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D1.1 – Survey of relevant low-resource languages

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Abstract

This deliverable describes the low-resource languages of interest for project GoURMET, each of which is paired to English in the specific direction (to English or from English), depending on the use cases envisaged by the media partners of the project. A description is provided for each language: a small fact sheet, a study of the main linguistic contrasts with English, an account of corpora and language resources, both monolingual and bilingual, and a brief summary of expected challenges when building machine translation for that language pair.

1 Introduction

This deliverable describes the low-resource languages which are of interest for the GoURMET project. The aim of the deliverable is to inform discussions about which languages to cover in years two and three of the project, as well as to document for researchers the challenges and opportunities related to these language pairs. During the first year of the project GoURMET focuses on Swahili, Gujarati, Bulgarian and Turkish; for years two and three GoURMET will focus on twelve additional languages and on a surprise language.

For each language, this deliverable provides:

- A factsheet for each language, specifying its number of speakers, language family, geographical area, writing system(s), level of standardization (as regards spelling and grammar), dialectal spread or divergence, and similarity to other GoURMET languages or other better-resourced languages.
- A description of important differences or contrasts between the language and English which may have an important effect on machine translation. This will be based in part on a comparison of the values of relevant features (where available or where feasible with the available information) from those collected in the World Atlas of Language Structures (WALS, <http://wals.info>). Additional literature is cited if used.
- The monolingual and bilingual corpora (generally with English) which are available for them, including:
 - ready-made corpora;
 - monolingual and bilingual text which can be crawled from publicly-available text on the Internet.
- The monolingual and bilingual language resources (generally with English) which are available for them, with an indication of licensing.
- A summary of challenges likely to be faced when building corpus-based (mainly neural) machine translation systems to or from English, as required.

We would like to note that it is, however, difficult to predict in advance how hard it is to build a machine translation system for a given language pair, leaving aside, of course, the effect of the scarcity of data. Researchers in GoURMET addressed this problem (Birch et al., 2008) in the case of *statistical* machine translation for the languages of the European Union; they found that the stronger predictors are (a) the amount of reordering, the (b) morphological complexity of the target language, and (c) the historical relatedness of the two languages. As English is not related to any of the languages covered in this deliverable, the descriptions for each language focuses mainly on the first two predictors.

However, as GoURMET will build *neural* machine translation systems, where target words (a) are sequentially generated from a joint representation of the whole source sentence and (b) may be built from automatically-learned sub-word units, the actual magnitude of the effect of reordering and target-side morphological complexity may be even harder to predict. Descriptions for each case below try to give an account of important linguistic differences between English and each of the languages (with a focus on the specific direction envisaged for each language), as neural

Language	ISO-639 codes	Use case	Partner
Afaan Oromoo	om, orm ² ←	Content creation	BBC
Bosnian	bs, bos←	Content creation	DW
Bulgarian	bg,bul←	Content creation	DW
Croatian	hr,hrv←	Content creation	DW
Gujarati	gu, guj←	Content creation	BBC
Hausa	ha, hau→	Media monitoring	BBC, DW
Igbo	ig,ibo←	Content creation	BBC
Korean (North)	ko, kor ³ →	Media monitoring	BBC
Kurdish	ku, kur ⁴ →	Media monitoring	BBC
Macedonian	mk, mkd (also mac)←	Content creation	DW
Punjabi	pa, pan←	Content creation	BBC
Serbian	sr, srp←	Content creation	BBC, DW
Swahili	sw, swa ⁵ →	Media monitoring	BBC, DW
Tigrinya	ti, tir←	Content creation	BBC
Turkish	tr, tur←	Content creation	DW
Yoruba	yo, yor←	Content creation	BBC

Table 1: Low-resource languages of interest for GoURMET, with an indication of ISO-639-2 and ISO-639-3 language codes, of whether GoURMET is interested in translations into (←) or from (→) these languages, the use case, and the industrial partner interested.

attention mechanisms would easily deal with one-to-one monotonous translations where little word reordering occurs and the level of morphological complexity is small on both sides.

1.1 Language pairs of interest for GoURMET

The low-resource languages of interest¹ are listed in Table 1. The table indicates the ISO-639 language codes, the use case, whether GoURMET is interested in translations into (←) or from (→) these languages), and the partners interested.

Note that Table 1, and the descriptions provided basically reflect the translation direction and interested partners described in the project proposal. As media partners undertake research for project deliverable D5.2 *Use Case Description and Requirements*, new requirements are revealed. For example, DW have expressed their interest in translation from English to Hausa and Swahili for content creation. The BBC has expressed interest in translation from English into North Korean, Hausa and Swahili for content creation. Additionally the BBC has clarified that for media monitoring, translation from English into Kurdish should focus on the Sorani variety, and expressed

¹ Note that GoURMET has a business news use case which involves better-resourced languages, Spanish and German, which will not be considered in this deliverable.

² Inclusive code: there are also gax, Borana–Arsi–Guji–Wallaggaa–Shawaa Oromo; hae, Eastern Oromo; orc, Orma; gaz, West Central Oromo; and ssn, Waata

³ There is no special code for North Korean

⁴ Inclusive code. Includes: ckb, Central Kurdish or Sorani; kmr, Northern Kurdish or Kurmanji; sdh, Southern Kurdish (set of dialects)

⁵ Inclusive code. Includes: swc, Congo Swahili; swl, Coastal Swahili; ymk, Makwe; mw, Mwani

interest on direct translation from Somali into Swahili. Tamil (Section 2.17), Kyrgyz (Section 2.12) and Amharic (Section 2.2) have been added in 2019. Additional decisions regarding support of new language pairs and/or translation directions will be made as the project progresses.

2 Languages

2.1 Afaan Oromoo (om, orm)

2.1.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, rather than a language, Afaan Oromoo, also called simply *Oromo*, is a group of Afro-Asiatic languages (also called *macrolanguage*) in the Cushitic family; in contrast, Tigrinya (§ 2.18) and Hausa (§ 2.8) are Afro-Asiatic languages in the Chadic family. Afaan Oromoo comprises four main dialects: Southern Oromoo, Eastern Oromoo, Orma, and West-Central Oromoo, and it may be considered a continuum of dialects where the level of mutual understanding depends on the geographical distance between the dialects. It is spoken by about 34,000,000 people⁶ in Ethiopia and Kenya (where it is recognized as a minority language) and also in Somalia.

Oromoo is written using the Latin alphabet; long vowels and geminated (doubled) consonants are written by repeating the letter (although this may not be done in a completely consistent way). Stress or tones are not usually marked.

2.1.2 Contrasts with English

The World Atlas of Linguistic Structures describes four different varieties of Afaan Oromoo but it does so with different level of detail. Therefore, the contrasts shown in the following tables may not be completely correct for all of them. Examples are not provided for all contrasts; some of them are taken from Wikipedia, and some from Campbell and King (2010).

⁶ Campbell and King (2010) report 24,000,000.

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Afaan Oromoo	Examples
Genders	Three, but only in third-person singular pronouns and possessives.	Two genders (semantically or formally assigned)	<i>ilma</i> ‘son’ (masc.); <i>intala</i> ‘girl, daughter’ (fem.); <i>aduu</i> ‘sun’ (fem.).
Morphological case	No case, except for pronouns	Seven cases, marked by suffix or final vowel lengthening ⁷	<i>Ibsaan konkolaataa qaba</i> ‘Ibsaa has a car’, lit. ‘Ibsaa (+nominative ending) car has’; <i>mana binne</i> ‘we bought a house’, lit. ‘house (base case) we bought’; <i>barumsa afaanii</i> ‘the study of language’, lit ‘study language (‘afaan’+genitive ending); <i>harkaan</i> ‘by hand, with a hand’ (‘harka’+instrumental ending), etc.
Noun plural	Always marked (suffix)	Optional (suffix)	<i>hiriyaa</i> ‘friend’/‘friends’, <i>hiriyoota</i> ‘friends’
Adjective plural	Not marked	Suffixing, partial reduplication	<i>diimaa</i> ‘red’ (singular), <i>diddimoo</i> ‘red’ (plural) (Campbell and King, 2010)
Verb inflection	Tense and (weakly) person	Aspect, mood, gender (3rd person singular), polarity, voice, and person	<i>beekne</i> ‘we knew’ (perfective); <i>beekte</i> ‘you knew’ (perfective); <i>beekna</i> ‘we know’ (imperfective), <i>beekta</i> ‘you know’ (imperfective); <i>hin beeknu</i> ‘we don’t know’, <i>haa beeknu</i> ‘let us know’; <i>beeki</i> ‘know!’ (singular); <i>beekaa</i> ‘know!’ (plural).

⁷ Nominative, accusative (base case), dative, ablative, instrumental, locative and genitive.

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Afaan Oromoo	Examples
Indefinite Articles	Indefinite word distinct from 'one'	No definite or indefinite article	
Definite Articles	Definite word distinct from demonstrative	No definite or indefinite article (Some dialects mark definiteness with a suffix)	<i>karaa</i> 'road', <i>karicha</i> 'the road'

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Afaan Oromoo	Examples
Order of subject, object and verb	Subject–verb–object	Subject–object–verb	<i>Ibsaan konkolaataa qaba</i> ‘Ibsaa has a car’, lit. ‘Ibsaa (+nominative ending) car has’
Order of Object, Oblique, and Verb	Verb–Object–Oblique	Object–Oblique–Verb	
Order of Adjective and Noun	Adjective–Noun	Noun–Adjective	
Order of Demonstrative and Noun	Demonstrative–Noun	Noun–Demonstrative	
Order of Numeral and Noun	Numeral–Noun	Noun–Numeral	<i>nama shan</i> ‘five men’, lit. ‘man five’
Order of Genitive and Noun	No dominant order	Noun–Genitive	<i>hojii</i> ‘job’, <i>Caaltuu</i> (woman’s name), <i>hojii Caaltuu</i> , ‘Caaltuu’s job’
Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions	Initial interrogative phrase	Not initial interrogative phrase	
Polar Questions	Interrogative word order	Interrogative intonation only	
Prepositions or postpositions?	Prepositions	Postpositions	
Expression of Pronominal Subjects	Obligatory pronouns in subject position	Subject affixes on verb	<i>kaleessa dhufne</i> ‘we came yesterday’, lit. ‘yesterday came-2ND.PL.’

2.1.3 Corpora

Bilingual corpora: The amount of parallel corpora freely available is scarce. OPUS (<http://opus.nlpl.eu/>) contain three corpora comprising about 200,000 sentence pairs.

Monolingual corpora: Oromoo Wikipedia is available at <https://om.wikipedia.org/wiki/>. As of April 2019 it contains 14,545 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryOR>).

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	om tokens
wikimedia v20190628	1	1	7.7M	1.1k
JW300 v1	2059	0.2M	3.0M	2.8M
Ubuntu v14.10	9	0.2k	4.9k	1.0k
total	2069	0.2M	10.7M	2.8M

Table 2: Distribution of the sentences in the OPUS Oromo–English corpus.

htm). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/omwiki/>. There is a Wikipedia dump already preprocessed that is available in plain text format (<http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-2735>). It contains around 5,000 sentences and 175,000 words.

The Oromo Web Corpus (<https://habit-project.eu/wiki/OromoCorpus>) contains 5.1 million tokens and is made up of texts collected from the Internet. It can be queried at https://corpora.fi.muni.cz/habit/run.cgi/first_form?corpname=orwac16 but it has not been made available for downloading. In addition to the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/afaanoromoo>), the Voice of America (<https://www.voafaanoromoo.com/>) publishes news in Afaan Oromoo.

2.1.4 Resources

Bilingual resources: PanLex contains a bilingual English–Oromo dictionary that can be queried online (<https://translate.panlex.org/?langDe=eng-000&langAl=orm-000>).

The Glosbe bilingual concordancer (<https://glosbe.com/om/en>) offers translations into English for Afaan Oromoo words in context.

Monolingual resources: HornMorphoA (<https://github.com/hltidi/HornMorpho>) is a morphological analyser for languages of the Horn of Africa that supports Oromoo, as well as Tigrinya (§ 2.18).

Wegari (2011) developed a part-of-speech tagger that can be used online (<https://nlp.fi.muni.cz/projekty/habit/omtag/index.cgi>).

Tesfaye and Abebe (2010) designed an Oromoo stemmer, although it is not available for downloading.

2.1.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

The main challenge when trying to build a machine translation system from English into Afaan Oromoo comes from the scarcity of available parallel corpora. Even if more parallel corpora could be obtained, the following issues would still stand when building an English-to-Oromoo corpus-based machine translation system:

- The order of words in the English and Afaan Oromoo sentence (see contrasts above) is radically different in so many respects (Afaan Oromoo is a subject–object–verb language, uses case suffixes and postpositions instead of prepositions, places demonstratives, numerals

and adjectives after nouns, etc.). This property may make the generation of the right word order in Afaan Oromoo difficult.

- Morphological case needs to be marked overtly in Oromo nouns using information which is distributed in English (word order, prepositions, etc.). Similarly, the gender of nouns and adjectives and number of adjectives is not directly present in English words, which makes difficult the generation of grammatically correct Afaan Oromoo.
- Afaan Oromoo is a highly inflected language: for instance, verbs inflect for aspect, mood, gender, polarity, voice and person. This can cause data sparseness problems: if the MT system treats the words as atomic units, the system will likely have to produce words that have not been observed in the training corpus. It is desirable that the grammatical suffixes that mark case, number, aspect, mood, etc. are represented as independent tokens to allow the system to generalise better from the training data.
- As Afaan Oromoo is technically not a language but a group of languages or *macrolanguage*, selecting a specific rendition of Afaan Oromoo news which is understood by most literate speakers is no minor challenge.⁸

⁸ Partner BBC uses the standard version of the language, as used by the regional state administration, media houses, academic institutions (including the research centers on the language itself); this standard is the one maintained by the Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau (<https://www.oromiatourism.gov.et>).

2.2 Amharic (am, amh)

2.2.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Amharic has around 22 million speakers. It is spoken (and official) in Ethiopia. It is a Semitic language. It is in the same family (Ethiopic) as Tigrinya (see Section 2.18). Tigrinya is written in the Ge'ez script, an *abugida* (syllabary) which is also used for its smaller neighbour Tigrinya (spoken in Eritrea and parts of Ethiopia).

2.2.2 Contrasts with English

Examples are given in Google transliteration; note that many words are transliterated with syllables ending in *i* while this vowel is not written in other romanization systems (*beruni* 'house' → *berun*; *sewiye* 'man' → *sewyew*, etc.), which may also drop vowel length marks (*āfirika* 'Africa' → *afrika*) or use diphthongs to represent them (*bētuni* → *bietun*)

Contrasts are based on those described the World Atlas of Linguistic Structures. Examples are missing for some of them.

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Amharic	Examples
Order of Subject, Object and Verb	Subject–Verb–Object	Subject–Object–Verb	<i>sewiyewi beruni kefete</i> 'The man opened the door' (lit. 'The man door opened').
Adpositions: prepositions or postpositions?	Prepositions	Both (but predominantly postpositions)	<i>āfirika</i> 'Africa', <i>be'āfirika wisit'i</i> 'in Africa'
Polar questions	Interrogative word order	Same order as affirmative	<i>irisasi ālewoti?</i> 'Do you have a pencil?'; <i>irisasi ālewoti</i> 'You have a pencil';
Order of genitive and noun	No dominant order	Noun–genitive	<i>yesewiyewi wenidimi</i> 'The man's brother' lit. 'Man' (genitive) brother'
Negative Morphemes	Negative particle	Negative affix	<i>sewiyewi bētuni āye</i> 'The man saw the house'; <i>sewiyewi bētuni ālayewimi</i> 'The man did not see the house'
Possessives	Separate words	Affixes	<i>bēti</i> 'house'; <i>bēte</i> 'my house'; <i>bētachewi</i> 'their house'
Verbal Person Marking	Only the A argument (agent)	A (agent) or P (patient) argument	
The Morphological Imperative	No specific second-person imperatives	Second singular and second plural	
Gender distinction in pronouns	Only 3rd singular	2nd and 3rd singular	<i>ānite</i> 'you' (masc.); <i>ānichī</i> 'you' (fem.); <i>isu</i> 'he'; <i>iswa</i> 'she'
Person Marking on Adpositions	No person marking	Pronouns only	

2.2.3 Corpora

Monolingual Corpora: Amharic Wikipedia is available at <https://am.wikipedia.org/wiki/>. As of September 2019, it contains 15,039 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryAM.htm>). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/amwiki/>. There is a Wikipedia dump already preprocessed that is available in plain text format (<http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-2735>). It contains around 50,000 sentences and 800,000 words.

The W2C (Web to Corpus) corpora is a set of corpora (<http://hdl.handle.net/11858/00-097C-0000-0022-6133-9>) for 120 languages automatically collected from Wikipedia and the web. The Amharic corpus only contains 233 sentences and less than 9,000 words.

The Amharic "Web as Corpus" corpus (*amWaC16*; <https://lindat.mff.cuni.cz/repository/xmlui/handle/11234/1-2587>) was automatically collected from the web. It contains 20 million tokens

and it is morphologically annotated. A slightly larger version is available at the Sketch Engine platform (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/amwac-amharic-corpus/>), but it requires a subscription.

The Contemporary Amharic Corpus (Gezmu et al., 2018) was also crawled from the web and annotated morphologically. Some automatic spelling error corrections were carried out too. It contains 24 million tokens and can be downloaded from <http://www.findke.ovgu.de/findke/en/Research/Data+Sets/Contemporary+Amharic+Corpus+%28CACO%29.html>.

During the ALFFA project (Gauthier et al., 2016), automatic speech recognition data for Amharic (which includes a monolingual text corpus of speech transcription) was collected. It can be downloaded from https://github.com/besacier/ALFFA_PUBLIC/tree/master/ASR/AMHARIC.

The Amharic WIC Corpus (Rychlý and Lemma, 2018) contains about 210,000 words with manually annotated parts of speech. It was obtained from web news published by the Walta Information Center (<http://www.waltainfo.com>). It can be downloaded from <http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-2593>.

The corpus “An Amharic corpus for machine learning” (Gambäck et al., 2009) was created from 8,715 Amharic news articles from the years 2001–2004. It was morphologically analysed and manually part-of-speech tagged by staff at the Ethiopian Languages Research Center at Addis Ababa University. Authors did not provide a download link.

Other sources from which monolingual corpora could be downloaded include the aforementioned website of the Walta Information Center (<http://www.waltainfo.com>), which is regularly updated; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (https://www.unicode.org/udhr/d/udhr_amh.html); and the URLs included in the Crúbadán repository for Amharic (<http://crubadan.org/languages/am>).

Bilingual corpora: Parallel corpora for 100 languages were extracted from the Bible by Christodouloupoulos and Steedman (2015). The English–Amharic parallel corpus contains around 30,000 sentences and it can be downloaded from <https://github.com/christos-c/bible-corpus>.

Agić and Vulić (2019) performed complete crawl of all the publications from the website <https://www.jw.org> and published parallel corpora for over 300 languages. The English–Amharic corpus contains around 700,000 parallel sentences.

Abate et al. (2019) gathered an English–Amharic corpus containing around 40,000 sentences that belong to the religious, historical and legal domains. It can be downloaded from <https://github.com/admasethiopia/parallel-text/>.

The Data and Knowledge Engineering Group from Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg made available 145,820 English–Amharic parallel sentences from various sources, that can be downloaded from http://www.findke.ovgu.de/findke/en/Research/Data+Sets/Amharic_English+Parallel+Corpus-p-1144.html.

The Amharic-English bilingual corpus available at <https://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-W0074/> contains parallel text from legal and news domains in Amharic script, in transliterated form and in English. The size of the corpus is of 232,653 words in Amharic and 291,701 in English.

Melese et al. (2017) describe the preparation of 28,084 English–Amharic parallel sentences from the travel domain, and Woldeyohannis et al. (2018) describe a similar corpus. Teshome and Besacier (2012) report experiments on English–Amharic machine translation using a parallel corpus

corpus	doc's	sent's	am tokens	en tokens
JW300	9424	0.7M	9.9M	12.4M
Tatoeba	1	0.2k	0.8k	11.0M
wikimedia	1	0.3k	79.2k	7.7M
Tanzil (Quran) v1	15	0.1M	2.0M	2.8M
bible-uedin	2	61.1k	1.0M	1.8M
GNOME v1	569	95.9k	0.4M	1.2M
Ubuntu v14.10	158	9.4k	23.4k	0.2M
GlobalVoices v2017q3	54	1.6k	33.1k	44.5k
total	798	0.24M	2.4M	23M

Table 3: Distribution of the sentences in the Opus Amharic–English corpus.

built from the proceedings of the Parliament of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Argaw and Asker (2005) present a comparable English–Amharic parallel corpus crawled from the web. None of these corpora are publicly available for download.

Opus (<http://opus.nlpl.eu>) has an Amharic–English corpus of approximately 240,000 parallel sentences distributed as shown in table 3.

2.2.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: HornMorphoA (<https://github.com/hltidi/HornMorpho>) is a morphological analyser for languages of the Horn of Africa that supports Amharic, as well as Oromo (§ 2.1) and Tigrinya (§ 2.18). Another Amharic morphological analyzer, that uses finite state technology, can be found at <https://sourceforge.net/projects/amharic-morph/>. Abate and Assabie (2014) developed a morphological analyzer based on memory-based supervised machine learning. Gambäck and Asker (2010) evaluated different technologies for part-of-speech tagging and morphological analysis of Amharic text. They concluded that trigram, SVM and maximum entropy taggers achieve comparable results. Unfortunately, they did not publish the taggers used in their experiments. They also claimed that the most complete morphological processing tool for Amharic is HornMorpoA.

The Amharic Wiktionary (<https://am.wiktionary.org/wiki/>) contains 217 entries.

Bilingual resources: PanLex contains a bilingual English–Amharic dictionary that can be queried online (<https://translate.panlex.org/?langDe=eng-000&langAl=amh-000>). Abyssinica (<https://dictionary.abysinnica.com>), AmharicPro (<http://www.amharicpro.com>) and SelamSoft (<https://www.amharicdictionary.com>) also offer English–Amharic online dictionaries.

The Glosbe bilingual concordancer (<https://glosbe.com/am/en>) offers translations into English for Amharic words in context.

