a rolling of a finger.
17. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a device, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program

mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising instructions for:

- displaying a plurality of icons on a touch-sensitive display, wherein a respective icon in at least a subset of the plurality of icons corresponds to two or more symbols;
- detecting a contact by a user with the touch-sensitive display that corresponds to the respective icon;
- determining a respective symbol in the two or more symbols to which the contact further corresponds; and
- modifying the displayed respective icon to indicate that the contact corresponds to the respective symbol.

18. A graphical user interface, comprising:

- a plurality of icons displayed on a touch-sensitive display, wherein a respective icon in at least a subset of the plurality of icons includes two or more symbols; and
- the respective icon has a modified shape relative to other icons in the plurality of icons, wherein the modified shape corresponds to a respective symbol in the two or more symbols, and wherein the shape is modified when a contact by a user with the touch-sensitive display corresponding to the respective icon and the respective symbol is established.

19. A portable electronic device, comprising:

- a touch-sensitive display;
- one or more processors;
- memory; and
- a program, wherein the program is stored in the memory and configured to be executed by the one or more processors, the program including:
 - instructions for displaying a plurality of icons on a touch-sensitive display, wherein a respective icon in at least a subset of the plurality of icons corresponds to two or more symbols;
 - instructions for detecting a contact by a user with the touch-sensitive display that corresponds to the respective icon;
 - instructions for determining a respective symbol in the two or more symbols to which the contact corresponds; and
 - instructions for modifying the displayed respective icon to indicate that the contact corresponds to the respective symbol.

20. A portable electronic device, comprising:

- touch-sensitive display means;
- one or more processor means;
- memory means; and
- program mechanism, wherein the program mechanism is stored in the memory means and configured to be executed by the one or more processors means, the program mechanism including:
 - instructions for displaying a plurality of icons on a touch-sensitive display, wherein a respective icon in at least a subset of the plurality of icons corresponds to two or more symbols;