Font setup is normally bounded to groups. The code
\begin{verbatim}
\font\A=ec-lmr10 \A \message{\the\font}
{\font\B=ec-lmtt10 \B \message{\the\font}}
\message{\the\font}
\end{verbatim}
gives \A \B \A, as one would expect. Why then
\begin{verbatim}
\font\A=ec-lmr10 \A \message{\the\font}
{\font\B=ec-lmr10 \B \message{\the\font}}
\message{\the\font}
\end{verbatim}
yields \A \B \B?
When the font used inside a group is the same as the current font in the outer grouping level, the local font assignment becomes global. Actually font \A is internally mapped to \B. Even if we call \A explicitly, \TeX{} reports \B as the current.
\begin{verbatim}
\A \message{\the\font}
\end{verbatim}
Things are intentionally different in \LaTeX{}...