The following online machine translation systems support Amharic–English translation:

- Google Translate (<https://translate.google.com>)
- Yandex Translate (<https://translate.yandex.com>)

2.2.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT to/from English

Here are the main challenges when generating Amharic from English:

- Relative scarcity of bilingual corpora.
- Very different sentence structure. In particular, interrogatives have to be reordered when translating from English, and verbs have to be moved closer to the subject.
- The absence of gender distinction on second person pronouns in English may make difficult to translate to the appropriate second-person pronoun in Amharic.

corpus	doc's	sent's	bs tokens	en tokens
OpenSubtitles v2018	17,874	15.2M	97.9M	121.5M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	0.5k	3.0k	11.0M
Tanzil (Quran) v1	30	0.3M	4.7M	5.6M
SETIMES v2	1	0.1M	3.1M	3.3M
GNOME v1	488	0.2M	1.1M	1.0M
Ubuntu v14.10	447	0.2M	0.6M	0.8M
QED v2.0a	113	18.5k	0.2M	0.3M
EUbookshop v2	4	0.6k	26.7k	85.3k
total	18958	15.9M	107.7M	143.6M

Table 4: Distribution of the sentences in the OPUS Bosnian–English corpus.

2.3 Bosnian (bs, bos)

2.3.1 Factsheet

The Bosnian language is one of the standardized varieties of the Serbo-Croatian macrolanguage, namely the one mainly used by about 3 million people, living mostly in Bosnia (where it is official) and Herzegovina, but also in Serbia, Montenegro or Kosovo.

Bosnian is written the same Latin script as Croatian (§ 2.6).

2.3.2 Contrasts with English

As regards contrasts with English, Bosnian has essentially the same contrasts as Croatian, see section 2.6.2.

2.3.3 Corpora

Bilingual corpora: The Southeast European Times (SETimes) is a central source of news and information about Southeastern Europe in ten languages: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, English, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish. The SETimes corpus (<http://nlp.ffzg.hr/resources/corpora/setimes/>) was compiled and placed in the public domain by Tyers and Serdar Alperen (2010) and refined by the Natural Language Processing group at the University of Zagreb. The Bosnian–English corpus contains approximately 138,000 sentences.

OPUS (<http://opus.nlpl.eu>) has a Bosnian–English corpus of approximately 16 million sentences, distributed as shown in table 4.

Monolingual corpora: bsWaC is a web corpus collected from the .ba top-level domain by Ljubešić and Klubička (2014). It contains 429 million tokens and is annotated with lemma, morphosyntax and dependency syntax layers.

The Twitter corpus BCMS (Ljubešić et al., 2014) contains 379,255,987 words in Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian. It is distributed as a set of tweet ID's that should be used to rebuild the corpora via the Twitter API.

The Bosnian Wikipedia is available at <https://bs.wikipedia.org/wiki/>. As of April 2019 it contains 79,223 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryBS.htm>). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/bswiki/>. There is a Wikipedia dump already preprocessed that is available in plain text format (<http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-2735>). It contains around 370,000 sentences and 13 million words.

The W2C (Web to Corpus) corpora is a set of corpora (<https://lindat.mff.cuni.cz/repository/xmlui/handle/11858/00-097C-0000-0022-6133-9>) for 120 languages automatically collected from Wikipedia and the web. The Bosnian corpus contains around 2 million sentences and 125 million words.

In addition to DW (<https://www.dw.com/bs>), the following international media outlets produce content in Bosnian: The Voice of America (<https://ba.voanews.com/>), and TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>), although mostly multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

2.3.4 Resources

Bilingual resources Apertium provides rule-based machine translation between Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and English. The rule-based system contains bilingual dictionaries and transfer rules released under free licenses (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-hbs-eng>).

PanLex contains a bilingual Bosnian–English dictionary that can be queried online (<https://translate.panlex.org/?langDe=eng-000&langAl=bos-000>).

The Glosbe bilingual concordancer can be used online at <https://glosbe.com/en/bs>.

The following online machine translation systems support Bosnian–English translation:

- Google Translate (<https://translate.google.com>)
- Yandex Translate (<https://translate.yandex.com>)
- Bing Translator (<https://www.bing.com/translator>)

Monolingual resources Apertium contains a morphological analyser/PoS tagger/morphological generator for Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-hbs>) with 58,004 stems.

2.3.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

The linguistic contrasts between English and Bosnian are basically the same as those between English and Croatian (§ 2.6.2), and so are the challenges for corpus-based MT from English (§ 2.6.5). The main additional problem may lie in harvesting new corpora for Bosnian, as language identification is very likely to (expectedly) classify Croatian, or even Serbian text as Bosnian or vice-versa.

2.4 Bulgarian (bg, bul)

2.4.1 Factsheet

Bulgarian is an Indo-European, Slavic language, as are the languages in the Serbo-Croatian macro-language (such as Bosnian (§ 2.3), Croatian (§ 2.6), and Serbian (§ 2.15)), and the closely-related Macedonian (§ 2.13). According to Wikipedia, it is spoken by 8–9 million people, mainly in Bulgaria (where it is official) but also in Albania, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, and the Ukraine (where it has varying levels of recognition as a minority language). It is one of the 24 official languages of the European Union.

Bulgarian and Macedonian form the East South Slavic group, which departs dramatically from other Slavic languages in that they have done away with the case declension system, do not have a verb infinitive, and have acquired a definite article (written as a suffix), but have a much richer verb system, including evidentiality (for instance, it morphologically marks whether the action was witnessed directly by the speaker or was reported to them).

Bulgarian uses the Cyrillic alphabet.

2.4.2 Contrasts with English

Examples are given in transliteration.

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Bulgarian	Examples
Definite articles	Definite word distinct from demonstrative, separate word	Definite word distinct from demonstrative, suffix.	<i>kniga</i> ('book'), <i>knigata</i> , 'the book'.
Indefinite articles	Indefinite word distinct from <i>one</i>	No indefinite article	<i>kniga</i> ('book', 'a book').

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Bulgarian	Examples
Coding of evidentiality	No grammatical evidentials	Evidentials part of the verb system	<i>Toī e bil</i> ('He was', direct evidence) vs. <i>Toī bil</i> ('He reportedly was', indirect evidence).
The perfect (verbs)	Uses <i>have</i> as an auxiliary	Does not use <i>have</i>	<i>Az sūm napisal</i> ('I have written', where <i>Az sūm</i> means 'I am').
2nd person morphological imperative	Not different from base form	Special and different for singular and plural	<i>karai!</i> ('Drive!', sing.); <i>karaiṭe!</i> ('drive', plural).
Perfective vs. Imperfective Aspect:	No grammatical marking	Grammatical marking	<i>Kogato cheta kniga</i> ('When I read a book', imperfective, unfinished action); <i>Kogato procheta knigata</i> ('When I finish reading the book', perfective, finished action).

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Bulgarian	Examples
Order of subject and verb	Subject–Verb	No preference	<i>Pozdravi Ivan momichetata</i> or <i>Ivan pozdravi momichetata</i> ('Ivan greets the girls')
Polar (yes/no) questions	No question particle, signalled by word order or auxiliary	Particle in the second position	<i>Imate kniga</i> ('You have got a book'), <i>Imate li kniga?</i> ('Have you got a book?')
Expression of pronominal subjects	Mandatory pronoun in subject position	Person affix in verb	<i>Vidyakhṭe</i> ('You saw'), <i>vidyakhme</i> ('We saw'), <i>Vidyakha</i> ('They saw').
'Want' Complement Subjects	Subject is left implicit	Subject is expressed overtly	<i>Iskam da pluvam</i> ('I want to swim', lit. 'I want that I swim', parallel to <i>Iskam da pluvash</i> 'I want you to swim').

2.4.3 Corpora

Bilingual corpora: The Southeast European Times (SETimes) is a central source of news and information about Southeastern Europe in ten languages: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, English, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish. The SETimes corpus (<http://nlp.ffzg.hr/resources/corpora/setimes/>) was compiled and put in the public domain by Tyers and Serdar Alperen (2010) and refined by the Natural Language Processing group at the University of Zagreb. The Bulgarian–English corpus contains approximately 213,000 sentences.

ParaSol (<http://parasolcorpus.org/>) is a parallel aligned corpus of translated and original belletristic texts in Slavic and some other languages. The amount of parallel corpora depends on the particular language pair. Languages include Bulgarian, Belarusian, Czech, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, Serbian, Ukrainian, Upper Sorbian, German, English, Dutch, Spanish, French, Italian, and a few others. Croatian texts are tagged and lemmatized. The Bulgarian part has 2,125,936 tokens and 47,172 lemmas, whereas the English part has 814,289 tokens and 19,886 lemmas. Access to ParaSol and downloads are provided by a web interface which requires authentication.

Europarl (<http://www.statmt.org/europarl/>) has a Bulgarian–English section with around 400,000 parallel sentences.

The DGT translation memory (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/language-technologies/dgt-translation-memory>) contains 4,316,876 Bulgarian–English translation units, while the EAC translation memory (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/language-technologies/eac-translation-memory>) contains only 4,061 translation units and the ECDC translation memory (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/language-technologies/ecdc-translation-memory>) contains 2,567 translation units.

The Digital Corpus of the European Parliament (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/language-technologies/dcep>) contains the majority of the documents published on the European Parliament’s official website. The Bulgarian–English section contains around 35 million words in Bulgarian. The JRC-Acquis corpus (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/language-technologies/jrc-acquis>) is a parallel corpus extracted from the body of European Union (EU) law applicable in the the EU Member States. It contains around 46,000 Bulgarian–English parallel sentences.

In addition to the aforementioned sentence-aligned parallel corpora published by European institutions, DGT-Acquis (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/language-technologies/dgt-acquis>) is a paragraph-aligned corpus that contains around 56 million words in Bulgarian. It needs to be sentence-aligned before it can be used for training MT systems.

The release 4.0 of the Paracrawl parallel corpora collection (<https://paracrawl.eu/releases.html>) contains an Bulgarian–English parallel corpus with around 1 million sentences.

The EUR-Lex Corpus (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/eurlex-corpus/>) is a multilingual corpus in all the official languages of the European Union. The corpus has been built from HTML files available in the EUR-Lex database. It is released under CC-BY-NC-SA licence. It is paragraph-aligned and contains around 17 million Bulgarian–English paragraph pairs.

The EMP-BTB-CSLI-MWA and EMP-BTB-JH0-MWA datasets (<http://bultreebank.org/bg/btb-results-from-euomatrixplus-project/>) were produced during the EuroMatrixPlus Project. They respectively contain 893 and 250 parallel sentences manually aligned at the word level.

The novel “1984” by George Orwell tagged with lemma and part of speech in Bulgarian and English can be downloaded from <https://www.clarin.si/repository/xmlui/handle/11356/1043>. English original has 79,718 sentences and 106,4424 words. The corpus is licensed under a CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license.

The QTLeap parallel corpus, available via Portulan Clarin (<https://portulanclarin.net/>), is composed by 4,000 question and answer pairs in the domain of computer and IT troubleshooting.

As part of the Machine Translation of IT domain shared task at the WMT16 conference (<http://www.statmt.org/wmt16/it-translation-task.html>) a parallel corpus built from software localization files was released. It contains around 100,000 Bulgarian–English parallel sentences.

corpus	doc's	sent's	bg tokens	en tokens
OpenSubtitles v2018	52151	42.9M	289.1M	349.9M
DGT v2019	23853	3.6M	74.3M	86.3M
ParaCrawl v5	52	2.6M	61.0M	62.9M
JW300 v1	9639	0.7M	13.0M	13.4M
EMEA v3	1596	1.1M	14.6M	11.0M
EUbookshop v2	740	0.2M	10.0M	12.8M
Europarl v8	7520	0.4M	10.6M	11.0M
QED v2.0a	3921	0.6M	7.6M	9.0M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	17.7k	0.2M	11.0M
SETIMES v2	1	0.2M	5.2M	5.1M
JRC-Acquis v3.0	688	49.6k	2.8M	2.4M
Tanzil v1	15	0.1M	2.3M	2.8M
GNOME v1	1326	0.6M	2.4M	2.6M
bible-uedin v1	2	62.1k	1.5M	1.8M
Wikipedia v1.0	1	79.8k	1.4M	1.7M
KDE4 v2	651	0.1M	0.7M	0.8M
Ubuntu v14.10	350	79.0k	0.3M	0.5M
GlobalVoices v2017q3	293	5.7k	0.1M	0.1M
TildeMODEL v2018	1	2.9k	85.7k	0.2M
total	102801	53.5M	497.3M	585.6M

Table 5: Distribution of the sentences in the Opus Bulgarian–English corpus.

Opus (<http://opus.nlpl.eu>) has a Bulgarian–English corpus of approximately 54 million sentences distributed as shown in table 5.

Monolingual corpora: Bulgarian Wikipedia is available at <https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/>. As of April 2019 it contains 248,310 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryBG.htm>). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/bgwiki/>. There is a Wikipedia dump already preprocessed that is available in plain text format (<http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-2735>). It contains around 2.1 million sentences and 37 million words.

The W2C (Web to Corpus) corpora is a set of corpora (<http://hdl.handle.net/11858/00-097C-0000-0022-6133-9>) for 120 languages automatically collected from Wikipedia and the web. The Bulgarian corpus contains around 1.4 million sentences and 50 million words.

Crawls of Bulgarian news text are available at <http://data.statmt.org/news-crawl/bg/>. As of April 2019, the crawls contain 35 million sentences and 600 million words.

The bgTenTen corpus (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/bgtenten-bulgarian-corpus/>) is a Bulgarian corpus made up of texts collected from the Internet. It is available at the Sketch Engine platform, but it requires a subscription.

The Brown corpus of Bulgarian (http://dcl.bas.bg/Corpus/home_en.html) consists on 500 text samples distributed in 15 categories from two types of texts: fiction and informative prose. The corpus amounts to 1,001,286 words.

The Bulgarian National Corpus (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/bulgarian-national-corpus/>) is a Bulgarian corpus made up of texts collected from various sources such as scanned books, transcribed data, Internet texts, etc. It contains 419 million words. It is available at the Sketch Engine platform, but it requires a subscription.

The BgSpeech database (http://bgspeech.net/en/resources_en.html) contains transcriptions of spoken Bulgarian, which are available for research and academic purposes.

The C4Corpus (<https://dkpro.github.io/dkpro-c4corpus/>) is extracted from the on-line available CommonCrawl, a massive crawl of documents from the Internet and contains monolingual text in Bulgarian.

The BulTreeBank corpus (Simov et al., 2002) is a syntactically annotated Bulgarian corpus. A subset of it can be downloaded at <http://bultreebank.org/en/resources/>. The same website also contains some sections of the Bulgarian National Reference Corpus (available for research purposes).

In addition to DW (<https://www.dw.com/bg>), the following international media outlets produce content in Bulgarian: China Plus (formerly China Radio International, <http://bulgarian.cri.cn/>) Vatican Radio (<https://www.vaticannews.va/bg.html>), and TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>, although most of it is multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

2.4.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: Apertium has fair-coverage morphological resources for Bulgarian (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-bul>, 8578 lemmata).

Besides Apertium, the MULTEXT-East lexicons (<http://hdl.handle.net/11356/1041@format=cmdi>) also contain morphological inflection information for Bulgarian words.

Moreover, there are PoS tagging models for 3 different tools available at <http://bultreebank.org/en/resources/part-speech-tagging-bultreebank-bulgarian-taggers/>.

There are monolingual resources for syntactic analysis of Bulgarian too, such as the BURGER resource grammar (<http://bultreebank.org/en/bulgarian-resource-grammar-burger/>) and a dependency parser trained on the BulTreeBank corpus (Marinov and Nivre, 2005).

Bilingual resources: PanLex contains a bilingual Bulgarian–English dictionary that can be queried online (<https://translate.panlex.org/?langDe=eng-000&langAl=bul-000>).

A crowd-sourced Bulgarian–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014).

Open Multilingual Wordnet (<http://compling.hss.ntu.edu.sg/omw/>) contains synsets in Bulgarian linked to the corresponding entry in the Princeton Wordnet of English (<https://wordnet.princeton.edu/>). A Bulgarian–English bilingual dictionary could be easily extracted from this resource.

The Glosbe bilingual concordancer can be used online at <https://glosbe.com/en/bg>.

The following online machine translation systems support Bulgarian–English translation:

- Google Translate (<https://translate.google.com>)

- Yandex Translate (<https://translate.yandex.com>)
- Bing Translator (<https://www.bing.com/translator>)

2.4.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

Since Bulgarian is an official language of the EU, bilingual corpus scarcity is less of an issue for the Bulgarian–English language pair than it is for most of the languages in GoURMET.

These are the main divergences with English when generating Bulgarian:

- Definiteness needs to be marked overtly in Bulgarian nouns using information from the determiners in English.
- Pronominal subjects need to be expressed as verb affixes in Bulgarian using information from the personal pronouns in English.
- Subject of the complement of the verb *want* needs to be expressed overtly in Bulgarian using information from the subject of the verb *want*.
- Evidentiality, perfective/imperfective aspect, and number of 2nd person morphological imperative, which are not explicitly encoded in English, need to be marked in Bulgarian verbs. The MT system would need to make use of all the information in the SL sentence (and maybe in the surrounding ones) to guess the value of these morphological features.
- The polarity of questions needs to be expressed with a particle by rearranging the word order (including a possible auxiliary verb) in English.
- Bulgarian is a highly inflected language. This can cause data sparseness problems if the MT system treats the words as atomic units. It is desirable that the grammatical suffixes that mark definiteness, evidentiality, etc. are represented as independent tokens to allow the system to generalise better from the training data.

2.5 Burmese (my, bur)

2.5.1 Factsheet

According to the English Wikipedia, Burmese (also called *Myanmar*) is a Sino-Tibetan tonal language (such as Chinese). It is official in Myanmar (Burma). About 33 million people speak it as a first language, and perhaps an additional 10 million speak it as a second language.

Burmese has its own writing system (an *abugida* or syllabary where consonants are assumed to have an implicit *a* vowel) consisting of 33 letters and 12 vowels with characteristic circular shapes; tone markings and vowel-modifying diacritics can be placed before, after, above or below letters. Burmese is written from left to right. Spaces between words are not mandatory, but are used by writers as a sort of *pauses* to make reading easier.⁹

2.5.2 Morpho-syntactic contrasts with English

According to the World Atlas of Linguistic Structures and the English Wikipedia article on Burmese, these are some important grammatical contrasts between English and Burmese:

- The standard sentence order in Burmese is subject, object and verb, while in English it is subject, verb and object.
- Accordingly, Burmese has postpositions where English has prepositions.
- Relative clauses precede the noun they modify, while in English, relative clauses come after the noun.
- Genitive (possessive, *of*) constructs always precede the noun in Burmese: in English they may precede or follow.
- *Adjectives* (Burmese does not have proper adjectives but verbs carrying the meaning *to be X*) follow nouns in Burmese, while in English they precede nouns.
- Numerals follow nouns in Burmese, while in English they precede nouns.
- Burmese does not show passive verb constructions.
- Burmese does not require pronouns in subject position, while English does, even if Burmese verbs do not mark the person.
- Burmese shows double negation, which is often mandatory.
- Yes/no questions are marked in Burmese verb morphology, while in English they are signalled by changes in word order or by the introduction of an auxiliary verb.
- Burmese interrogative phrases are not mandatorily placed at the beginning of the sentence, but where their counterparts in the affirmative sentence would be.
- Burmese can drop the copula verb *to be* in predicative constructs.

⁹ Note the large token ratio reported in <http://opus.nlpl.edu> between English and Burmese, see Table 6

- To mark possession, English uses *have* but Burmese uses *locative* constructs of the style of *A car is on me* to say *I have a car*.
- Reduplication is sometimes used in Burmese to intensify or weaken adjectives, to make adverbs from adjectives, or to form the plural of nouns.
- In Burmese, white space is not generally used to separate words. It is sometimes used to separate phrases or clauses to enhance readability, but this is basically left to the writer, and can be omitted altogether.
- Burmese does not have grammatical gender; English gender only shows in third-person-singular pronouns or possessives.
- Burmese has a rather complex systems of honorifics that English does not have.

2.5.3 Challenges for neural MT between Burmese and English

- Spaces are used inconsistently in Burmese, mainly when the author thinks it is a good idea to mark the end of a phrase or clause. This, coupled with sub-word methods such as SentencePiece or byte pair encoding may lead to unnecessary vocabulary sparseness. A possible way to mitigate this would be to remove all space.
- While syntactic differences do not seem to be a major problem for present-day neural machine translation systems, the mismatch between grammatical categories between Burmese and English may pose some problems. For example, when translating into Burmese, the correct honorifics need to be generated; conversely, when translating into English, missing pronouns or third-personal genders have to be generated.
- While Burmese and Chinese are both Sino-Tibetan languages, they are very different, as they belong to different subfamilies (Lolo-Burmese and Sinitic respectively); for example, Chinese is subject–verb–object, adjective–noun, and mixed prepositional/postpositional while Burmese is subject–object–verb, noun–adjective and postpositional. It may however still be worth trying some kind of transfer learning starting from a pretrained Chinese/English system, if one can work around the problem posed by the radically different writing systems.

2.5.4 Existing resources for Burmese

Monolingual resources

Alphabet, fonts and encoding:

- An explanation of the Burmese alphabet <https://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/romanization/burmese.pdf>.
- Encoding of the Burmese alphabet in Unicode <https://unicodemap.org/range/28/Myanmar/>.
- An explanation of Zawgyi, which is another encoding used for Burmese https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zawgyi_font (its encoding is implemented in the Burmese block of Unicode but in a non-compliant way).

- Corpora:**
- A recent Wikipedia dump is available from <https://archive.org/details/mywiki-20210420>.
 - Collection of corpora extracted from CommonCrawl in several languages, including Burmese <http://data.statmt.org/ngrams/raw/>. We have taken the dataset my.2017_17.raw.xz. After de-duplication, this resulted in approximately 28 million unique lines.
 - Monolingual Burmese corpus with 2207994 lines <https://metatext.io/datasets/cc100-burmese>. Created in 2020 from CommonCrawl snapshots from January to December 2018 from the CC-Net repository.
 - Monolingual Burmese corpus of 19565 lines <https://zenodo.org/record/1202324#.YNAwmEyUXI>. Corpus of "modern" Burmese compiled in 1990 and recently converted to Unicode.

Dictionaries:

- List of monolingual Burmese dictionaries <https://github.com/myanmartools/myanmar-words>.

Tools:

- Zawgyi to Unicode converter and detector <https://github.com/google/myanmar-tools>. Developed by Google but not officially supported.
- Burmese segmenter <http://lotus.kuee.kyoto-u.ac.jp/WAT/my-en-data/>. Separates sentences by each character with its respective diacritics. Used in WAT2020¹⁰ to evaluate.
- Language independent tokenizer <https://github.com/google/sentencepiece>.
- Polyglot is a natural language pipeline that supports massive multilingual applications <https://github.com/aboSamoor/polyglot>. Used by language detection, sentence split and tokenization.
- Burmese word segmenter <https://github.com/stevenay/myan-word-breaker>. This segmenter consists of two phases: syllabic segmentation with a rule-based heuristic approach and syllable merging using a dictionary-based statistical approach.
- Python library for Myanmar language <https://github.com/kaunghtetsan275/pyidaungsu>. It offers syllable-level tokenization for Burmese, Karen, Shan and Mon. For Burmese only, word-level tokenization is available.
- Javascript library for Burmese text extraction and word segmentation (In development) <https://github.com/myanmartools/myanmar-text-extractor-js>.
- Burmese syllable segmenter <https://github.com/ye-kyaw-thu/sylbreak>.

Bilingual resources

Corpora:

- As of June 29, 2021, OPUS (<opus.nlpl.eu>) contains about 1,600,000 sentence pairs in various parallel corpora (see Table 6). Most of the sentence pairs come from Jehovah's Witnesses websites (JW300), followed by TED Talks and the Qatar Computing Research Institute Educational Domain corpus QED.

¹⁰<http://lotus.kuee.kyoto-u.ac.jp/WAT/WAT2020/>

- WAT2020 (The Workshop on Asian Translation) is an open machine translation evaluation campaign focusing on Asian languages. One of the tasks of the workshop is the automatic translation from Burmese-English. For this task, WAT2020 provides two parallel corpora <http://lotus.kuee.kyoto-u.ac.jp/WAT/my-en-data/>. The ALT corpus is one part from the Asian Language Treebank Project, consisting of 20.000 Burmese-English parallel sentences from news articles. The UCSY corpus is constructed by the NLP Lab, University of Computer Studies, Yangon and consists of 200.000 Burmese-English parallel sentences collected from different domains, including news articles and textbooks.
- Corpus composed of 1372 Japanese sentences translated into Korean, Burmese, Indonesian, Malay, Thai, Vietnamese and English <https://github.com/matbahasa/TALPCo>.
- Dataset for evaluation obtained from FLORES-101 Evaluation Benchmark https://dl.fbaipublicfiles.com/flores101/dataset/flores101_dataset.tar.gz. It consists of 2000 sentences extracted from English Wikipedia and translated by professional translators. The dataset covers multiple domains.

Dictionaries and word lists:

- A GitHub repository (<https://github.com/mcfnlp/Dictionary>) contains a part-of-speech annotated English–Burmese dictionary in two Excel (.xls) files, with about 100,000 entries, but declares no licence. The author has been contacted.
- List of 1000 Burmese words with their English translation and word form: <https://cracking-burmese.com/2018/03/05/burmese-top-150-and-top-1000-word-list/>.
- A Swadesh list¹¹ of 207 words in Burmese, compared with that of English https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Burmese_Swadesh_list.
- List of 1000 words in English and Burmese <https://1000mostcommonwords.com/1000-most-common-myanmar-words/>.
- Burmese–English dictionary <https://glosbe.com/my/en>. When entering a text with no translation available, it offers Google’s automatic translation.

Machine translation:

- Google¹² and MBart-50¹³ offer machine translation for Burmese.

Other:

- Repository of resources in Burmese (collection of vocabulary, parallel sentences, etc.) <https://github.com/alvations/myth>.
- (see Glosbe above)

¹¹A Swadesh list contains lexical designations of basic culture-independent concepts; their use is common in comparative (and historical) linguistics.

¹²<http://translate.google.com>

¹³https://huggingface.co/transformers/model_doc/mbart.html; fine-tuned for machine translation at <https://huggingface.co/facebook/mbart-large-50-one-to-many-mmt>

Corpus	Documents	Sentences	English tokens	Burmese tokens
wikimedia v20210402	1	14.9k	349.2M	1.1M
XLEnt v1.1	1	59.9k	198.7M	0.3M
JW300 v1b	8772	0.9M	11.9M	16.4M
Tatoeba v2021-03-10	2	0.2k	12.3M	4.9k
CCAligned v1	6	0.3M	4.8M	5.6M
bible-uedin v1	2	61.9k	1.8M	1.0M
TED2020 v1	935	62.5k	1.2M	1.4M
ParaCrawl v8	1	31.4k	0.9M	0.9M
QED v2.0a	1001	60.2k	1.1M	0.5M
GNOME v1	170	70.4k	0.5M	0.8M
Mozilla-I10n v1	1	27.6k	0.7M	0.1M
Ubuntu v14.10	283	30.3k	0.4M	0.2M
tico-19 v2020-10-28	1	3.1k	80.5k	0.2M
GlobalVoices v2018q4	116	2.4k	54.7k	0.1M
total	11292	1.6M	583.7M	28.6M

Table 6: OPUS parallel resources for English–Burmese as of June 29, 2021

2.6 Croatian (hr, hrv)

2.6.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Croatian is the standardized variety of the Serbo-Croatian macro-language used by about 5.6 million Croats, principally in Croatia (where it is official), Bosnia and Herzegovina (where it is one of the official language), the Serbian province of Vojvodina (where it is recognized as a minority language), and other neighboring countries. It is one of the 24 official languages of the European Union. Bosnian (§ 2.3) and Serbian (§ 2.15) are the other two languages in this projects belonging to the same macro-language. The Serbo-Croatian macro-language, as well as Bulgarian (§ 2.4) and Macedonian (§ 2.13) in this project, belong to the Slavic group inside the Indo-European family.

Croatian is written with the Latin script, supplemented with the following letters: *č, ć, đ, š, and ž* (upper case *Č, Ć, Đ, Š, and Ž*).

2.6.2 Contrasts with English

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Croatian	Examples
Definite articles	Definite word distinct from demonstrative	No definite or indefinite article	<i>knjiga</i> ('book', 'the book', 'a book').
Indefinite articles	Indefinite word distinct from <i>one</i>	No definite or indefinite article	<i>knjiga</i> ('book', 'the book', 'a book').

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Croatian	Examples
Number of cases	2 cases, only for pronouns and similar words	5–7 cases	<i>Knjiga je tamo</i> ('the book is there', nominative); <i>Imam knjigu</i> ('I have a book', accusative); <i>Cijena knjige</i> ('The price of the book', genitive); <i>Govorio je o knjizi</i> ('He talked about the book', prepositional); <i>Došao je s knjigom</i> ('He arrived with the book', instrumental).
Position of case affixes	No case affixes or adpositional clitics	Case suffixes	<i>knjiga</i> ('book', nominative), <i>knjigom</i> ('book', instrumental)
The morphological Imperative	No second-person imperatives	Second singular and second plural	<i>Pročitati</i> ('read'); <i>pročitaj!</i> ('read!', singular); <i>pročitajte!</i> ('read!', plural).

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Croatian	Examples
Yes–no questions	No question particle, uses word order or auxiliary	Question particle in a few specific positions	<i>Razumijete.</i> (‘You understand’); <i>Da li razumijete?</i> or <i>Razumijete li?</i> (‘Do you understand?’).
Expression of pronominal subjects	Obligatory pronouns in subject position	Subject affixes on verbs, number and gender agreement on participles.	<i>Razumije</i> (‘He or she understands’); <i>Razumju</i> (‘They understand’); <i>Razumio je</i> (‘He has understood’), <i>Razumjela je</i> (‘She has arrived’), <i>Razumjeli su</i> (‘They [masc] have arrived’), etc.
Multiple negation	Changes polarity	Does not change polarity, often mandatory	<i>Nigdje nisam vidio nikoga</i> (‘I haven’t seen anyone anywhere’, lit. ‘Nowhere I haven’t seen no one’); <i>Nisam vidio nikoga</i> (‘I haven’t seen anyone’, lit. ‘I haven’t seen no one’).
Order of genitive and noun	No dominant order	Noun–genitive but some constructs differ	<i>Cijena knjige</i> ‘The price (<i>cijena</i>) of the book (<i>knjige</i>)’; <i>Auto moje majke</i> ‘My mother’s car’; but: <i>Mamin auto</i> ‘Mom’s car’; <i>Čovjekov auto</i> ‘The man’s car’ (with adjective-forming suffixes <i>-in</i> and <i>-ov</i> applied to <i>mama</i> and <i>čovjek</i>)

2.6.3 Corpora

Bilingual corpora: The Southeast European Times (SETimes) is a central source of news and information about Southeastern Europe in ten languages: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, English, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish. The SETimes corpus (<http://nlp.ffzg.hr/resources/corpora/setimes/>) was compiled and put in the public domain by Tyers and Serdar Alperen (2010) and refined by the Natural Language Processing group at the University of Zagreb. The Croatian–English corpus contains approximately 200,000 sentences.

ParaSol (<http://parasolcorpus.org/>) is a parallel aligned corpus of translated and original belletristic texts in Slavic and some other languages. The amount of parallel corpora depends on the particular language pair. Languages include Bulgarian, Belarusian, Czech, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, Serbian, Ukrainian, Upper Sorbian, German, English, Dutch, Spanish, French, Italian, and a few others. Croatian texts are tagged and lemmatized. The Croatian part has 1,184,904 tokens and 55,538 lemmas, whereas the English part has 814,289 tokens and 19,886 lemmas. Access to ParaSol and downloads are provided by a web interface which requires authentication.

The hrenWaC — Croatian–English Parallel Web Corpus <http://nlp.ffzg.hr/resources/corpora/hrenwac/> consists of 99,001 Croatian–English sentence pairs. It is published under the CC-BY-SA license.

The Croatian–English TED talks parallel corpus (<http://nlp.ffzg.hr/resources/corpora/ted-talks/>) is a collection of parallel sentences extracted from the Croatian-English TED talks transcripts

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	hr tokens
OpenSubtitles v2018	46239	37.5M	305.7M	243.4M
TildeMODEL v2018	5	0.7M	133.9M	15.2M
ParaCrawl v5	38	1.9M	49.5M	46.3M
JW300 v1	14473	1.1M	19.5M	17.7M
DGT v2019	4193	0.7M	17.3M	14.3M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	2.4k	11.0M	33.7k
SETIMES v2	1	0.2M	4.9M	4.6M
wikimedia v20190628	1	2.5k	7.7M	0.5M
QED v2.0a	1736	0.2M	3.7M	3.0M
hrenWaC v1	1	99.0k	2.6M	2.3M
bible-uedin v1	2	62.2k	1.8M	1.4M
GNOME v1	886	0.3M	1.9M	1.0M
TedTalks v1	1	86.3k	1.5M	1.3M
KDE4 v2	809	0.1M	0.8M	0.5M
Ubuntu v14.10	293	52.7k	0.5M	0.2M
EUbookshop v2	23	6.2k	0.2M	0.2M
total	68702	43.1M	562.7M	351.7M

Table 7: Distribution of the sentences in the Opus Croatian–English corpus.

available from WIT3. The corpus consists of 86,348 sentence pairs, 2,384,887 tokens.

The Tourism Croatian–English Parallel Corpus (Esplà-Gomis et al., 2014) is a sentence aligned parallel corpus built by automatically crawling 25 websites from the tourism domain. It contains 87,024 aligned segments.

The release 4.0 of the Paracrawl parallel corpora collection (<https://paracrawl.eu/releases.html>) contains an Croatian–English parallel corpus with 1 million sentences.

The DGT translation memory (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/language-technologies/dgt-translation-memory>) contains 2,288,146 Croatian–English translation units, while the EAC translation memory (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/language-technologies/eac-translation-memory>) contains only 573 translation units.

Opus (<http://opus.nlpl.eu>) has a Croatian–English corpus of approximately 44 million sentences distributed as shown in table 7.

Monolingual corpora: hrWaC is a web corpus collected from the .hr top-level domain by Ljubešić and Klubička (2014). It contains 1,900 million tokens and is annotated with lemma, morphosyntax and dependency syntax layers.

The Twitter corpus of BCMS (Ljubešić et al., 2014) contains 379,255,987 words in Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian. It is distributed as a set of tweet ids that should be used to rebuild the corpora via the Twitter API.

The Croatian Wikipedia is available at <https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/>. As of April 2019 it contains 201,390 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryHR.htm>). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/hrwiki/>. There is a Wikipedia

dump already preprocessed that is available in plain text format (<http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-2735>). It contains around 2.1 million sentences and 37 million words.

The W2C (Web to Corpus) corpora is a set of corpora (<http://hdl.handle.net/11858/00-097C-0000-0022-6133-9>) for 120 languages automatically collected from Wikipedia and the web. The Croatian corpus contains around 1.8 million sentences and 100 million words.

In addition to BBC (who have an archived Croatian news page, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/croatian/>, but no current page) and DW (<https://www.dw.com/hr/>), the following international media outlets produce content in Croatian: Vatican News (<https://www.vaticannews.va/hr.html>), China Plus (formerly China Radio International, <http://croatian.cri.cn/>) and TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>, although mostly multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

2.6.4 Resources

Bilingual resources: Apertium provides rule-based machine translation between Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and English. The rule-based system contains bilingual dictionaries and transfer rules released under free licenses (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-hbs-eng>).

PanLex contains a bilingual Croatian–English dictionary that can be queried online (<https://translate.panlex.org/?langDe=eng-000&langAl=hrv-000>).

A crowd-sourced Croatian–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014).

The set of open-source bilingual dictionaries FreeDict (<https://github.com/freedict/fd-dictionaries>) contains an Croatian–English bilingual dictionary.

Open Multilingual Wordnet (<http://compling.hss.ntu.edu.sg/omw/>) contains synsets in Croatian linked to the corresponding entry in the Princeton Wordnet of English (<https://wordnet.princeton.edu/>). A Croatian–English bilingual dictionary could be easily extracted from this resource.

The Glosbe bilingual concordancer can be used online at <https://glosbe.com/en/hr>.

The following online machine translation systems support Croatian–English translation:

- Google Translate (<https://translate.google.com>)
- Yandex Translate (<https://translate.yandex.com>)
- Bing Translator (<https://www.bing.com/translator>)

Monolingual resources Apertium contains a morphological analyser/PoS tagger/morphological generator for Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-hbs>) with 58,004 stems.

The hrLex morphological lexicon (Ljubešić et al., 2016), released under a free licence, can be used together with a CRF tagger (Ljubešić and Erjavec, 2016) to morphologically analyze Croatian text.

2.6.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

Croatian is an official language of the EU since Croatia joined in July 2013; as a result, it is better resourced than most of the languages of interest for GoURMET. However, it may not be so well-resourced if one considers the specific domain of GoURMET, that is, news, as most of the EU-official material will likely be out-of-domain.

These are the main challenges when generating Croatian:

- Morphological case needs to be marked overtly in Croatian nouns and other noun-phrase elements such as adjectives and determiners, using information which is distributed in English (word order, prepositions, etc.).
- Due to the fact that nouns in Croatian inflect for up to 7 different grammatical cases, data sparseness issues can arise if the machine translation system operates on whole Croatian words. The inflected nouns that need to be generated to correctly translate an English noun may have not been observed in the training corpus. In fact, Klubička et al. (2018) showed that agreement errors are reduced when NMT operating on byte-pair-encoded (Sennrich et al., 2016) words is used instead of SMT (operating on whole words).
- One needs to generate multiple negations in negative sentences.
- The order of genitive constructions, which is free in English, needs to be set in Croatian depending on set of factors such as whether the phrase that acts as the possessor is a proper noun or not.

2.7 Gujarati (gu, guj)

2.7.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Gujarati has around 55,000,000 speakers. It is spoken (and official) in the state of Gujarat and in two *Union territories* (Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli) (India). It belongs to a very large family, the Indo-European family, as do many other languages in this project, namely Bosnian (§ 2.3), Croatian (§ 2.6), Serbian (§ 2.15), Bulgarian (§ 2.4), and Macedonian (§ 2.4); however, these five languages are Slavic, while Gujarati, Punjabi (§ 2.14) and Kurdish (§ 2.11), also in this project, belong to the Indo-Iranian group.

Gujarati is written in a script of its own, the Gujarati script, which, as the Devanagari script used for Hindi, is an *alphasyllabary* in which consonant–vowel groups are written as a single character, with vowels being secondary to consonants.

2.7.2 Contrasts with English

Gujarati examples are given in transliteration.

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Gujarati	Examples
Order of Subject, Object and Verb	Subject–Object–Verb	Subject–Verb–Object	<i>Chōkarō gāya ju'ē chē</i> ('The boy sees the cow', lit. 'Boy cow sees')
Adpositions: prepositions or postpositions?	Prepositions	Postpositions	<i>ghara</i> ('The house'), <i>gharamām</i> ('In the house'); <i>kāra</i> ('The car'), <i>kāra mām</i> ('In the car').
Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions	Initial interrogative phrase	Not initial interrogative phrase	<i>Tē ghara ju'ē chē</i> ('She sees the house ') <i>Tē śum ju'ē chē?</i> (' What does she see?')
Polar questions	Interrogative word order	Same order as affirmative	<i>Tē ghara ju'ē chē</i> ('She sees the house') <i>Śum tē ghara ju'ē chē?</i> ('Does she see the house?')

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Gujarati	Examples
Number of genders	Three, but only in 3rd person singular pronouns and possessives	Two, masculine and feminine	<i>Chōkarō ūncō chē</i> ('The boy is tall', masc.) <i>Chōkarī ūncī chē</i> ('The girl is tall', fem.)
The transitive verb agrees with...	...the A argument ('agent'), if it does	...the A argument in imperfective verb forms, and the P argument ('patient') in perfective verb forms (split ergativity ¹⁴)	The verb agrees in number with P (and not with A) in perfective constructs such as <i>Ēka mātā'ē ēka bālakanē jōyō chē</i> ('One mother-ERG one child-ACC has-seen-SING'); <i>Ēka mātā'ē bē bālakōnē jōyā chē</i> ('One mother has seen two children', lit. 'One mother-ERG two children-ACC has-seen-PLU'); <i>Bē mātā'ō'ē ēka bālakanē jōyō chē</i> ('Two mothers see one child', lit. Two mothers-ERG one child-ACC has-seen-SING') but it agrees with A in imperfective constructs as it does in English.
Plurality in nouns	Always expressed	Optional	
Morphological case	No case (except for pronouns, etc.)	Three cases: nominative, oblique, and, for non-feminine nouns, locative; pronouns have more morphological cases	

2.7.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: A crawl of Gujarati news text is available at <http://data.statmt.org/news-crawl/gu/>. The monolingual dump of the Gujarati wikipedia is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/guwiki/>. The C4Corpus (<https://dkpro.github.io/dkpro-c4corpus/>) is extracted from the on-line available CommonCrawl, a massive crawl of documents from the

¹⁴A grammatical process shows *ergative* alignment when the subject of an intransitive verb (S) identifies with the object of a transitive verb (P, *patient*). It shows *accusative* alignment when the subject of a transitive verb (A, *agent*) identifies with the subject of an intransitive verb (S). Split ergativity (coexistence of ergative and accusative alignments) occurs only in some contexts, for instance when verbs are perfective in the case of Gujarati. Punjabi (§ 2.14) also shows split ergativity.

Internet. Another Gujarati news corpus crawled from the Internet in 2014 is made available by the University of Leipzig (<https://clarinws.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/clarinwebservice/sentences/11022/0000-0000-7F62-4/sentencetext/>). A set of corpora for 120 languages automatically collected from Wikipedia and the web is released under the name of W2C (Web to Corpus) corpora (<http://hdl.handle.net/11858/00-097C-0000-0022-6133-9>). A collection of monolingual corpora are made available by the Leipzig University through their corpora portal (<http://wortschatz.uni-leipzig.de/en/download/>); custom tools need to be used to download the corpora.

The Deltacorpora 1.1 (<http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-1743>) contains texts in 107 languages from the W2C corpus (<http://hdl.handle.net/11858/00-097C-0000-0022-6133-9>). The first 1,000,000 tokens of each language are part-of-speech-tagged by the de-lexicalized tagger described in Yu et al. (2016, LREC, Portorož, Slovenia)

There is a monolingual Gujarati corpus released as part of the Indian Languages Corpora Initiative phase–II. It contains about 30,000 sentences of general domain. Sentences have been part-of-speech-tagged according to BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) tagset. It is released under a research license and available under request at http://tdil-dc.in/index.php?option=com_download&task=showresourceDetails&toolid=1882&lang=en.

The Gujarati News Corpus (SRIMCA), a corpus created at the *Shrimad Rajchandra Institute of Management and Computer Application*, covers news articles from different newspapers published in Gujarati. It contains 156, 210, 101 and 50 news articles in the domain of business, crime, politics and sports, respectively. It is released under a research license and is available under request at http://tdil-dc.in/index.php?option=com_download&task=showresourceDetails&toolid=1998&lang=en.

The EMILLE Lancaster Monolingual Corpus (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-W0038/>) provides monolingual data in seven South Asian languages (about 58,880,000 tokens), including Gujarati. This corpus is only available after paying a fee.

In addition to the BBC, only TWR360 has been identified as a media outlet containing Gujarati content (<https://www.twr360.org/>, although most of it is multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

Bilingual corpora: The EMILLE Lancaster Corpus (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-W0038/>) provides parallel sentences between English (about 200,000 tokens) and seven South Asian languages, including Gujarati. This corpus is only available after paying a fee.

Some parallel corpora are available for Gujarati–English language pair. Three of them can be downloaded from the OPUS corpora collection. In this case, all of them are obtained from three different free/open-source software projects (details are available in table 8):

- GNOME: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=GNOME/v1/moses/en-gu.txt.zip>
- Ubuntu: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=Ubuntu/v14.10/moses/en-gu.txt.zip>
- KDE: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=KDE4/v2/moses/en-gu.txt.zip>

Some bilingual corpora have been provided by the organizers of the WMT 2019 news translation task:

- Wikipedia titles: <http://data.statmt.org/wikititles/v1/wikititles-v1.gu-en.tsv.gz> (12,000 titles)

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	gu tokens
JW300 v1	3977	0.4M	5.9M	5.6M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	0.2k	11.0M	0.9k
GNOME v1	1145	0.5M	2.4M	4.4M
bible-uedin v1	2	15.6k	1.8M	0.5M
Ubuntu v14.10	210	57.5k	0.3M	0.4M
QED v2.0a	155	16.7k	0.3M	0.2M
KDE4 v2	230	34.7k	0.2M	0.2M
WMT-News v2019	4	6.0k	0.1M	0.1M
total	5724	1.0M	22.1M	11.3M

Table 8: Distribution of the sentences in the Opus Gujarati–English corpus.

- A Bible corpus: <http://data.statmt.org/wmt19/translation-task/bible.gu-en.tsv.gz> (7,800 sentence pairs)
- The software localization corpora in OPUS: <http://data.statmt.org/wmt19/translation-task/opus.gu-en.tsv.gz> (108,000 sentence pairs)
- A parallel corpus extracted from Wikipedia and contributed by Alexander Molchanov (Yandex): <http://data.statmt.org/wmt19/translation-task/wikipedia.gu-en.tsv.gz> (18,000 sentence pairs)
- A corpus crawled from the Internet by WMT organizers. The clean version, <http://data.statmt.org/wmt19/translation-task/govin-clean.gu-en.tsv.gz>, contains 11,000 sentence pairs. The raw version <http://data.statmt.org/wmt19/translation-task/govin-raw.gu-en.tsv.gz> is much larger.
- An English–Gujarati from health domain developed by the *English to Indian Language Machine Translation (EILMT) Consortium*. The size of the corpus is 14,961 sentence pairs and is available under request at https://tdil-dc.in/index.php?option=com_download&task=showresourceDetails&toolid=1785&lang=en.

2.7.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: A number of natural-language-processing tools are available for Gujarati. The *indicNLP* (<https://github.com/nisargjhaveri/indicNLP>) package provides a collection of utilities to process Gujarati text: sentence splitting, word tokenization, stopword detection, stemming, part-of-speech tagging, word-variation identification (text normalization), named-entity recognition, and document classification. *NLP for Gujarati* (<https://github.com/goru001/nlp-for-gujarati>) provides word-tokenization and a pre-trained language model. A wordnet (<https://github.com/sagarpanchal8793/Gujarati-Wordnet>) and a named-entity recognition tool (<https://github.com/nikitsaraf/Named-Entity-Tagger-Gujarati>) are also available. A repository with Gujarati stopwords can be downloaded from <https://github.com/gujarati-ir/Gujarati-Stop-Words>. The tool *ReadabilityScore* provides an indication of the readability of a text written in Gujarati (<https://github.com/Somsubhra/ReadabilityScore>).

Bilingual resources: A crowd-sourced Gujarati–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014).

The *Glosbe* bilingual concordancer can be used online from the website: <https://glosbe.com/en/gu>.

Some machine translation systems are freely available on the Internet:

- Yandex translate: <https://translate.yandex.com>
- Google Translate: <https://translate.google.com/#gu/en/>

2.7.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

In addition to the scarcity of Gujarati–English text, the main challenges probably come from generating Gujarati output with the right word order, namely at two levels:

- General sentence level: While English is a subject–verb–object language, Gujarati is a subject–object–verb language, which may lead to long-range reordering during translation.
- Phrase level: the use of post-positions vs. pre-positions, or pre-modifying relative clauses in Gujarati will require to re-order morphemes when translating English words.

This two-level re-ordering may be challenging for MT systems. Neural MT may be better at dealing with long-range reordering than statistical MT, though. Another challenging aspect may be to determine the correct case in Gujarati, which is not marked in English, and which affects morphology.

Another problem may be that the way in which verbs agree with their arguments (agent, patient, etc.) depends on verbal aspect, which is sometimes hard to determine in English text.

Generating the right word order in a question could be also challenging, given that Gujarati does not place interrogative phrases initially as English does, but instead it places them where the corresponding phrase in the affirmative sentence would be, and the order of words in polar questions does not change with respect to affirmative sentences.

2.8 Hausa (ha, hau)

2.8.1 Factsheet

Hausa is an Afro-Asiatic language, as Tigrinya (§ 2.18) in the Chadic family and Afaan Oromoo (§ 2.1) in the Cushitic family. According to Wikipedia it is spoken by about 44 million people as a first language, and perhaps by about 20 million people as a second language (as it has reached the status of *lingua franca* in West Africa.¹⁵ It is official in Nigeria, together with Igbo (§ 2.9) and Yoruba (§ 2.20), in Niger and in Ghana.

Hausa is written mostly with a modified Latin alphabet. There is a system called Boko, which contains a number of special characters (ɓ,Ɓ,ɗ,Ɗ,ƙ,K, etc.), which is however not used by broadcasters such as the BBC. Hausa is a tonal language, with three tones, but most writing does not mark tones (when it does, accents are used).

2.8.2 Contrasts with English

Examples are written in the simplest possible transcription, disregarding tone marks and avoiding special Latin characters. A good part of the examples are taken from Jaggar (2001) and some from Campbell and King (2010). This is not an exhaustive list of contrasts: not all contrasts in the *World Atlas of Linguistic Structures* are documented.

¹⁵Campbell and King (2010) report 25 and 12 million respectively.

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Hausa	Examples
Verb inflection	Verbs may inflect for person and tense.	Verbs consist of two parts: the person-aspect complex and the the main verb itself. The verb system is aspect-based rather than tense-based.	<i>Audu ya fita</i> ‘Audu went out’, lit. ‘Audu 3rd-masculine-perfective go-out’; <i>Audu yana fita</i> ‘Audu is/was going out’, lit. ‘Audu 3rd-masculine-imperfective go-out’.
Nominal morphology (nouns and adjectives)	Mainly suffixing where present	Complex system, including suffixing and partial reduplication.	<i>giwa</i> ‘elephant’, pl. <i>giwaye</i> ; <i>gari</i> ‘town’, pl. <i>garuruwa</i> ; <i>makaranta</i> ‘school’, pl. <i>makarantu</i> .
Number of genders	Three, only in third-person singular pronouns and possessives	Two, assigned semantically but also formally	<i>sabon iyali</i> ‘new family’, <i>sabuwar duniya</i> ‘new world’
Demonstratives	Two sets	Four sets (but only two sets unless tones are marked)	<i>wannan riga</i> ‘This gown [near me]’ or ‘That gown [near you]’ <i>wancan riga</i> ‘That gown [far from me and you]’ or ‘That gown [very far from me and you]’

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Hausa	Examples
Order of Genitive and Noun	No dominant order	Noun-Genitive	<i>abooki-n ubaa</i> ‘The friend of the father’ (where <i>abooki</i> is masc.), approx. ‘friend-his father’; <i>goona-r ubaa</i> ‘The field of the father’, approx. ‘Field-his father’ (where <i>goona</i> is feminine); note the use of marking on the <i>modified</i> noun, rather than on the modifying genitive. ¹⁶
Definite article	Word different from demonstrative	Bound suffix	<i>mota</i> ‘car’, <i>motar</i> ‘the car’; <i>yaro</i> ‘boy’, <i>yaron</i> ‘the boy’
Pronominal subjects	Obligatory	Not obligatory	<i>Yana koyon Hausa</i> ‘He is/was learning Hausa’, lit. ‘3rd-masculine-imperfective learning Hausa’, no <i>He</i> pronoun.
Order of Demonstrative and Noun	Demonstrative-noun	Mixed	<i>yaron-nan</i> ‘This boy [we just talked about]’ but <i>wannan yaro</i> ‘This boy [general]’
Order of numeral and noun	Numeral-noun	Noun-numeral	<i>watanni uku</i> ‘Three months’, lit. ‘Months three’
Possessive affixes	No possessive affixes	Possessive suffixes, extensively used in genitive constructs	<i>kudi-n Audu</i> ‘Audu’s money’, lit. ‘Money-his Audu’, <i>baba-r yarinyar</i> ‘The girl’s mother’, lit. ‘Mother-her girl’
Verbal and nominal coordination	Same	Different	<i>Shayi da sukari</i> ‘Tea and sugar’, ‘Tea with sugar’; <i>Ya zo kuma ta gan shi</i> ‘He came and she saw him’
Verbal clause negation	Subject–Negation–Verb–Object (generally)	Subject–Negation–Verb–Object–Negation (generally)	<i>Yara za su karanta littafin.</i> ‘The boys will read the book’, <i>Yara ba za su karanta littafin ba.</i> ‘The boys will not read the book’.
Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions	Initial in interrogative phrase	Mixed: initial or non-initial	Intital in <i>Yaushe za ka dawo?</i> ‘ When will you come back?’ but also in situ in <i>Ya tafi yaushe?</i> ‘ When did he leave’ lit. ‘He left when? ’

¹⁶Campbell and King (2010) call this the *compound* state of the noun. It is used in many other grammatical constructs.

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	ha tokens
Tatoeba v20190709	1	56	0.4k	0.3k
JW300 v1	2476	0.2M	4.1M	4.6M
wikimedia v20190628	1	0.3k	34k	31k
Tanzil v1	15	0.1M	2.4M	2.4M
GNOME v1	62	5.5k	38k	46k
KDE4 v2	3	1.5k	3.4k	4.7k
Ubuntu v14.10	7	242	1.4k	1.7k
total	2565	0.4M	6.6M	7.1M

Table 9: Distribution of the sentences in the Opus Hausa–English corpus.

2.8.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: The monolingual dump of the Hausa wikipedia is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/hawiki/>. The A5 Hausa Umarnin Uwa corpus (<https://corpora.uni-hamburg.de/hzsk/de/islandora/object/spoken-corpus:a5hausaumarninuwa>) is extracted from the Umarnin Uwa film transcripts and contains 47 transcripts with a total of 10,194 tokens in Hausa. It provides information including automatic part-of-speech tagging, speaker and extralinguistic information, foreign words and code-switching. Similarly, the A5 Hausa News corpus (<http://hdl.handle.net/11022/0000-0000-82AC-B>) is extracted from a collection of news articles from the online news service of DW and contains 4 texts with a total of 2,017 tokens. A Hausa conversation transcriptions corpus is provided by CoCooN (<https://cocoan.huma-num.fr/exist/crdo/search2.xql?subject=http%3A%2F%2Flexvo.org%2Fid%2Fiso639-3%2Fhau>).

Crawls of Hausa news text are available at <http://data.statmt.org/news-crawl/ha>. As of August 2020, these contain about 570k sentences.

Bilingual corpora: Seven corpora are available at OPUS, the largest one being JW300 (texts from the Jehova’s Witnesses); and three of them come from free/open-source software projects (details are available in table 9):

- Tanzil (Quran): <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=Tanzil/v1/moses/en-ha.txt.zip>
- GNOME: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=GNOME/v1/moses/en-ha.txt.zip>
- Ubuntu: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=Ubuntu/v14.10/moses/en-ha.txt.zip>
- KDE: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=KDE4/v2/moses/en-ha.txt.zip>

2.8.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: A collection of stopwords is provided by the more-stoplists project (<https://github.com/dohliam/more-stoplists>) for African languages such as Swahili, Yoruba, Hausa or Zulu.

Bilingual resources: The Glosbe bilingual concordancer (<https://glosbe.com/ha/en>) offers translations into English for Hausa words in context.

To the best of our knowledge, the only machine translation system available online is Google Translate: <https://translate.google.com/#ha/en/>

2.8.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT to English

In addition to the scarcity of Hausa–English text, the main translation challenges are:

- The fact that the verbal system in Hausa is dominated by aspect (perfective or imperfective) rather than by tense means that inferring the correct English tense will be difficult.
- Complexity in nominal morphology, where both suffixing and partial reduplication are used for plurals.
- The possibility of not specifying the pronominal subject may be a source of ambiguity in some cases.
- The absence of tone markings may make some translations into English difficult. For instance, *wannan* could be ‘this’ (*wannàn*) or ‘that’ (*wànnan*).
- Lack of adherence to a single standardized orthography (for instance, as regards the use of special Boko characters such as *ɓ*, *ɗ*, etc.).

2.9 Igbo (ig, ibo)

2.9.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Igbo is the principal native language of the Igbo people, an ethnic group of southeastern Nigeria. The language has approximately 44 million speakers. Igbo is official in Nigeria, where Hausa (§ 2.8) and Yoruba (§ 2.20) are also large languages. It belongs to a very large family, the Niger–Congo family, as Swahili (§ 2.16), and more specifically to the Volta–Niger group, as Yoruba (§ 2.20).

Igbo is written with the Latin script, mostly in the *Ọnwụ* script, which contains the modified letters *ĩ, ñ, ọ, ụ*. Igbo is a tone language. Tones are not consistently indicated, despite their importance in distinguishing words (for instance, *oke* ‘male’ / *okè* ‘limit’ / *òkè* ‘portion’) (Ugochukwu, 2004). If they are, acute and grave accents are used. Reputed news outlets such as the BBC Igbo news (<https://www.bbc.com/igbo>) do not always write Igbo tones, similarly to what happens with Yoruba, see page 99.

2.9.2 Contrasts with English

Some examples are taken from Ugochukwu (2004) or from Glosbe (<https://glosbe.com/en/ig/>).

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Igbo	Examples
Number of genders	Three (sex, based, only in singular pronouns and possessives)	None	English has <i>she</i> , <i>he</i> , and <i>it</i> , where Igbo uses only <i>ọ</i> .
Coding of Nominal Plurality:	plural suffix in most cases	no morphological plural	Plural expressed by numerals, by context, or by reduplication (non specific): <i>ụlo àtọ</i> ‘Three houses’, lit. ‘House three’ ; <i>onono onono</i> ‘bottles’, ‘many bottles’, lit. ‘bottle bottle’ (Anagbogu, 1995)

Verbs			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Igbo	Examples
Verbal person and number marking	Marked together (when marked)	Neither is marked	<i>Ọ nà-azà ụlọ</i> ‘He is sweeping the house’; <i>Anyị nà-azà ụlọ</i> ‘We are sweeping the house’.
Morphological imperative	No distinction between 2nd person singular and plural	Different forms	<i>Tàa àchịchà!</i> (‘Eat biscuits!’, singular), <i>Tàanụ àchịchà!</i> (‘Eat biscuits’, plural).

Word order and syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Igbo	Examples
Order of genitive and noun	No dominant order	Noun-genitive	<i>ụlọ Nna</i> ‘The Father’s house’ (lit. ‘house Father’); <i>ụlọ ya</i> ‘his house’ (lit. ‘house him’).
Dominant order of adjective and noun	Adjective–noun	Noun–adjective	<i>àgbà ọhụu</i> ‘New Testament’, lit. ‘Testament New’; <i>àgwà ọcha</i> ‘white bean’, lit. ‘bean white’
Order of demonstrative and noun	Demonstrative–noun	Noun–demonstrative	<i>Nwoke ahụ</i> ‘That man’, lit. ‘Man that’;
Order of numeral and noun	Numeral–noun	Noun–numeral	<i>ụlọ àtọ</i> ‘Three houses’, lit. ‘House three’
Position of interrogative phrases in content questions	Initial interrogative phrase	Not initial interrogative phrase	<i>Aha gị bụ gini?</i> ‘What is your name’, lit. ‘Name you is what?’; same order as <i>Aha gị bụ John</i> ‘Your name is John’
Passive constructions	Present	Absent	Igbo has an impersonal pronoun <i>a/e</i> instead: <i>E riri yaa</i> ‘Yam was eaten’, lit. ‘Someone ate yam’, parallel to <i>Anyị riri yaa</i> ‘We ate yam’ (Akinremi, 2013).
Yes/no interrogatives	Different order from affirmative	Interrogative intonation only	<i>Ị na-eri nri?</i> ‘Do you eat bread’; compare <i>Ị na-eri nri</i> ‘You eat bread’
Nominal and Locational Predication	Identical	Different	<i>John bụ nwoke</i> ‘John is a man’, but <i>John nọ n’ụlọ</i> ‘John is at home’.

2.9.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: The monolingual dump of the Igbo wikipedia is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/igwiki/>. The *igTenTen* is available from the sketch platform, but requires a subscription: <https://www.sketchengine.eu/igtenten-igbo-corpus/>.

Bilingual corpora: In addition to the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/igbo>, we have only found TWR360 to produce content in Igbo (<https://www.twr360.org/>, although mostly multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

Five corpora are available at OPUS, the largest one being JW300 (texts from the Jehova’s Witnesses), accounting for more than 95% of the available text; two come from free/open-source software projects (details are available in table 10):

- GNOME: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=GNOME/v1/moses/en-ig.txt.zip>

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	ig tokens
JW300 v1	6210	0.5M	8.1M	10.3M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	21	11.0M	0.1k
wikimedia v20190628	1	1.5k	7.7M	0.1M
GNOME v1	72	23.8k	0.2M	0.3M
Ubuntu v14.10	8	0.6k	10.2k	4.6k
total	6292	0.5M	27.0M	10.7M

Table 10: Distribution of the sentences in the OPUS Igbo–English corpus.

- Ubuntu: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=Ubuntu/v14.10/moses/en-ig.txt.zip>

2.9.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: No monolingual resources have been found for the Igbo language.

Bilingual resources: Some machine translation systems are freely available on the Internet:

- xLingua: <http://igbo.xlingua.net/ig/>
- Google Translate: <https://translate.google.com/#ig/en/>

Some collections of bilingual phrases are available at:

- Igbo English.com: <http://www.igboenglish.com/>
- Ilanguages.org: http://ilanguages.org/igbo_phrases.php

The *Glosbe* bilingual concordancer can be used online from the website: <https://glosbe.com/en/ig>

2.9.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

One of the main challenges when translating English into Igbo is the lack of parallel corpora. Apart from this, Igbo has a simpler morphology than English. One of the most relevant challenges as regards morphology is the translation of plural nouns into Igbo: on the one hand, plural is not always marked morphologically, and, on the other hand, there are two different strategies to mark plurals, sometimes even through reduplication.

Word order is locally different between both languages. However, most of the differences happen in a small context in which most corpus-based MT systems should be able to succeed, for example, noun–genitive order or noun–adjective order (see section 2.9.2).

One of the challenges to be faced by MT systems is to determine the initial position of an interrogative sentence in Igbo, given the fact that, in this language, interrogative phrases are placed where the corresponding phrases would be in an affirmative sentence.

Another relevant challenge may be to adequately translate English passive sentences, as passives do not exist in Igbo.

2.10 Korean (ko, kor)

2.10.1 Factsheet

Korean —usually considered a language isolate despite having relatives in the Koreanic language family such as the Jeju language spoken in the Jeju province of South Korea— has more than 70 million speakers, according to Wikipedia, most of them in North and South Korea, where it is official. It is also official in the Yanbian prefecture of China.

It is written in Hangul,¹⁷ a five-century-old syllabary unique to Korean¹⁸ which has however undergone extensive reform since it was adopted in the 16th century.

Decades of political separation between North and South Korea have resulted in two different standards for the Korean language. As a result, there are some small graphical differences in the representation of some sounds, some differences in inflected forms of words, lexical differences, and even spacing differences, which may affect tokenization.

Project GoURMET is mostly interested in the North Korean variety. General Korean–English corpora, in addition to lacking examples of Northern grammar, spelling, and spacing, may not contain Northern named-entities or propose Southern variations for their English counterparts.

2.10.2 Contrasts with English

Korean is quite typical of a subject–object–verb language: it has postpositions (some of which are also called *particles*) instead of English prepositions, modifiers precede the modified clauses, etc.

Examples are given in transliteration.

¹⁷Also called Chosongul in North Korea

¹⁸Almost unique: it is also used to write Ciacia, a language spoken around the city of Baubau in Indonesia, and also for the related Jeju language.

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Korean	Examples
Order of subject, object and verb	Subject–verb–object	Subject–object–verb	<i>Naneun ramyeoneul meogeotda</i> ‘I ate ramen’ [I-TOPIC ramen-OBJECT ate]
Order of Adposition and Noun Phrase	Prepositions	Postpositions and case suffixes	<i>jib-eseo</i> ‘From the house’; <i>jib-e</i> ‘To the house’.
Order of Genitive and Noun	No dominant order	Genitive–Noun	<i>namja[-ui] jadongchayeyo</i> ‘The man’s car’, lit. ‘Man[GENITIVE] car’
Order of Relative Clause and Noun	Noun–Relative clause	Relative clause–Noun	<i>Naega sassdeon cha</i> ‘The car that I bought’, lit. ‘I bought-REL car’
Evidentiality	No morphological evidentials	Morphological evidentials (direct/indirect)	Contrast: <i>Peterga Maryga jandago malhayeosda</i> ‘Peter said that Mary was sleeping’ (direct evidence); <i>Peterga Maryga jandago malhadeora</i> (indirect evidence coded in the verb ‘said’: ‘I heard that Peter said. . .’) Song (2010)
Interrogative phrases in content questions	Initial	Not initial	<i>jon-eun leondeon-e salgo issseubnida</i> ‘John lives in London ’; <i>jon-eun eodieseo salgo issseubnikka?</i> ‘ Where does John live?’

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Korean	Examples
Definite article	Different from demonstrative	No definite article	<i>jadongcha</i> ‘car’ or ‘the car’
Indefinite article	Different from ‘one’	No indefinite article	<i>jadongcha</i> ‘car’ or ‘a car’
Distance Contrasts in Demonstratives	Two-way contrast (near speaker, rest)	Three-way contrast (near speaker, near hearer, far from both)	
Comitatives and instrumentals	Identical	Different	<i>-[eu]ro</i> is the instrumental ‘with’ (<i>pen-euro</i> ‘with a pen’); <i>-[g]wa</i> is the comitative ‘with’ (<i>chinguwa</i> ‘with a friend’).

2.10.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: The KAIST corpus (http://semanticweb.kaist.ac.kr/home/index.php/KAIST_Corpus) collects a series of sub-corpora including monolingual and bilingual data. Some of these sub-corpora are domain-specific. In addition, some corpora are augmented with morphologic and syntactic annotations.

A number of corpora obtained from transcriptions is available; namely:

- Korean Telephone Conversations Transcripts corpus (<https://catalog ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2003T08>): consists of 100 telephone conversations in Korean transcribed;
- the Korean Broadcast News Transcripts corpus (<https://catalog ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2006T14>): collects 18 text files containing transcripts from Voice of America satellite radio news broadcasts in Korean;
- the Ryu Spoken Corpus (<https://childes.talkbank.org/access/EastAsian/Korean/Ryu.html>) and the Jiwon Spoken Corpus (<https://childes.talkbank.org/access/EastAsian/Korean/Jiwon.html>): transcriptions of children speaking in Korean.

Korean Newswire corpus (<https://catalog ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2000T45>) and Korean Newswire corpus second edition (<https://catalog ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2010T19>) are a collection of Korean Press Agency news articles. The Korean Treebank Annotations Version 2.0 (<https://catalog ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2006T09>) is an electronic corpus of Korean texts annotated with morphological and syntactic information; original texts come for the Korean Treebank 2.0 and were selected from The Korean Newswire corpus. The C4Corpus (<https://dkpro.github.io/dkpro-c4corpus/>) is extracted from the on-line available CommonCrawl, a massive crawl of documents from the Internet. The monolingual dump of the Korean wikipedia is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/kowiki/>. Sejong corpus (http://universal.elra.info/product_info.php?cPath=42_43&products_id=1975).

Some corpora are only available after paying a fee. The Qualified POS Tagged Corpus (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-W0034/>) is produced by KAIST KORTERM, containing 1,020,000 eojeols (Korean terms). A Korean lexicon (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-L0044/>) is also available consisting of 31,476 compound nouns in Korean.

In addition to BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/korean>) the following international media outlets produce content in Korean: Global Voices (<https://ko.globalvoices.org/>), The Voice of America (<https://www.voakorea.com/>), China Plus (formerly China Radio International, <http://korean.cri.cn/>), Vatican Radio (<https://www.vaticannews.va/ko.html>), NHK World (<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/ko/>), and TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>, although mostly multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

Bilingual corpora: The JHE Korean–English evaluation data (<https://zenodo.org/record/891295#.XKxazkPgpD8>) is a small parallel corpus for machine translation evaluation by Park et al. (2016). The Korean English News v1 (<https://github.com/jungyeul/korean-parallel-corpora/tree/master/korean-english-news-v1>) is a parallel corpus from news articles.

Ten corpora are available at OPUS, from three free/open-source software projects (details are available in table 11):

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	ko tokens
JW300 v1	22692	1.9M	32.9M	49.4M
OpenSubtitles v2018	1774	1.6M	12.4M	7.8M
QED v2.0a	6012	0.7M	10.1M	6.2M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	2.8k	11.0M	22.2k
GNOME v1	1581	0.6M	3.1M	2.4M
Tanzil v1	15	93.6k	2.8M	1.6M
bible-uedin v1	2	62.2k	1.8M	0.9M
KDE4 v2	597	87.3k	0.6M	0.4M
Ubuntu v14.10	357	91.9k	0.6M	0.3M
PHP v1	3220	50.7k	0.5M	0
GlobalVoices v2017q3	348	8.2k	0.2M	0.2M
total	36599	5.1M	76.1M	69.1M

Table 11: Distribution of the sentences in the Opus Korean–English corpus.

- JW300, the largest corpus, based on Jehova's Witnesses' texts.
- Open Subtitles: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=OpenSubtitles/v2018/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>
- QED <https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-QED/v2.0a/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>
- GNOME: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=GNOME/v1/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>
- Tanzil (Quran): <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=Tanzil/v1/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>
- Tatoeba: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=Tatoeba/v2/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>
- KDE4: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=KDE4/v2/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>
- PHP: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=PHP/v1/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>
- GlobalVoices: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=GlobalVoices/v2017q3/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>
- Ubuntu: <http://opus.nlpl.eu/download.php?f=Ubuntu/v14.10/moses/en-ko.txt.zip>

The *KAIST Corpus*¹⁹ consists of a collection of corpora in Korean, among which we can find several parallel corpora:

- Corpus7: <http://semanticweb.kaist.ac.kr/home/index.php/Corpus7>
- Corpus9: <http://semanticweb.kaist.ac.kr/home/index.php/Corpus9>
- Corpus10: <http://semanticweb.kaist.ac.kr/home/index.php/Corpus10>
- Newspaper corpus: <http://semanticweb.kaist.ac.kr/download/form.php?cid=12>

¹⁹http://semanticweb.kaist.ac.kr/home/index.php/KAIST_Corpus

By subscribing to the Sketch Engine it is possible to access two more corpora:

- Timestamped JSI web corpus (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/jozef-stefan-institute-newsfeed-corpus/#toggle-id-1>)
- koTenTen: Corpus of the Korean Web (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/kotenten-korean-corpus/>)

Some additional corpora are only available after paying a fee, such as the Collins Multilingual database (MLD) - PhraseBank (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-T0377/>) and WordBank (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-T0376/>). The Computer Science Database (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-T0366/>) is a 76,272 entries in Korean and in English in the field of computer science. A Multilingual Corpus (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-W0035/>) of expressions in Korean is available, containing the equivalents in Chinese and English. A Biology Database (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-T0365/>) is also available, consisting of 31,884 entries in Korean and English in the field of biology. One of the

2.10.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: Some monolingual resources are provided within the Sketch Engine (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/user-guide/user-manual/corpora/by-language/korean-text-corpora/>); it is mandatory to be a subscriber to access them: Korean Word Sketch, Korean thesaurus, Korean word lists, Korean concordance, and N-grams in Korean.

As regards language technologies, there is a number of natural-language-processing tools freely available for Korean. KoNLpy (<https://github.com/konlpy/konlpy>) is a tools that enables morphological analysis and part-of-speech tagging. In addition, it provides a collection of corpora and dictionaries. The library `open-korean-text` (<https://github.com/open-korean-text/open-korean-text>) allows text processing with Java. Namely, it provides text normalization and tokenization. RKMA (<https://github.com/youhyunjo/rkma>) is an R library for morphological analysis. Kormoran (<https://github.com/shineware/komoran-2.0>) is one of the most popular morphological analysers for Korean. There are wrappers for several programming languages: Java, Python, R, etc.

Bilingual resources: Some machine translation systems are freely available on the Internet:

- Yandex translate: <https://translate.yandex.com>
- Bing translate: <https://www.bing.com/translator>
- Google Translate: <https://translate.google.com/#ko/en/>

A crowd-sourced Korean–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014). In addition to this, the Korean Propbank (<https://catalog.ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2006T03>), provides a semantic annotation of the Korean–English Treebank Annotations and Korean Treebank Version 2.0.

2.10.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT to English

One of the main challenges when translating from Korean into English is the difference in the structure of these languages. While English is a subject–verb– object language, Korean is a subject–object–verb language; this may require long-range reordering during translation.

Moreover, there are linguistic phenomena that exist in Korean and do not have an equivalent in English, which may make difficult to decide which is the best choice when translating into English. Namely:

- the fact that Korean uses evidentiality marks, a phenomenon that does not exist in English and may not be easy to translate;
- the lack of articles (both definite and indefinite) in Korean, which makes difficult to choose the right article in English;
- the difference in the definition of the distance levels between speakers.

Finally, the lack of corpora and resources covering specifically the Northern variety of Korean, will surely make it more challenging to deal with the specific grammar, spelling, spacing, and named entities found in North Korean.

2.11 Kurdish (ku, kur, kmr, ckb, sdh)

2.11.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Kurdish is a continuum of languages spoken by the Kurds in Western Asia. These languages belong to the Indo-Iranian family inside the Indo-European family, as do two other languages in this project, namely Gujarati (§ 2.7) and Punjabi (§ 2.14).

Kurdish languages form three groups known as Northern Kurdish (Kurmanji, individual code kmr), Central Kurdish (Sorani, individual code ckb), and Southern Kurdish (Palewani or Kirmashani, individual code sdh); they are not mutually intelligible without learning. Studies as of 2009 estimate between 8 and 20 million native Kurdish speakers in Turkey.

The majority of Kurds speak Northern Kurdish (Kurmanji) in Turkey, Syria, northern Iraq, and northwest and northeast Iran. Central Kurdish is spoken by an estimated 7 million Kurds in the Iraqi Kurdistan and the Iranian Kurdistan Province. Kurmanji is written in the Latin script, whereas Sorani is mainly written in a modified version of the Arabic–Persian script, although the Latin script is often used in particular contexts such as messaging applications.

The *endonymic glossonym* (name of the language as given by its own native speakers) for Central Kurdish is *Kurdîy nawendî* and also *Soranî*. The endonymic glossonym for Northern Kurdish is *Kurmancî* (Kurmanji).

Two related languages are Zaza–Gorani and Persian. The last one is better resourced than any Kurdish variety.

The Internet geographic top-level domain for Kurdistan Region of Iraq is .krd.

2.11.2 Contrasts with English

The following description may be more accurate for Sorani, as this is the Kurdish language for which the World Atlas of Linguistic Structures reports more contrasts with English. Examples—where given—are taken from Wikipedia and from Thackston (2006a) and Thackston (2006b).

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Kurdish	Examples
Morphological cases	Two, only pronouns and some closed-class words	Thackston (2006a) reports four (nominative, oblique, construct, ²⁰ and vocative) for Kurmanji, but Thackston (2006b) does not explicitly discuss case, except for ergativity.	
Gender	Two, only 3rd-person singular pronouns	Thackston (2006a) reports two genders for Kurmanji, but Thackston (2006b) does not report gender for Sorani.	
Morphological indicators in verb	Tense, person, number	Verbs inflect with person, number, mood, tense, polarity. <i>bîchim</i> (Kurmanji) / <i>bîçim</i> (Sorani) ‘That I go’	
The transitive verb agrees with...	...the A argument (‘agent’)	...the A argument in imperfective verb forms, and the P argument (‘patient’) in perfective verb forms (split ergativity)	Kurmanji, perfective Thackston (2006a): <i>wî ez dîtîm</i> ‘he saw me’ (lit. ‘he me saw-me’) vs. <i>wî em dîtîn</i> ‘he saw us’ (lit. ‘he us saw-us’)

²⁰The construct or *ezafe* is not properly a case. page 60 of 110

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Kurdish	Examples
Definite Articles	Definite word distinct from demonstrative	Definite affix (Sorani, not Kurmanji)	<i>pyâw</i> ‘man’, <i>pyâwaká</i> ‘the man’
Indefinite Articles	Indefinite word distinct from ‘one’	Indefinite affix	<i>miróvek</i> ‘a man’ (<i>mirov</i> ‘(the) man’)) (Kurmanji, Thackston (2006a)); <i>pyâwèk</i> ‘a man’ (<i>pyâw</i> ‘man’) (Sorani, Thackston (2006b)).

Word order			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Kurdish	Examples
Order of Subject, Object and Verb	Subject–Verb–Object	Subject–Object–Verb	<i>Ew wî mirovî dibîne</i> ‘He sees that man’, lit. ‘He that man sees’ (Kurmanji, Thackston (2006a))
Order of Genitive and Noun	No dominant order	Noun–Genitive	<i>jega-y pasa</i> ‘The king’s place’, lit. ‘place-CONSTRUCT king’ [As many other languages, even so unrelated as Hausa (2.8) do, Kurdish marks the <i>modified</i> noun with the ending -y, sometimes called the <i>construct state</i> or <i>ezafe</i> .]
Order of Adjective and Noun	Adjective–Noun	Noun–Adjective	<i>pyaw-î çak</i> [Note that, as in genitive constructs, the modified noun is in the construct state (carries an <i>ezafe</i> ending).]

Other syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Kurdish	Examples
Negative	Negative particle	Negative affix in verb (except in copulas)	Sorani: <i>dáchim</i> ‘I go’, <i>nádachim</i> ‘I don’t go’; Kurmanji: <i>ez védikim</i> ‘I do’, <i>ez venákim</i> ‘I don’t do’.

2.11.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: The Kurdish-BLARK project (<https://github.com/hosseinhassani/Kurdish-BLARK>) contains monolingual corpora of Kurmanji (around 12,000 words) and Sorani (around 273,000 words) released under a GNU AGPL v3 license.

In 2019, the AsoSoft Sorani corpus by Veisi et al. (2019) has been released (<https://github.com/AsoSoft/AsoSoft-Text-Corpus>) under non-commercial license. It contains 75 million tokens.

The Voice of America has two services for Kurdistan (<https://www.dengiamerika.com/>, Arabic script, probably the Sorani variety, and <https://www.dengeamerika.com/>, Latin script, probably

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	ku tokens
Tatoeba v20190709	1	0.1k	11.0M	4.2k
Tanzil v1	15	93.5k	2.8M	7.0M
wikimedia v20190628	1	0.2k	7.7M	59.2k
GNOME v1	717	0.2M	1.4M	0.7M
QED v2.0a	195	27.6k	0.4M	0.3M
Ubuntu v14.10	209	19.6k	0.3M	64.8k
KDE4 v2	360	26.8k	0.3M	93.9k
Bianet v1	1	6.5k	0.2M	0.1M
total	1499	0.3M	24.2M	8.4M

Table 12: Distribution of the sentences in the Opus Kurdish–English corpus.

the Kurmanji script.). TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>) has a Sorani site, mostly with multimedia content. Global Voices has what looks like a Sorani site which it calls Kurdish (<https://ku.globalvoices.org/>).

There are two independent online newspapers in Iraqi Kurdistan written in Sorani: *Awene* (<http://www.awene.com/>) and *Hawlati* (<http://www.hawlati.co/>).

The Sorani Wikipedia is available on <https://ckb.wikipedia.org/wiki/>. As of April 2019 it contains 22,894 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryCKB.htm>). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/ckbwiki/>.

The Kurmanji Wikipedia is available on <https://ku.wikipedia.org/>. As of April 2019 it contains 24,404 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryKU.htm>). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/kuwiki/>.

The Iranian Studies site at Harvard University contains selected readings in Sorani Kurdish (<https://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~iranian/Sorani>) and Kurmanji Kurdish (<https://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~iranian/Kurmanji>). They are distributed under a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license. The site also contains reference grammars in English for both languages (Thackston, 2006a,b).

Bilingual corpora: Bianet (Ataman, 2018) contains 6,486 English–Kurmanji parallel sentences in the news domain. It can be downloaded from <https://d-ataman.github.io/bianet> and it is distributed under a CC-BY-SA-4.0 license. It also contains parallel sentences for English–Turkish and Turkish–Kurmanji.

Opus (<http://opus.nlpl.eu>) has a corpus of Kurdish–English of approximately 300,000 sentences of which around 93,000 are Quran translations and the remaining sentences belong to the documentation of Ubuntu, GNOME and KDE.

Kurdish News Network (<https://www.knnc.net/>) contains news articles in Sorani and English but it needs to be checked whether they are actually parallel texts. A similar study needs to be carried out for the Kurmanji and English articles published by the Hawar News Agency (<https://www.hawarnews.com/kr/>).

Another Iraqi media network, Rudaw Media Network, has a newspaper (<http://www.rudaw.net>) published in English, Kurmanji and Sorani, as well as radio and TV channels.

Google Translate supports Kurmanji–English translation since 2016; Sorani is not supported as

of April 2019 (but see <http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/110220193>). Inkurdish (<https://www.inkurdish.com/>) is another commercial system. Apertium (see below) also has Kurmanji–English translation. In 2016, Translators Without Borders released Apertium-based machine translation systems for Kurmanji–English and Sorani–English (see <https://translatorswithoutborders.org/translators-without-borders-develops-worlds-first-crisis-specific-machine-translation-system-kurdish-languages/>); the corresponding resources are free/open source: <https://github.com/apertium/apertium-kmr-eng>, <https://github.com/apertium/apertium-ckb-eng>).

2.11.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: The Kurdish-BLARK project (<https://github.com/hosseinhasani/Kurdish-BLARK>) contains some tools (published under a GNU AGPL v3 license) such as a transliterator from Persian/Arabic texts into Latin script, a tokenizer, a stemmer to find Kurmanji and Sorani stems, a word-level translator from Kurmanji to Sorani (and vice versa) based on a bilingual dictionary, an a Kurdish proper names recognizer. The tools have been described by Hassani (2018).

KurLex (<https://gforge.inria.fr/scm/viewvc.php/alexina/kurlex/trunk/>) is a morphological lexicon for Kurmanji Kurdish as described by Walther et al. (2010). KurLex is distributed under the LGPL-LR license; the release 0.0.1 can be downloaded from https://gforge.inria.fr/frs/?group_id=482.

SoraLex (<https://gforge.inria.fr/scm/viewvc.php/alexina/soralex/trunk/>) is a morphological lexicon for Sorani Kurdish as described by Walther and Sagot (2010). SoraLex is distributed under the LGPL-LR license; the release 0.0.1 can be downloaded from https://gforge.inria.fr/frs/?group_id=482.

An Crúdabán (<http://crubadan.org/writingsystems>) has lists of words and bigrams for different variants and scripts of Kurdish; files containing a small number of URLs that were used to compile the words are also included.

Apertium includes linguistic data for Kurmanji (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-kmr>) and Sorani (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-ckb>): morphological analysers and part-of-speech taggers. See ‘Bilingual Resources’ below for more detail.

The paper by Esmaili (2012) and the webpage “Building a Kurdish Language Corpus: an overview of the Technical Problems” (http://ggautierk.free.fr/e/icem_98.htm) by Gérard Gautier discuss some interesting points about linguistic resource development for Kurdish.

The first syntactically annotated corpus of Kurmanji Kurdish contains approximately 10,000 words and was developed by Gökırmak and Tyers (2017) and released under a Creative Commons License Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International at https://github.com/UniversalDependencies/UD_Kurmanji-MG.

Bilingual resources: Apertium also contains bilingual data for Kurmanji–English (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-kmr-eng>) and Sorani–English (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-ckb-eng>): bilingual dictionaries and structural transfer-rules. The final report (see http://wiki.apertium.org/wiki/Kurmanji_and_English/Final_report) by the Google Summer of Code 2016 student that created most of the data stated that the Kurmanji–English system contained around 17,000 dictionary entries, 157 paradigms and 23 transfer rules. All data are published under a GPL3 license.

The Iranian Studies site at Harvard University contains a Sorani Kurdish vocabulary in English (<https://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~iranian/Sorani>) and also a Kurmanji Kurdish vocabulary in English (<https://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~iranian/Kurmanji>). They are distributed under a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license.

2.11.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT to English

The main challenges when translating from both Sorani and Kurmanji Kurdish to English come from grammatical differences:

- agglutination in noun-based phrases to represent gender and case (Kurmanji) or pronominal suffixes (Sorani);
- radically different sentence and phrase structures —position of object, obliques, and verb; use of postpositional elements and circumpositions in Kurmanji, etc.—;
- absence of a definiteness mark in Kurmanji implies that the machine translation system would have to add the English article;
- cases in Kurmanji might simplify the task of identifying the sentence constituents by the machine translation system when compared to Sorani.

Kurdish is a strongly inflected language. This can cause data sparseness problems if the MT system treats the words as atomic units. It is desirable that the different grammatical suffixes are represented as independent tokens to allow the system to generalize better from the training data. Moreover, the absence of specific news-related bilingual corpora may be an obstacle to good results in a media monitoring task. The lack of a single standard in the case of both languages may result in non-homogeneous corpora.

2.12 Kyrgyz (ky, kir)

2.12.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Kyrgyz has around 4 million speakers. It is spoken in Kyrgyzstan, where it is official, and also in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Russia, and the Xinjiang province of China. It is a Turkic language in the same family (Kypchak) as Kazakh.

Kyrgyz is officially written in a Cyrillic alphabet (a superset of the Russian alphabet, with three additional letters) in Kyrgyzstan, and in Xinjiang a Perso-Arabic alphabet is used. A Latin alphabet similar to that used by Turkish is also unofficially used sometimes, mostly by academics and in diaspora.

2.12.2 Contrasts with English

As regards syntax, the contrasts between English and Kyrgyz are similar to those between English and other Turkic languages such as Turkish (see section 2.19). Kyrgyz examples are given in Google Translate transliteration.

Verbs			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Kyrgyz	Examples
Number of categories encoded in a single verb form	A few (person, number, tense)	Many (also potentiality, negation, voice [passive/active], evidentiality ['it seems'], etc.)	<i>turam/turamin</i> 'I [will] get up' (affirmative); <i>turbaym~turbaymin</i> 'I don't get up'/'I won't get up' (negative); <i>turamunbi</i> 'Do I get up'/'Will I get up' (interrogative); <i>turbaptırmın</i> 'It seems I didn't get up' (negative, past, mirative)
Evidentiality	Expressed through constructions	Morphologically expressed	<i>Al keliptir</i> ('I understand that she came') vs. <i>Al keldi</i> ('She came').

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Kyrgyz	Examples
How is case expressed	It is not	It is by a single, distinct morpheme	Case in nouns is expressed by a morph that comes just after number or possessive morphs (either of which may be present or absent): <i>üylörümdö</i> ('in my houses, lit. <i>üy</i> 'house' <i>lör</i> plural mark, <i>üm</i> first person possessive mark, <i>dö</i> locative 'in').
Number of morphologically marked cases	Two (but only in pronouns, etc.)	Nine (nominative, accusative, dative, locative, ablative, genitive, similitive, abessive, and equative), most appearing as distinct suffixes. (Genitive and accusative may appear without a morpheme if the noun is indefinite.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Keme çögiip ketken</i> ('the ship sank', nominative, no mark); • <i>Men kemeni kördüm.</i> ('I saw the ship', accusative <i>-ni</i>); • <i>Men kemege bardım</i> ('I went to the ship', dative <i>-ge</i>); • <i>Men kemedede boldum.</i> ('I was on the ship', locative <i>-de</i>); • <i>Kemededen keldim.</i> ('I came from the ship', ablative <i>-den</i>); • <i>Kemenin kapitanı</i> ('The captain of the ship', genitive <i>-nin</i>). • <i>Kapitan kemesiz kaldı.</i> ('The captain ended up without a ship', abessive <i>-siz</i>). • <i>Kemedey kalkıdı.</i> ('It floated like a ship.', similitive <i>-dey</i>). • <i>Kapitança keme ayday alam.</i> ('I can pilot a ship like a captain.', equative <i>-ça</i>).²¹
Position of Pronominal Possessive Affixes	No possessive affixes	Possessive suffixes (after number, before case)	<i>keme</i> ('[the] ship') vs. [<i>menin</i>] <i>kemem</i> ('my ship')

²¹A more idiomatic alternative to *kapitança* in this sentence would be the post-positional expression using the similitive *-day* ending: *kapitanday bolup*

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Kyrgyz	Examples
Order of Subject, Object and Verb	Subject–Verb–Object	Subject–Object–Verb	<i>Azamat jaŋı üy satıp aldı</i> ‘Azamat bought a new house’, lit ‘Azamat new house bought’
Order of Object, Oblique, and Verb	Verb–Object–Oblique	Oblique–Object–Verb	<i>Men terezeden eki gül kördüm</i> ‘I saw two flowers out the window’, that is, I window-ABLATIVE two flower saw’
Adpositions: Prepositions or postpositions?	Prepositions (before noun)	Postpositions (after noun)	<i>qaşıq</i> ‘spoon’; <i>qaşıq menen</i> ‘with a spoon’, lit. ‘spoon with’
Definite article	Yes, different from demonstrative.	No definite article	<i>Kemeler</i> may mean ‘Boats’ or ‘The boats’.
Order of Genitive and Noun	No dominant order	Genitive–Noun	<i>jaşoobuzdun güldörü</i> ‘The flowers of our lives’, that is, life-our-GENITIVE flower-PLURAL-POSSESSIVE
Order of Relative Clause and Noun	Noun–Relative clause	Relative clause–Noun	<i>düynönü satkan adam</i> ‘The man who sold the world’, lit ‘world-ACCUSATIVE sell-VERBAL ADJECTIVE man’
Position of Polar Question Particles	No question particle	Final	<i>Sen keldiŋ</i> ‘You arrived’; <i>Sen keldiŋbi?</i> ‘Did you arrive?’
Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions	Fronted (initial)	In situ	<i>Sen kayda jaşaysıŋ?</i> ‘ <u>Where</u> do you live?’

Pronouns			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Kyrgyz	Examples
Politeness distinction in pronouns	No distinction	Binary politeness distinction, sometimes ternary	<i>sen</i> is the familiar 2nd person singular pronoun; the polite form is <i>siz</i> ; the plurals are <i>siler</i> and <i>sizder</i> , respectively. Sometimes <i>siler</i> is used with singular semantics and intermediate politeness, i.e. familiar but respectful. All case forms show this distinction.
Expression of Pronominal Subjects	Obligatory pronouns in subject position	Subject affixes on verb only if needed	<i>Keldim</i> (‘I arrived’); <i>Keldik</i> (‘We arrived’).

corpus	doc's	sent's	ky tokens	en tokens
Tatoeba v20190709	1	100	900	11,000,000
JW300 v1	4,065	300,000	4,800,000	5,900,000
Wikimedia v20190628	1	41	21,800	7,700,000
GNOME v1	176	71,400	300,000	300,000
Ubuntu v14.10	105	10,100	31,500	200,000
QED v2.0a	28	2,100	23,900	34,600
total	4,376	383,841	5,178,100	25,134,600

Table 13: Distribution of the sentences in the OPUS Kyrgyz–English corpus (data from <http://opus.nlpl.eu/>).

2.12.3 Corpora

Monolingual Corpora: The monolingual dump of the Kyrgyz wikipedia is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/kywiki/>. The *kyWaC* is available from the sketch platform, but requires a subscription: <https://www.sketchengine.eu/corpora-and-languages/kyrgyz-text-corpora/>. The *Kyrgyz-tidy-Dataset* is an R-formatted selection of texts from a selection of Kyrgyz News groups 1 month prior to the Presidential election in 2017.

Bilingual corpora: The availability of bilingual corpora for Kyrgyz and English is quite limited. Table 13 gives an overview of what is available in the OPUS (<http://opus.nlpl.eu>) repository. About 384,000 sentences are available, of which 300,000 come from Jehova’s Witnesses material.

2.12.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: Apertium project provides a collection of resources for Kyrgyz (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-kir>) language under GPL v3 license. Among these resources, it is possible to find a morphological analyzer, a morphological generator and a part-of-speech tagger.

Bilingual resources: The Apertium platform provides machine translation data and resources for several language pairs involving Kyrgyz; all of them contain bilingual dictionary skeletons with a small number of entries, except for the Kyrgyz–Kazakh (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-kaz-kir>) dictionary, with about 8000 bilingual entries. This last dictionary could be crossed with the Apertium Kazakh–English dictionary to obtain a larger English–Kyrgyz dictionary than the one currently available at <https://github.com/apertium/apertium-eng-kir> which has only about 300 bilingual dictionary entries.

2.12.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT to/from English

The main obstacle to building a corpus-based MT system between Kyrgyz and English is the scarcity of parallel corpora available. In addition to this, the syntax divergence between Kyrgyz and English is typical of that between any Turkic language and English: very substantial reordering is needed to translate sentences, Kyrgyz, being agglutinative, has much richer noun and verb morphology than that of English.

2.13 Macedonian (mk, mkd, mac)

2.13.1 Factsheet

Macedonian is the official language of North Macedonia and also a minority language in parts of Albania, Romania, and Serbia, and it is spoken as a first language by about 2,000,000 people.

Macedonian's *endonymic glossonym*, transliterated, is *makedonski jazik*. Macedonian's closest relatives are Bulgarian (Macedonian dialects are part of a continuum with Bulgarian dialects) and, farther on, Serbo-Croatian (see sections 2.6 and 2.15). The Internet country code top-level domain for North Macedonia is `.mk`.

Macedonian uses the Cyrillic alphabet, but differs in some letters from other languages with the same script.

2.13.2 Contrasts with English

Macedonian and Bulgarian are so closely related that the contrasts described for Bulgarian in section 2.4.2 are basically valid. Minor formal differences with Bulgarian exist such as the existence in Macedonian of three forms (proximal, medial, and distal) of the definite article instead of just one (the same characteristic is only dialectal in Bulgarian). The most common form of the definite article in Macedonian (medial) is equivalent to the one used in standard Bulgarian.

2.13.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: Macedonian Wikipedia is available on <https://mk.wikipedia.org/>. As of April 2019 it contains 98,188 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummaryMK.htm>). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/mkwiki/>.

This is a list of Macedonian newspapers and magazines: *Nova Makedonija* (<https://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/>), *Vecer* (<https://vecer.mk/>), *Sloboden Pечат* (<https://www.slobodenpecat.mk/>), *Nezavisen Vesnik* (<https://nezavisen.mk/>), *Kapital* (<https://kapital.mk/>), *Zenit* (<http://zenitprilep.com.mk/>).

In addition to DW (<https://www.dw.com/mk/>), the following international media outlets publish content in Macedonian: The Voice of America (<https://mk.voanews.com/>) and Radio Free Europe (<https://www.slobodnaevropa.mk/>).

Bilingual corpora: The Southeast European Times (SETimes) is a central source of news and information about Southeastern Europe in ten languages: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, English, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish. The SETimes corpus (<http://www.statmt.org/setimes/>) was compiled and put in the public domain by Tyers and Serdar Alperen (2010). The Macedonian–English corpus contains approximatedly 153,000 sentences.²²

ParaSol (<http://parasolcorpus.org/>) is a parallel aligned corpus of translated and original belletristic texts in Slavic and some other languages. The amount of parallel corpora depends on the particular language pair. Languages include Bulgarian, Belarusian, Czech, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, Serbian, Ukrainian, Upper Sorbian, German, English, Dutch,

²²There is a cleaner version available at <http://nlp.ffzg.hr/resources/corpora/setimes/>.

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	mk tokens
OpenSubtitles v2018	3948	3.7M	28.9M	23.7M
JW300 v1	7211	0.5M	9.0M	8.6M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	80.3k	11.0M	0.5M
SETIMES v2	1	0.2M	5.1M	5.2M
GNOME v1	1030	0.5M	2.3M	2.5M
QED v2.0a	517	76.4k	1.2M	1.1M
GlobalVoices v2017q3	2292	50.0k	1.2M	1.1M
KDE4 v2	450	85.0k	0.5M	0.4M
Ubuntu v14.10	171	42.0k	0.3M	0.2M
EUbookshop v2	13	2.6k	0.1M	96.3k
total	15634	5.3M	59.7M	43.4M

Table 14: Distribution of the sentences in the OPUS Macedonian–English corpus.

Spanish, French, Italian, and a few others. Macedonian texts are tagged and lemmatized. The Macedonian part has 1,193,788 tokens and 49,678 lemmas, whereas the English part has 814,289 tokens and 19,886 lemmas. Access to ParaSol and downloads are provided by a web interface which requires authentication.

The novel “1984” by George Orwell tagged with lemma and PoS in Macedonian and English can be downloaded from <https://www.clarin.si/repository/xmlui/handle/11356/1043>. English original has 79,718 sentences and 106,4424 words. The corpus is licensed under a CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license.

Opus (<http://opus.nlpl.eu>) has a Macedonian–English corpus of approximately 5 million sentences distributed as shown in table 14.

Google Translate supports Macedonian–English translation. Apertium (see below) also has Macedonian–English translation as well as Macedonian–Serbo-Croatian, and to a lesser extent Macedonian–Albanian and Macedonian–Bulgarian.

2.13.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: An Crúbadán (<http://crubadan.org/writingsystems>) has lists of words and bigrams for different variants and scripts of Kurdish; files containing a small number of URLs that were used to compile the words are also included.

Apertium includes stable linguistic data for Macedonian–English and Macedonian–Serbo-Croatian in the form of morphological analysers, bilingual dictionaries and rule-based machine translation. The language pairs Macedonian–Albanian and Macedonian–Bulgarian seem to be in an earlier stage of development. The announcement in 2010 of the first release of the Macedonian–English system (see <https://www.mail-archive.com/apertium-stuff@lists.sourceforge.net/msg00271.html>) stated that it contained around 8,000 dictionary entries and 66 transfer rules. The data can be downloaded from <https://github.com/apertium?q=mk> and is published under a GPL2 or GPL3 license depending on the language pair.

The MULTEXT-East non-commercial Macedonian lexicon (<https://www.clarin.si/repository/xmlui/handle/11356/1042>) contains 1,323,572 entries with surface form, lemma and morphosyntactic

tags.

Bilingual resources: A crowd-sourced Macedonian–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014).

The so-called machine readable English–Macedonian dictionary (<https://time.mk/trajkovski/tools/dict/>) contains 23,296 translation pairs. The dictionary is provided under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License and its development has been described by Saveski and Trajkovski (2010).

See the description in the previous section about the resources provided by the Apertium project.

2.13.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

As already stated, the linguistic contrasts are basically the same as those between Bulgarian and English (see section 2.4.2) and so are the challenges for corpus-based MT from English (see section 2.4.5). The fact that, unlike Bulgarian, Macedonian is not an official language of the European Union results in a smaller availability of Macedonian-English parallel corpora, but the high degree of similarity between Macedonian and Bulgarian becomes an opportunity as transfer learning from an NMT system trained from English to Bulgarian may work with Macedonian.

Note that language detection systems are unlikely to misclassify Macedonian as Bulgarian (or vice versa), as there are a few different letters in the Cyrillic alphabets of both languages: for example, the sound /dz/ is represented by the letter Dze (which may look identical to the Latin letter S) in Macedonian and a digraph in Bulgarian.

2.14 Punjabi (pa, pan)

2.14.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Panjabi or Punjabi has around 120 million speakers. It is spoken (and official) in the Pakistani province of Punjab and in India, in the states of Punjab, Haryana, the Union territory of Chandigarh and the capital city, Delhi. It belongs to a very large family, the Indo-European family, as do many other languages in this project, namely Bosnian (§ 2.3), Croatian (§ 2.6), Serbian (§ 2.15), Bulgarian (§ 2.4), and Macedonian (§ 2.4); however, these five languages are Slavic, while Gujarati (§ 2.7) belongs to the Indo-Arian group.

Punjabi is written both in the Shahmukhi alphabet (based on the Perso-Arabic script, mainly in Pakistan) and in the Gurmukhi *alphasyllabary* in which consonant–vowel groups are written as a single character, with vowels being secondary to consonants.

2.14.2 Contrasts with English

What follows are tables of contrasts between English and Punjabi. They are not meant to be exhaustive (many other contrasts are described in WALS²³). Examples (where available) are given in Google-style transliteration.

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Punjabi	Examples
Indefinite article	Different from ‘one’	No indefinite article	<i>oha kute nala a’i’a</i> ‘They came with a small dog’, lit. ‘They small dog with came’
Definite article	Definite word distinct from demonstrative	No definite article	<i>adamu</i> ‘The man’ or ‘A man’.

²³<https://wals.info/>

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Punjabi	Examples
Politeness distinction in pronouns	No distinction	Binary distinction	
Position of case affixes	No case affixes, no pre- or post-positional clitics	Case suffixes	<i>Ghara</i> '[The] house'. <i>Ghara vica</i> 'In [the] house'. <i>Ghara tom</i> 'From the house'.
Number of genders	Three (sex-based, only in singular pronouns and possessives)	Two (formally and semantically assigned)	<i>caga ghara</i> 'good house' (masc.) but <i>cagi premika</i> 'good girlfriend' (fem.)

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Punjabi	Examples
Order of Subject, Object and Verb:	Subject–Verb–Object	Subject–Object–Verb	<i>Adamī ne ghara kharīdi’á</i> ‘The man bought the house’, lit. ‘Man (particle) house bought’
Postpositions or prepositions?	Prepositions	Postpositions	<i>Ghara de piche</i> ‘behind the house’, lit. ‘House-of back’; <i>Ghara de sahamaṇe</i> ‘In front of the house’, lit. ‘House-of front’
Order of genitive and noun	No dominant order	Genitive–noun	<i>Ghara di chata</i> ‘The roof of the house’, lit. ‘House of roof’.
Polar questions	No question particle, re-ordering and optional use of auxiliaries	Initial question particle, no reordering	<i>Bilī kala hai</i> ‘The cat is black’ <i>kī bilī kala hai?</i> ‘Is the cat black?’
Position of interrogative phrase in content questions	Initial	Non-initial	<i>Tusūn ghara vekhade ho</i> ‘You see houses’; <i>Tusūn kī vekhade ho?</i> ‘What do you see?’
The transitive verb agrees with...	...the A argument (‘agent’), if it does	...the A argument in imperfective verb forms, and the P argument (‘patient’) in perfective verb forms (split ergativity) ²⁴	<i>Adamī ne kara kharīda la’i</i> ‘The man bought the car’, <i>Adamī ne kara kharīda la’e</i> ‘The man bought the cars’ (note that the verb agrees with the P argument in the perfect).

2.14.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: There are a number of monolingual corpora available as part of wikimedia dumps: the Punjabi Wikipedia contains 31,145 articles (<https://dumps.wikimedia.org/pawiki/>); Punjabi Wiktionary contains 13,795 entries (<https://dumps.wikimedia.org/pawiktionary/>); Punjabi Wikibooks contains 64 books (<https://dumps.wikimedia.org/pawikibooks/>); Punjabi Wikisource consists of 200 texts (<https://dumps.wikimedia.org/pawikisource/>).

There are media outlets, in addition to BBC, containing Punjabi content which could be crawled to obtain monolingual corpora: TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>), although most of it is multi-media content; Punjab Infoline News Network (<http://punjabi.punjabinfoline.com/>), and Punjabi

²⁴Also shown by Gujarati, see section 2.7 for more details.

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	pa tokens
JW300 v1	5099	0.5M	7.8M	9.0M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	87	11.0M	1.7k
GNOME v1	1428	0.5M	3.0M	3.5M
KDE4 v2	999	99.0k	0.8M	0.4M
Ubuntu v14.10	221	63.9k	0.3M	0.3M
total	7748	1.2M	23.0M	13.1M

Table 15: OPUS resources for Punjabi–English.

Tribune (<https://www.punjabitribuneonline.com/>).

Other sites from which monolingual corpora could be crawled: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (http://unicode.org/udhr/d/udhr_pan.html) and the Bible (<https://live.bible.is/bible/PANWTC/MAT/1>)

Bilingual corpora: The amount of parallel corpora freely available is rather scarce. Table 15 reports the amount of parallel sentence and words in each language for the corpora available at OPUS (<http://opus.nlpl.eu/>).

The EMILLE/CIIL Corpus (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-W0037/>) contains bilingual corpora for Punjabi as well as for other language of interest to the GoURMET (Gujarati).

The website Jehovah’s Witnesses (<https://www.jw.org>), could be crawled to obtained Punjabi–English parallel corpora in the religious domain.

Jindal et al. (2017) describes an English–Punjabi parallel corpus and cites several sources used to build the corpus, but the corpus does not seem to be available.

2.14.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: There is a open-source Punjabi grammar developed in Grammatical Framework (Virk et al. (2011); <http://www.grammaticalframework.org/lib/src/punjabi/>).

Bilingual resources: A crowd-sourced Punjabi–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014). It contains 98,027 bilingual entries.

There are also three online bilingual dictionaries: Glosbe (<https://glosbe.com/pa/en/>), Shabdkosh (<https://www.shabdkosh.com/dictionary/english-punjabi/>) and The Panjabi Dictionary (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/singh/>).

Finally, Google Translate offers MT between Punjabi and English.

2.14.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT to English

Here are the main challenges when generating English from Punjabi:

- Scarcity of bilingual corpora.
- The order of genitive constructions maps differently.
- The absence of definite and indefinite articles in Punjabi may make the generation of grammatical English difficult.
- Extensive reordering (bringing the verb forward, or generating prepositions) may be challenging for complex sentence structures.

2.15 Serbian (sr, srp)

2.15.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Serbian is the standardized variety of the Serbo-Croatian language mainly used by 9–10 million Serbs. “It is the official language of Serbia, co-official in [...] Kosovo, and one of the three official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, it is a recognized minority language in Montenegro where it is spoken by the relative majority of the population as well as in Croatia, North Macedonia, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.”

Serbian uses both the same Latin alphabet as Croatian (§ 2.6) and a Cyrillic alphabet similar to that of Russian but containing some special letters corresponding to Croatian *ć đ, dž, j, lj* and *nj*. Most Serbian speakers are used to both alphabets, and transliteration is basically one-to-one either way.

2.15.2 Contrasts with English

Serbian has essentially the same contrasts with English as Croatian, see section 2.6.2; there are, however, some differences:

- differences in vocabulary (for instance, Serbian *hleb* instead of Croatian *kruh* for ‘bread’ or Serbian *januar, februar, . . .* instead of Croatian *siječanj, veljača, . . .*);
- small differences in grammar (for instance Serbian *Želim da znam* ‘I want to know’, lit. ‘I want that I know’ instead of Croatian *Želim znati* ‘I want to know’, also lit.);
- there are a few spelling differences between Serbian and Croatian: for instance, Serbian often has *e* (*mleko* ‘milk’, *razumela je* ‘She understood’) where Croatian has *ije* (*mlijeko*) or *je* (*razumjela je*).

2.15.3 Corpora

Bilingual corpora: The Southeast European Times (SETimes) is a central source of news and information about Southeastern Europe in ten languages: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, English, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish. The SETimes corpus (<http://nlp.ffzg.hr/resources/corpora/setimes/>) was compiled and put in the public domain by Tyers and Serdar Alperen (2010) and refined by the Natural Language Processing group at the University of Zagreb. The Serbian–English corpus contains approximately 225,000 sentences.

ParaSol (<http://parasolcorpus.org/>) is a parallel aligned corpus of translated and original belletristic texts in Slavic and some other languages. The amount of parallel corpora depends on the particular language pair. Languages include Bulgarian, Belarusian, Czech, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, Serbian, Ukrainian, Upper Sorbian, German, English, Dutch, Spanish, French, Italian, and a few others. Croatian texts are tagged and lemmatized. The Serbian part has 1,324,929 tokens and 42,602 lemmas, whereas the English part has 814,289 tokens and 19,886 lemmas. Access to ParaSol and downloads are provided by a web interface which requires authentication.

The novel “1984” by George Orwell tagged with lemma and part-of-speech in Serbian and English can be downloaded from <https://www.clarin.si/repository/xmlui/handle/11356/1043>. English

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	sr tokens
OpenSubtitles v2018	55422	45.9M	371.3M	301.0M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	13.5k	11.0M	0.2M
SETIMES v2	1	0.2M	5.4M	5.2M
QED v2.0a	2670	0.3M	5.0M	4.1M
GNOME v1	1547	0.6M	3.2M	3.5M
bible-uedin v1	2	62.2k	1.8M	1.4M
TildeMODEL v2018	1	2.0k	2.8M	51.1k
GlobalVoices v2017q3	1023	20.1k	0.7M	0.4M
Ubuntu v14.10	421	97.0k	0.7M	0.3M
KDE4 v2	764	64.5k	0.5M	0.5M
EUbookshop v2	6	1.6k	83.4k	58.1k
total	61858	47.3M	402.6M	316.8M

Table 16: Distribution of the sentences in the Opus Serbian–English corpus.

original has 79,718 sentences and 106,4424 words. The corpus is licensed under a CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license.

The *srenWaC* — Serbian-English Parallel Web Corpus (<https://www.clarin.si/repository/xmlui/handle/11356/1059/>) consists on 534,682 Serbian–English sentence pairs. It is published under the CC-BY-SA license.

The *ParCoLab* French-Serbian-English corpus (<http://parcolab.univ-tlse2.fr/en/about/resources/>) contains two Serbian–English parallel subcorpora: the first is extracted from the Web magazine *Pescanik* (it contains 31,151 Serbian tokens and 34,275 English tokens) and the second one from TED talks (it contains 18,933 Serbian tokens and 21,410 English tokens).

Opus (<http://opus.nlpl.eu>) has a Serbian–English corpus of approximately 47 million sentences distributed as shown in table 16.

Monolingual corpora: *srWaC* is a web corpus collected from the .sr top-level domain by Ljubešić and Klubička (2014). It contains 894 million tokens and is annotated with the lemma, morphosyntax and dependency syntax layers.

The Twitter corpus of BCMS (Ljubešić et al., 2014) contains 379,255,987 words in Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian. It is distributed as a set of tweet ids that should be used to rebuild the corpora via the Twitter API.

The Serbian Wikipedia is available at <https://sr.wikipedia.org/wiki/>. As of April 2019 it contains 614,211 entries (see stats on <https://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/SummarySR.htm>). A monolingual dump is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/srwiki/>. There is a Wikipedia dump already preprocessed that is available in plain text format (<http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-2735>). It contains around 25 million sentences and 66 million words.

The *W2C* (Web to Corpus) corpora is a set of corpora (<https://lindat.mff.cuni.cz/repository/xmlui/handle/11858/00-097C-0000-0022-6133-9>) for 120 languages automatically collected from Wikipedia and the web. The Serbian corpus contains around 250,000 sentences and 18 million words.

In addition to BBC, both in Latin alphabet (<https://www.bbc.com/serbian/lat>) and in Cyrillic

(<https://www.bbc.com/serbian/cyr>), and DW (<https://www.dw.com/sr>), the following international media outlets produce content in Serbian: Global Voices (<https://sr.globalvoices.org/>, Latin), The Voice of America (<https://www.glasamerike.net/>, Latin), China Plus (formerly China Radio International, <http://serbian.cri.cn>, Latin), and TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>, Cyrillic), although mostly multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

2.15.4 Resources

Bilingual resources: Apertium provides rule-based machine translation between Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and English. The rule-based system contains bilingual dictionaries and transfer rules released under free licenses (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-hbs-eng>).

PanLex contains a bilingual Serbian–English dictionary that can be queried online (<https://translate.panlex.org/?langDe=eng-000&langAl=srp-000>).

A crowd-sourced Serbian–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014).

The set of open-source bilingual dictionaries FreeDict (<https://github.com/freedict/fd-dictionaries>) contains an Serbian–English bilingual dictionary.

The Glosbe bilingual concordancer can be used online at <https://glosbe.com/en/sr>.

The following online machine translation systems support Serbian–English translation:

- Google Translate (<https://translate.google.com>)
- Yandex Translate (<https://translate.yandex.com>)
- Bing Translator (<https://www.bing.com/translator>)

Monolingual resources Apertium contains a morphological analyser/part-of-speech tagger/morphological generator for Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-hbs>) with 58,004 stems. The srLex morphological lexicon (Ljubešić et al., 2016), released under a free licence, can be used together with a conditional random fields tagger (Ljubešić and Erjavec, 2016) to morphologically analyze Serbian text.

Wikimorph-sr (http://redac.univ-tlse2.fr/lexiques/wikimorph-sr_en.html) is a morphosyntactic lexicon for Serbian that can be used for part-of-speech tagging, parsing and lemmatisation. It was mainly extracted from the Serbo-Croatian edition of the Wiktionary (sh.wiktionary.org).

2.15.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

The linguistic contrasts between English and Serbian are basically the same as those between English and Croatian (§ 2.6.2), and so are the challenges for corpus-based MT from English (§ 2.6.5). The fact that Serbian can be written in the Cyrillic alphabet is not a relevant issue, since it can be transliterated from the Latin alphabet with a one-to-one mapping.

In addition, the main problem lies in harvesting new corpora for Serbian, as language identification is very likely to (expectedly) classify Croatian or Bosnian text as Serbian written with the Latin alphabet or vice-versa.

2.16 Swahili (sw, swa)

2.16.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Swahili (also called *Kiswahili*) has estimates of between 2 and 15 million first-language speakers and about 90 million second-language speakers. It is spoken in Tanzania*, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Kenya, Somalia (on the Bajuni islands and Barawa), Mozambique (mostly Mwani), Burundi, Rwanda*, Uganda*, Comoros, Mayotte, Zambia, Malawi, and Madagascar (official where marked with *). It belongs to a very large family, the Niger–Congo family, as Yoruba (§ 2.20) and Igbo (§ 2.9), and more specifically to the Bantu group. Swahili is currently written in the Latin script, with no diacritics; the apostrophe is used in the seldom-occurring combination *ng'* which represents the sound of *ng* in *singer* (not *finger*), and can occur at the beginning of a word (*ng'ombe*, ‘cow’)

2.16.2 Contrasts with English

The following tables summarize the main contrasts between Swahili and English. Some examples are from Perrott (1965).

Nouns				
Feature		Value in English	Value in Swahili	Examples
Coding of plurality in nouns	of in	Plural suffix	Plural prefix	<i>kichwa</i> (‘head’), <i>vichwa</i> (‘heads’); <i>jicho</i> (‘eye’), <i>macho</i> (‘eyes’)

Verb				
Feature		Value in English	Value in Swahili	Examples
Number of categories encoded in a single-word verb	of	Few (number, person, tense)	Many (“STROVE”, that is, number and person of subject, tense, aspect and mood, optional relatives, number and person of object, verb root, and optional extensions)	<i>nimekinunua kitabu</i> ‘I have bought the book’, where: <i>ni</i> ‘I’, subject; <i>me</i> , present perfect; <i>ki</i> , ‘it’, object; <i>nunua</i> , ‘buy’, verb root.

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Swahili	Examples
Definite articles	Definite word distinct from demonstrative	Demonstrative (seldom) used as definite article	<i>kitabu</i> ('book', 'the book', 'a book').
Noun Phrase Conjunction	<i>And</i> different from <i>with</i>	<i>And</i> identical to <i>with</i>	<i>Lete chai na maziwa</i> ('Bring tea and milk'); <i>Yesu alikuja na Baba yake</i> ('Jesus came with his Father').

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Swahili	Examples
Inflectional morphology	Suffixing	Mainly prefixing	<i>kitabu</i> ('book'), <i>vitabu</i> ('books'); <i>nilinunua</i> ('I bought'), <i>ulinunua</i> ('You bought'); but <i>jenga</i> ('build'), <i>jengwa</i> ('be built')

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Swahili	Examples
Reduplication	No productive reduplication	Productive full and partial reduplication	<i>Mimi ninasoma kitabu</i> 'I am reading the book'; <i>mimi ninasomasoma kitabu</i> 'I am reading the book bit by bit'
Number of genders	Three, sex-based, only in 3rd person singular pronouns and possessives	Many, not based on sex (called <i>classes</i>)	<i>kitabu</i> 'book' (<i>ki-vi</i> -class): plural <i>vitabu</i> 'books'; <i>mtoto</i> 'child' (<i>m-wa</i> -class): plural <i>watoto</i> 'children'; etc. Note that adjectives and verbs have to agree: <i>kitabu kidogo</i> 'small book', <i>vitabu vidogo</i> 'small books'; <i>mtoto mdogo</i> 'small child', etc.
Order of genitive and noun	No dominant order	Noun–genitive	<i>gari la mama</i> 'Mom's (<i>mama</i>) car (<i>gari</i> '); <i>paa la nyumba</i> 'The roof (<i>paa</i>) of the house (<i>nyumba</i>)'.
Order of adjective and noun	adjective–noun	noun–adjective	<i>mtoto mdogo</i> 'small child', lit. 'child small'
Order of demonstrative and noun	demonstrative–noun	noun–demonstrative	<i>gari hili</i> 'this car', lit. 'car this'
Order of numeral and noun	numeral–noun	noun–numeral	<i>vitabu viwili</i> ('two books', lit. 'books two')
Expression of Pronominal Subjects	Obligatory pronouns in subject position	Subject affixes on verb	<i>Nilinunua</i> ('I bought'), <i>ulinunua</i> ('You bought')
Negation	Particle or construction	Negative form of verb	<i>Ninasoma</i> ('I am reading'), <i>Sisomi</i> ('I am not reading'); <i>Unasoma</i> ('You are reading'), <i>husomi</i> ('You are not reading');
Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions	Initial interrogative phrase	Not initial interrogative phrase	<i>Unasoma vitabu</i> ('You are reading books'); <i>Unasoma nini?</i> ('What are you reading', lit. 'you are reading what?')
Polar questions	Change in word order, use of auxiliaries	No change in word order	<i>Amesoma</i> ('He has read'); <i>Amesoma?</i> ('Has he read?')
Comparative	Comparative form of adjective ('-er') or 'more'	Absolute form of adjective	<i>Virusi ni ndogo</i> ('A virus is small') <i>Virusi ni ndogo kuliko bakteria</i> ('A virus is smaller than a bacterium', lit. 'A virus is small where there is a bacterium')
Predicative Possession	'have'	conjunctive ('to be with')	<i>Nina swali</i> ('I have a question', lit. 'I-am-with question')

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	sw tokens
JW300 v1	13336	1.0M	17.2M	15.9M
wikimedia v20190628	1	0.9k	7.7M	0
Tanzil v1	15	0.1M	2.8M	2.1M
GlobalVoices v2017q3	1474	29.8k	0.7M	0
Ubuntu v14.10	45	1.0k	59.6k	3.6k
EUbookshop v2	3	17	0.3k	0.3k
GNOME v1	3	40	0.3k	0.2k
total	14877	1.2M	28.4M	18.0M

Table 17: OPUS resources for Swahili–English.

2.16.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: Crawls of Swahili news text are available at <http://data.statmt.org/news-crawl/sw/>.

The Helsinki Corpus of Swahili v.2 (<https://www.kielipankki.fi/news/hcs-a-v2-in-korp/>) is available in unannotated form at <https://korp.csc.fi/download/HCS/na-v2/hcs-na-v2.zip>, and in annotated form at <https://korp.csc.fi/download/HCS/a-v2/hcs-a-v2-dl>. The annotations are in a format called VRT and contain: form, lemma, part of speech, morphological indicators, *English translation*, dependency relations, etc. The licence for the unannotated corpus is very permissive;²⁵ the licence for the annotated form restricts it to academic and research use.²⁶

The monolingual dump of the Swahili wikipedia is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/swwiki/>. As of April 29th it contains around 49,592 articles.

In addition to BBC and DW, the following international media outlets produce content in Swahili: Radio France Internationale (<http://sw.rfi.fr/>), Global Voices (<https://globalvoices.org/>), The Voice of America (<https://www.voaswahili.com/>), China Plus (formerly China Radio International, <http://swahili.cri.cn/>), Vatican Radio (<https://www.vaticannews.va/sw.html>), and TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>, although mostly multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

Bilingual corpora: OPUS²⁷ contains ready-made corpora for Swahili (see table 17) and reports a total of 1.2 million segments, with about 80% coming from the Jehova’s Witnesses’ website.

De Pauw et al. (2011) report a Swahili–English parallel corpus (SAWA) containing 73,700k. Alacant has contacted the authors and they have made it available to GoURMET under a research-only license. The corpus provided contains about 200,000 sentence pairs, which may contain segments which are already in OPUS.

²⁵<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

²⁶<https://www.kielipankki.fi/lic/hcs-a-v2-dl/?lang=en>

²⁷<http://opus.nlpl.edu>

2.16.4 Resources

Monolingual resources The Unimorph project (<https://github.com/unimorph>) contains a set of morphologically-annotated Swahili forms (<https://github.com/unimorph/swc>); the coverage of the 2018 version of the Swahili news crawls described above is low (15%) with 10200 forms.

After extracting the unique forms (all of which are analysed morphologically) in the Helsinki Corpus of Swahili, they give a better coverage of the Swahili news crawls of about 88%.

There is a free/open-source Swahili verb segmenter in PHP: <https://github.com/donnekgit/segmenter>.

Lipps (2011) describes a morphological analyser for Swahili. The paper contains listings, but they are clearly marked as research-only after requesting for permission. The Salama morphological analyser/tagger for Swahili (<http://77.240.23.241/tagger/>) makes use of rule-based language technology and can only be used online. TreeTagger (<https://www.cis.uni-muenchen.de/~schmid/tools/TreeTagger/>) also contains a model for Swahili.

Bilingual resources: A crowd-sourced Swahili–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014).

There is a commercial bilingual Swahili–English dictionary that may be installed in Windows (<https://africanlanguages.com/swahili/>)

Both Google Translate and Yandex have Swahili translators.

2.16.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT to English

Swahili is morphologically and syntactically quite different from English, in spite of the fact that both are subject–verb–object languages. Swahili verb morphology is rich and agglutinative, and a large number of morphologically-marked nominal genders participate in nominal and verbal agreement.

In summary:

- Parallel corpora are rather scarce, and it remains to be seen how much more bilingual text may be crawled using tools such as Bitextor.²⁸ Approaches based on monolingual corpora (Artetxe et al., 2018) may be worth trying as monolingual corpora beyond a few million words may be easily retrievable. Another approach worth trying would be synthetic bilingual corpora (perhaps back-translated using commercial systems such as Google translate and Yandex).
- A correct segmentation of verbs, which are very rich and complex, is not too complicated, but it may be needed as a preprocessing step.
- Word-order differences seem to occur locally (basically inside the noun phrase). This may only be a problem for longer noun phrases.
- The absence of definite and indefinite articles in Swahili may make the generation of grammatical English tricky.

²⁸<https://github.com/bitextor/bitextor/>

- Genders in Swahili do not mark sex; generating the correct English 3rd-person pronouns and possessives may be challenging.
- Swahili interrogatives have to be reordered when translating to English.

2.17 Tamil (ta, tam)

2.17.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Tamil has around 75 million speakers. It is spoken (and official) in Sri Lanka, Singapore and the Indian provinces of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. It belongs to the Dravidian family, together with Malayalam and Kannada.

Tamil is written in its own system, the Tamil writing system, an abugida (alphasyllabary) in the group of Brahmic writing systems, in which consonant–vowel groups are written as a single character, with vowels being secondary to consonants.

2.17.2 Contrasts with English

Examples given in Google transliteration.

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Tamil	Examples
Order of Subject, Object and Verb	Subject–Object–Verb	Subject–Verb–Object	<i>Avaḷ muṭṭaikaḷai vēka vaittāl</i> 'She boiled the eggs', lit. 'She (Avaḷ) the eggs (muṭṭaikaḷai) boiled (vēka vaittāl)'
Adpositions: prepositions or postpositions?	Prepositions	Postpositions	<i>ēriyil</i> 'In the lake' where <i>ēri</i> 'lake'
Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions	Initial interrogative phrase	Not initial interrogative phrase	<i>Nīnkaḷ eṅkē pōkiṛkaḷ?</i> 'Where are you going?'
Polar questions	Interrogative word order	Question suffix	<i>Avar vantū</i> 'He came'; <i>Avar vantārā?</i> 'Did he come?'
Order of genitive and noun	No dominant order	Genitive-Noun	<i>speyiṇiṇ rājā</i> 'The king of Spain' (lit. 'Spain-of king')
Definite articles	Definite word distinct from demonstrative	Demonstrative word used sometimes as definite article	<i>Anta maṇitaṅ</i> 'The man' or 'That man'
Indefinite Articles	Indefinite word distinct from 'one'	Indefinite word same as 'one'	<i>Oru peṇ</i> 'A woman' or 'One woman'
Order of Relative Clause and Noun:	Noun–Relative clause	Relative clause–Noun	<i>Itai unkaḷukku anuppiya napar</i> 'The person who gave you this'
Order of adverbial subordinator and clause	Initial subordinator word	Subordinating suffix	<i>Iruṭṭāka irukkum polutu nāṇ veḷiyē pōka virumpuvatillai.</i> 'I don't want to go out when it's dark'

2.17.3 Corpora

Monolingual Corpora: A list of web pages containing text in Tamil is available at <http://crubadan.org/languages/ta>

The taWaC - Tamil web corpus contains more than 26M words and can be downloaded from <https://www.sketchenine.eu/tawac-tamil-corpus/>.

Open Source Tamil Corpus of 58M words is available at <https://github.com/ajithalbus/TamilCorpus>.

The AUKBC Tamil Part-of-Speech Corpus (<http://au-kbc.org/nlp/corpusrelease.html>) is a manually-annotated corpus in Tamil that contains more than 50k sentences and 515k tokens. The corpus is annotated with the BIS tagset.

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	ta tokens
JW300 v1	11,198	1.0M	15.7M	12.1M
Tatoeba v2019070	1	0.3k	11.0M	1.6k
Tanzil v1	15	93.5k	2.8M	7.0M
GNOME v1	1,093	0.5M	2.1M	5.1M
QED v2.0a	922	54.9k	1.0M	0.5M
KDE4 v2	543	0.1M	0.7M	0.4M
Ubuntu v14.10	262	59.4k	0.4M	0.5M
OpenSubtitles v2018	28	33.1k	0.2M	0.2M
total	14,062	1.8M	33.9M	25.8M

Table 18: OPUS resources for Tamil–English.

The Leipzig Corpora Collection contains a Tamil news corpus based on material crawled in 2011 with around 1.3M sentences and 14.5M tokens. Information about the corpus is available at https://corpora.uni-leipzig.de/en?corpusId=tam_newsrawl_2011, but it seems there is no way to download it.

The EMILLE/CIIL Corpus (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-W0037/>) contains monolingual texts in fourteen South Asian languages, including Tamil. This corpus is available for free.

Bilingual corpora: Table 18 reports the amount of parallel sentence and words in each language for the corpora available at OPUS (<http://opus.nlpl.eu/>). As can be seen, about 60% of the sentence pairs comes from religious texts such as the Quran (Tanzil) or Jehova’s Witnesses’ web, and about 33% being information technology texts.

The EMILLE Lancaster Corpus (<http://catalog.elra.info/en-us/repository/browse/ELRA-W0038/>) provides parallel sentences between English (about 200,000 tokens) and seven South Asian languages, including Tamil. This corpus is only available after paying a fee.

The EnTam, a sentence-aligned parallel corpus, containing texts from the bible, cinema and in the news domains, is publicly available and can be download from <https://lindat.mff.cuni.cz/repository/xmlui/handle/11234/1-1454>. It contains circa 170k parallel sentences.

Many Indian Government sites (under gov.in) are multilingual and contain parallel texts in English and other Indian languages, like Tamil. For example, the web page of the Prime Minister of India (<http://www.pmindia.gov.in>) 3,606 articles in Tamil and 5,722 in English.

2.17.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: The AUKBC Tamil Part-of-Speech Corpus and tagger <http://au-kbc.org/nlp/corpusrelease.html> can be accessed upon request.

There is a morphological analyser of Tamil available at <https://github.com/tacola-aucse/Morphological-Analyser-For-Tamil>, although its development was discontinued four years ago.

Bilingual resources: A dictionary with 6,597 English verbs translated into Tamil is available at <https://catalog ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2009L01>

An English–Tamil phrasebook with common school-related sentences and phrases can be downloaded from http://ealhighland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Tamil_Bracknell-Forest-Phrases-for-Schools-english.pdf.

2.17.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT To/from English

One of the challenges comes from the fact that Tamil is rather poorly-resourced considering its size (75 million speakers).

Moreover, the syntax of Tamil is quite different from that of English. Modifiers (genitives, relative clauses, adverbial clauses etc.) usually precede the words they modify; numerals follow nouns; Tamil verbs usually go at the end of the sentence. This means that heavy reordering occurs during translation in either direction, with little data to learn it.

2.18 Tigrinya (ti, tir)

2.18.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Tigrinya has around 7 million speakers. It is spoken (and official) in Eritrea, and a recognized minority language in Ethiopia (Tigray state). It is a Semitic language.

Tigrinya is written in the Ge'ez script, an *abugida* (syllabary) which is also used for its larger neighbour Amharic (spoken in Ethiopia).

2.18.2 Contrasts with English

Examples are not provided for all contrasts described in the World Atlas of Linguistic Studies, and the tables may still miss important contrasts. Where provided, they are given in transliteration, and the main source is Wikipedia.

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Tigrinya	Examples
Order of Subject, Object and Verb	Subject–Object–Verb	Object–Verb–Subject	
Adpositions: prepositions or postpositions?	Prepositions	Both	
Polar questions	Interrogative word order	Same order as affirmative	
Order of genitive and noun	No dominant order	Noun–genitive	
Negative Morphemes	Negative particle	Negative affix	<i>yəsəbbäruläy</i> ('they are broken for me'), <i>ayyəsəbbäruläyə</i> ('they are not broken for me')
Passive constructions	Present	Absent	

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Tigrinya	Examples
Prefixing vs. Suffixing in Inflectional Morphology	Strongly suffixing	Equal prefixing and suffixing	
Possessives	Separate words	Affixes	<i>gäza</i> ‘house’, <i>gäza-y</i> ‘my house’, <i>gäza-a</i> ‘her house’; also for pronouns after prepositions <i>bəza</i> ‘ba’ ‘about’, <i>bəza</i> ‘ba-y’ ‘about me’, <i>bəa</i> ‘bə-a’ ‘about her’
Noun inflection	Mainly suffix (plural)	Semitic template and suffix	Template: <i>färäs</i> ‘horse’, <i>’afras</i> ‘horses’. Suffix: <i>’arat</i> ‘bed’, <i>’aratat</i> ‘beds’.
Verbal Person Marking	Only the A argument (agent)	A (agent) or P (patient) argument	<i>rə’yä-yya</i> (‘I-saw-her’, both the subject and object are marked as part of the verb)
The Morphological Imperative	No specific second-person imperatives	Second singular and second plural	
Gender distinction in pronouns	Only 3rd singular	2nd and 3rd, singular and plural	

2.18.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: There are corpora available as part of wikimedia dumps: Tigrinya Wikipedia contains 169 articles (<https://dumps.wikimedia.org/tiwiki/>) and Tigrinya Wiktionary contains 115 entries (<https://dumps.wikimedia.org/tiwiki/>).

The Nagaoka Tigrinya Corpus (Tedla et al., 2016) (<https://eng.jnlp.org/yemane/ntigcorpus>) consists of news articles and contains 72,080 tokens annotated with part-of-speech. The corpus is encoded in TEI.

The Tigrinya Web Corpus (tiWaC; <http://hdl.handle.net/11234/1-2592>) is available for research after login with an account from an European university. Information about the web pages from which the texts were crawled is provided at <https://habit-project.eu/wiki/TigrinyaCorpus>. The corpus contains part-of-speech annotations based on Universal dependencies.²⁹

In addition to BBC, the following media outlets produce content in Tigrinya: the Voice of America (tigrinya.voanews.com), Vatican Radio (<https://www.vaticannews.va/ti.html>) and Asmarino News (<http://www.asmarino.com/tig>). Eritrea Haddas publishes PDFs of weekly newspapers published by the Eritrean Ministry of Information (<http://www.shabait.com/eritrea-haddas>).

Other sources from which monolingual corpora could be downloaded include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (http://unicode.org/udhr/d/udhr_tir.html) and the URLs included in the Crúbadán repository for Tigrinya (<http://crubadan.org/languages/ti>).

²⁹<https://www.sketchengine.eu/universal-pos-tags/>

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	ti tokens
JW300 v1	5124	0.4M	6.8M	5.9M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	69	11.0M	0.6k
wikimedia v20190628	1	5	7.7M	0.2k
Ubuntu v14.10	19	1.4k	42.3k	2.0k
total	5145	0.4M	25.6M	5.9M

Table 19

Bilingual corpora: OPUS³⁰ contains very little bilingual material for Tigrinya: it reports about 400,000 segment pairs of Ubuntu translations of which 99% come from Jehova's Witnesses' content (see table 19). The Tigrinya side of some of the corpora has many segments in English.

What follows is a list of websites from which parallel corpora could be harvested, all in the religious domain: Ethiopicbible (<https://www.ethiopicbible.com>), Ebible (<http://ebible.org>) and Ge'ez experience (<https://www.geezexperience.com>).

2.18.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: HornMorpho (<https://github.com/adamsamson/HornMorpho2.5>) is a morphological analyser and generator for Tigrinya, as well as for Amharic and Afaan Oromoo (§ 2.1).

Bilingual resources: The GeezLab Tigrinya BiLingual Lexicon (<https://github.com/fgaim/Tigrinya-BiLexicon>) contains 78642 bilingual entries statistically obtained from a parallel corpus that the authors do not specify.

There are three online bilingual dictionaries —Tigrinya dictionary (<https://www.geezexperience.com/>), Memhr.org Dictionary (<http://www.memhr.org/dic/>) and Glosbe (<https://glosbe.com/ti/en>)— and a phrasebook available for learners of Tigrinya as a foreign language (<http://www.goethe-verlag.com/book2/EN/ENTI/ENTI002.HTM>).

Finally, to our knowledge, no online commercial MT systems offers Tigrinya.

2.18.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

Here are the main challenges when generating Tigrinya from English:

- Scarcity of bilingual corpora.
- Radically different sentence structure. In particular, interrogatives have to be reordered when translating from English.
- The absence of passive voice may make the translation of the English passive voice difficult.
- The absence of gender distinction on second person pronouns in English may make difficult to translate to the appropriate second-person pronoun in Tigrinya.

³⁰<http://opus.nlpl.edu>

2.19 Turkish (tr, tur)

2.19.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Turkish has around 75 million first-language (L_1) speakers and 85 million who speak it either as L_1 or L_2 . It is spoken (and official) in Turkey, Northern Cyprus, and Cyprus and it is a recognized minority language in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Iraq, Kosovo, Macedonia and Romania. It is the largest language in the Turkic language family, followed by Azeri, Uzbek, Kazakh and Uygur.

Turkish is written in a modified Latin script that contains some letters with diacritics: ç, Ç, ğ, Ğ, ı, İ, ö, Ö, ş, Ş. The letters â/Â, î/Î and û/Û are also used occasionally to mark palatalization of the following consonant or lengthening of the vowel. The script was introduced and adopted by the Turkish republic in the late 1920's and is widely and consistently used.

Unlike English, Turkish is an agglutinative language (it creates long words made up of many morphemes) with extensive vowel harmony and some consonant harmony (vowels and consonants to either side of a morpheme boundary have to belong to the same family) Each morpheme usually distinctly encodes a single category, an exception being the fusion of person and number in pronouns, possessives and verbs.

2.19.2 Contrasts with English

Many examples taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_grammar.

Verbs			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Turkish	Examples
Number of categories encoded in a single verb form	A few (person, number, tense)	Many (also potentiality, negation, voice [passive/active], evidentiality ['it seems'], etc.)	<i>gelmedim</i> ('I did not come') vs <i>geldim</i> ('I came')
Perfective/imperfective aspect	No grammatical marking	Grammatical marking	<i>yürüdüm</i> (≈ 'I walked [and had finished walking]') vs. <i>yürüyordum</i> (≈ 'I walked [and had not finished walking]')
Possibility (situational or epistemic)	Verbal constructions	Affixes on verbs	<i>Geleirim</i> ('I can come'), <i>Gelemem</i> ('I cannot come')
Evidentiality	Expressed through constructions	Morphologically expressed	<i>O gelmiş</i> ('I was told that she came') vs. <i>O geldi</i> ('She came').
Negative Morphemes	Negative particle	Negative affix	<i>Anladım.</i> ('I understood'); <i>Anlamadım</i> ('I did not understand').

Morphology			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Turkish	Examples
How is case expressed	It is not	It is by a single, distinct morpheme	Case in nouns is expressed by a morph that comes just after the number and possessive morphs: <i>Bahçelerimde</i> ('in my gardens, lit. <i>Bahçe</i> 'garden' <i>ler</i> plural mark, <i>im</i> first person possessive mark, <i>de</i> locative 'in').
Number of morphologically marked cases	Two (but only in pronouns, etc.)	Six (nominative, accusative, dative, locative, ablative and genitive), appearing as distinct suffixes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ev yandı</i> ('the house burned down', nominative, no mark); • <i>Evi gördüm</i> ('I saw the house', accusative <i>-i</i>); • <i>Eve gittim</i> ('I went to the house', dative <i>-e</i>); • <i>Evde yattım</i> ('I slept in the house, locative <i>-de</i>); • <i>Evden geldim</i> ('I came from the house, ablative <i>-den</i>); • <i>Evin çatısı</i> ('The roof of the house', genitive <i>-in</i>).
Position of Pronominal Possessive Affixes	No possessive affixes	Possessive suffixes	<i>Ev yandı</i> ('[the] house burned down') vs. <i>Evim yandı</i> ('my house burned down')

Syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Turkish	Examples
How is possession marked?	Only on the dependent (possessor in this case).	Both at the dependent (possessor) and the head (possessed)	<i>başkanın evi</i> (the president's house, lit. <i>başkan</i> , 'president'; <i>ın</i> , GENITIVE; <i>ev</i> , 'house'; <i>i</i> , 3RD-PERSON-POSSESSIVE)
Reduplication	No productive reduplication	Productive full and partial reduplication	May lead to a different sense: <i>zaman zaman</i> ('occasionally', lit. 'time time')
Order of Subject, Object and Verb	Subject–Verb–Object	Subject–Object–Verb	<i>Peter arabayı gördü</i> ('Peter saw the car', lit. 'Peter the-car saw')
Order of Object and Verb	Verb–Object	Object–Verb	<i>Kedi fareleri kovalamaya geldi</i> ('The cat came to chase mice', lit. '[The] cat mice to-chase came')
Order of Object, Oblique, and Verb	Verb–Object–Oblique	Oblique–Object–Verb	<i>Dükkandan bir kitap aldım</i> ('I bought a book from the shop', lit. 'Shop-from one book bought-I')
Adpositions: Prepositions or postpositions?	Prepositions (before noun)	Postpositions (after noun)	<i>Dükkan</i> ('shop'); <i>Dükkandan</i> ('from the shop', lit. 'shop-from')
Order of Genitive and Noun	No dominant order	Genitive–Noun	<i>Evin çatısı</i> ('The roof of the house', genitive <i>-in</i>).
Order of Relative Clause and Noun	Noun–Relative clause	Relative clause–Noun	<i>Camı kıran adamı gördüm</i> ('I saw the man who broke the window', lit. 'window-the broke-who man-the saw-I')
Position of Polar Question Particles	No question particle	Final	<i>Onu gördün</i> ('You saw her'); <i>Onu gördün mü?</i> ('Did you see her?')
Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions	Initial	Not initial	<i>Onu nerede gördün?</i> ('Where did you see her', lit. 'Her where saw-you?')

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Turkish	Examples
Definite article	Yes, different from demonstrative.	No definite article	<i>başkan</i> may mean ‘president’ or ‘the president’ (note, however, that when the noun is an object, the presence of the accusative case ending may have a similar function as English ‘the’ <i>Adam kapıyı kapattı</i> (‘The man closed the door’, lit ‘Man door-ACCUSATIVE closed’).
Indefinite article	Different from ‘one’	Same word as ‘one’	<i>Küçük bir evim var</i> may be interpreted as ‘I have one small house’ and ‘I have a small house’

Pronouns			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Turkish	Examples
Politeness distinction in pronouns	No distinction	Binary politeness distinction	<i>sen</i> is the familiar 2nd person singular pronoun; the polite form is <i>siz</i> , which is the same as the 2nd person plural.
Expression of Pronominal Subjects	Obligatory pronouns in subject position	Subject affixes on verb	<i>Geldim</i> (‘I arrived’); <i>geldimiz</i> (‘We arrived’).

2.19.3 Corpora

Monolingual corpora: Crawls of Turkish news text are available at <http://data.statmt.org/news-crawl/tr/>.

The monolingual dump of the Turkish wikipedia is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/trwiki/20190120/>.

In addition to BBC and DW, the following international media outlets produce content in Turkish: Global Voices (<https://globalvoices.org/>), The Voice of America (<https://www.amerikaninsesi.com/>), China Plus (formerly China Radio International, <http://turkish.cri.cn/>), and TWR360 (<https://www.twr360.org/>, although most of it is multimedia content). These outlets may be interesting sources from which to obtain monolingual corpora.

Bilingual corpora: OPUS³¹ contains ready-made corpora for Turkish (see table 20) and reports a total of 52 million parallel sentences. Most of it comes from OpenSubtitles.

³¹<http://opus.nlpl.edu>

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	tr tokens
OpenSubtitles v2018	58210	47.4M	374.3M	274.7M
Tanzil v1	135	1.3M	25.4M	20.8M
JW300 v1	7245	0.5M	8.9M	7.0M
Tatoeba v20190709	1	0.7M	11.0M	4.3M
QED v2.0a	5272	0.6M	9.1M	6.1M
SETIMES v2	1	0.2M	5.1M	4.5M
Wikipedia v1.0	2	0.2M	4.8M	4.2M
TED2013 v1.1	1	0.1M	2.7M	2.0M
GNOME v1	1235	0.5M	2.3M	2.3M
bible-uedin v1	2	60.4k	1.8M	1.2M
TildeMODEL v2018	1	1.6k	2.8M	40.2k
KDE4 v2	1285	0.2M	1.1M	0.8M
Bianet v1	1	35.1k	0.9M	0.8M
EUbookshop v2	67	24.1k	0.9M	0.7M
Ubuntu v14.10	459	0.1M	0.8M	0.5M
infopankki v1	246	44.6k	0.6M	0.5M
WMT-News v2019	8	20.0k	0.5M	0.4M
PHP v1	2855	38.5k	0.5M	0.1M
GlobalVoices v2017q3	192	5.6k	0.1M	96.7k
total	77218	52.0M	453.7M	331.0M

Table 20: OPUS resources for Turkish–English.

2.19.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: Apertium has fair-coverage morphological resources for Turkish (<https://github.com/apertium/apertium-tur>: 17,721 lemmata, 76 disambiguation rules, 92.2% coverage on the SETimes corpus³², 82.3% on Wikipedia dumps (2013)).

There is a GPL-licensed morphological analyser for Turkish, TRmorph (<http://wiki.apertium.org/wiki/Trmorph>) with about 37,300 stems and 90% coverage on SETimes.

The Unimorph project (<https://github.com/unimorph>) contains a set of morphologically-annotated Turkish forms (<https://github.com/unimorph/tur>); the coverage of the 2018 version of the Turkish news crawls described above is low (14%) with 213,540 forms.

Crawls of Turkish news text are available at <http://data.statmt.org/news-crawl/tr/>.

Bilingual resources: A crowd-sourced Turkish–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014).

The following online commercial MT systems offer Turkish–English:

- Bing Translator (<https://www.bing.com/translator>)
- Google Translate (<https://translate.google.com>)
- PROMT Online (<https://www.online-translator.com>)
- Yandex Translate (<https://translate.yandex.com>)

2.19.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT to English

The main challenges when translating from English to Turkish come from grammatical differences:

- agglutination in noun-based phrases, especially in the form of case or possessive suffixes;
- very complex verb forms;
- generation of affixes for features not explicitly encoded in English such as perfective/imperfective aspect, evidentiality, cases, etc.
- absence of gender marks in 3rd-person pronouns;
- radically different sentence and phrase structures —position of object, obliques, and verb, use of postpositions, relative clauses and genitives before noun, etc.—;

Turkish is a highly inflected language. This can cause data sparseness problems, but mainly if the MT system treats the words as atomic units. It may therefore be desirable that the different grammatical suffixes are represented as independent tokens to allow the system to generalize better from the training data, or that an unsupervised sub-word strategy is learned. Moreover, the absence of specific news-related bilingual corpora may be an obstacle to good results in a content creation task.

³²<http://nlp.ffzg.hr/resources/corpora/setimes/>

2.20 Yoruba (yo, yor)

2.20.1 Factsheet

According to Wikipedia, Yoruba has around 28 million speakers. It is spoken (and official) in Nigeria, Benin, and Congo. It belongs to a very large family, the Niger–Congo family, as Swahili (§ 2.16), and more specifically to the Volta–Niger group, as Igbo (§ 2.9).

Yoruba is written in a variety of writing systems, all based on the Latin alphabet. As Yoruba vowels may be uttered in three different *tones*, high, middle and low. A change in tone may mean a change in meaning (*bàtà*, low–low, means ‘shoe’; *bàtá*, low–high, refers to a kind of drum). Spelling systems may or may not mark tones with diacritics, leading to lexical ambiguity; examples in this deliverable may also be inconsistent in this respect. Reputed sources such as the BBC news in Yoruba site (<https://www.bbc.com/yoruba>) sometimes decide not to mark tone in some part of a news piece: one can find, for instance *Nàìjíríà* (‘Nigeria’) in headlines or in the first few paragraphs of a news piece along with *Naijiria* in the remaining text. BBC acknowledges that they are aware that the official way to write Yoruba is with all tone marks included, and that is done for as much as possible of the headline and first three paragraphs, as many readers do not read any further, and that the decision to mark tones or not may also depend on the target audience of each particular, as younger people feel more comfortable with Yoruba without tone marks.

2.20.2 Contrasts with English

Nouns				
Feature		Value in English	Value in Yoruba	Examples
Coding of plurality in nouns	of in	Plural suffix	Plural word	<i>ilé</i> (‘house’) vs. <i>àwọn ilé</i> (‘houses’, i.e. ‘PLURAL-MARKER house’)
Occurrence of plurality in nouns	of in	All nouns, always obligatory	All nouns, always optional	<i>ilé púpọ̀</i> (‘many houses’, lit. ‘house many’) vs. <i>àwọn ilé</i> (‘houses’, i.e. ‘PLURAL-MARKER house’)

Gender				
Feature		Value in English	Value in Yoruba	Examples
Number of genders	of	Three (sex, based, only in singular pronouns and possessives)	None	English has <i>she</i> , <i>he</i> , and <i>it</i> , where Yoruba uses only <i>ó</i> .

Verbs			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Yoruba	Examples
Person marking in verbs	Only the A (\approx agent) argument (3rd person singular, to be)	No person marking	<i>Mo kọrin</i> ('I sing', 'I sang'); <i>O kọrin</i> ('He sings', 'He sang')
Passive constructions	Present	Absent	Yoruba would use constructions with <i>a</i> ('they') as subject when no agent is provided: <i>A ri mi</i> ('I am seen', lit. 'They see me')
Verb inflection	Some inflection with person, number and tense.	Invariable verbs (but contractions with some particles o	In Yoruba, particles occur between the subject and the verb. The bare verb usually indicates a past, completed action. Examples: <i>ń</i> , imperfective/progressive; <i>ti</i> , perfective; <i>á</i> , future. Some of these particles may combine: <i>mo ti ń gba létà rẹ</i> 'I have started to receive your letters' (lit. I 'PERFECTIVE IMPERFECTIVE receive letter your') ³³
Nominal and locational predication ('to be something' vs. 'to be somewhere')	Identical	Different	English uses the same verb for nominal predication ('She is an Engineer') and locational predication ('She is in the restaurant'). Yoruba has different verbs.

Function words			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Yoruba	Examples
Definite and indefinite articles	Definite article (word distinct from demonstrative) and indefinite article (word distinct from 'one')	No definite or indefinite articles	<i>ilé</i> may be 'house', 'the house' or 'a house'.

³³<http://www.languagesgulper.com/eng/Yoruba.html>

Pronouns			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Yoruba	Examples
Gender distinctions in independent personal pronouns	3rd person singular only	No definite or indefinite	<i>Ó ri mí</i> may be ‘he saw me’ or ‘she saw me’.
Politeness distinction in pronouns	No distinction	Binary politeness distinction	

Word order and syntax			
Feature	Value in English	Value in Yoruba	Examples
Order of genitive and noun	Both occur	Noun–Genitive	“ <i>fìlà Àkàndé</i> ” (‘Akande’s cap’), “ <i>Àáre Nàìjíríà</i> ” (‘[the] president of Nigeria’)
Order of adjective and noun	Adjective–noun	Noun–adjective	<i>ilé ñlá</i> (‘large house’, lit. ‘house large’)
Order of demonstrative and noun	Demonstrative–noun	Noun–demonstrative	<i>ilé naa</i> (‘that house’, lit. ‘house that’)
Order of numeral and noun	Demonstrative–numeral	Numeral–demonstrative	<i>ilé naa</i> (‘that house’, lit. ‘house that’)
Polar questions	Interrogative word order differs from affirmative word order	Uses intonation for word order	<i>O ri mi</i> (‘You see me’) vs. <i>Şe o ri mi?</i> (‘Do you see me’)
Verb chains or verb series	Very uncommon	Very common	<i>Ó jẹun sùn</i> ‘He ate before going to sleep’ (lit. ‘He ate slept’); <i>Ó jókòó mu ọti</i> (‘He sat to drink a glass’, lit. ‘He sat drank a glass’) (Sachnine and Akinyemi, 1997, 30).

Contractions: This could be a potential issue with some Yoruba text, although its extent is not clear. In writing, adjacent words contract into a single word, usually with a loss of vowels (elision) and other phonological changes. Verbs contract with objects as in *Ó fọşọ* from *Ó fọ aşọ* ‘He/she washes the clothes’, sometimes with phonological alternations as *Ó lówó* from *Ó ní owó*³⁴ (‘He/she has money’). This would increase the effective vocabulary considerably, as contractions

³⁴The sounds *n* and *l* alternate in nasal and non-nasal contexts.

affect content words in open classes. However, neither Google Translate nor Glosbe (see ‘Bilingual resources’ below) show these contractions, which are however described by Sachnine and Akinyemi (1997, 24).

2.20.3 Corpora

Monolingual Corpora: The Yoruba Wikipedia³⁵ has about 32,000 articles containing about 1.2 million words.³⁶ The monolingual dump of the Yoruba wikipedia is periodically made available at <https://dumps.wikimedia.org/yowiki/>.

In addition to the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/yoruba>), we have only identified Global Voices (<https://yo.globalvoices.org/>) as an international media outlet producing content in Yoruba.

Sketch Engine announces it has a YorubaWaC corpus (crawled with SpiderLing and WebBootCat) with 2.8 million words, but it is not available and licensing is not clear.³⁷

Yòrubá Text (<https://github.com/Niger-Volta-LTI/yoruba-text>) is a repository which contains fully diacritized Yoruba text, converted to Unicode Normalization Form Composition format, where diacritized characters are composed into a single character.

A monolingual corpus of 27K sentences from CommonCrawl is available at Open Super-large Crawled Aggregated coRpus (<https://oscar-corpus.com/>).

The GoURMET project has also recently acquired 77,000 monolingual Yoruba sentences from the CC-100 dataset (<https://metatext.io/datasets/cc100-yoruba>).

Bilingual corpora: Publicly available corpora are scarce. OPUS³⁸ lists four corpora³⁹. A large part of the material consists of domain-specific sentence pairs from GNOME and Ubuntu.

There is also the *Menyo-20k* corpus which was recently released (<https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.08647>), which is split as follows: 10,000 sentences in the training set, 3,400 sentences in the development set and 6,600 sentence pairs in the test set.

2.20.4 Resources

Monolingual resources: A free/open-source morphology for Yoruba is announced as being available from the first author of an EACL-2009 paper (Finkel and Odejebi, 2009) upon request.

Bilingual resources: A crowd-sourced Yoruba–English dictionary (<http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~nlp/resources/TACL-data-release/dictionaries.tar.gz>) has been made available by Pavlick et al. (2014).

Google Translate has a Yoruba translator. It generally generates Yoruba without diacritics, or it does so inconsistently (for example, translations for the word ‘snake’ are sometimes *ejò* and some

³⁵<https://yo.wikipedia.org/>

³⁶<https://yo.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Statistics?action=raw>

³⁷<https://www.sketchengine.eu/yowac-yoruba-corpus/>

³⁸<http://opus.nlpl.eu>

³⁹In past edition, a very large part of this was material from the Jehova’s Witnesses, which has now been removed from the repository

corpus	doc's	sent's	en tokens	yo tokens
wikimedia v20210402	1	8.5k	349.2M	0.4M
CCAligned v1	4	0.2M	2.7M	3.0M
GNOME v1	72	24.0k	0.2M	0.5M
Mozilla-I10n v1	1	4.1k	0.7M	18.8k
XLEnt v1.1	1	49.1k	0.1M	0.1M
GlobalVoices v2018q4	3	0.1k	1.9k	2.2k
Tatoeba v2021-07-22	1	34	0.2k	0.1k
Ubuntu v14.10	12	0.7k	19.4k	9.0k
QED v2.0a	11	0.7k	12.7k	1.1k
Total	106	0.3M	353M	1.3M

Table 21: OPUS resources for Yoruba–English as of December 3, 2021

other times *ejo*. Also, it does not perform verb–object contractions such as the ones described above.

Facebook AI has trained its M2M 100 model (https://github.com/pytorch/fairseq/tree/master/examples/m2m_100) with Yoruba text, although they do not indicate the number of sentences or results.

Glosbe has an interface to search Yoruba–English dictionaries and examples (<https://glosbe.com/yo/en>, <https://glosbe.com/en/yo>).

John Snow LABS has published a neural machine translation model from Yoruba to English (https://nlp.johnsnowlabs.com/2020/12/28/opus_mt_yo_en_xx.html).

The code of a web application for translation from English to Yoruba is available at <https://github.com/steveoni/nmt-app>.

There is a list of resources dedicated to Natural Language Processing in the Yoruba Language, like papers and datasets (<https://github.com/Olamyy/awesome-yoruba-nlp#datasets>). This list is open for collaboration.

2.20.5 Challenges for corpus-based MT from English

One could say that Yoruba is not too different from English. Both are subject–verb–object languages which are not too inflected. When translating from English to Yoruba, some of the contrasts described above in 2.20.2 are not relevant (for instance, the three genders of English 3rd-person pronouns and possessives, or the absence of definite and indefinite articles. In summary:

- There is a sheer scarcity of parallel corpora, and it remains to be seen how much more bilingual text may be crawled using tools such as Bitextor.⁴⁰ Approaches based on monolingual corpora (Artetxe et al., 2018) may be unfeasible unless the project manages to crawl Yoruba (for instance, using Spiderling(Suchomel et al., 2012)) texts beyond a few million words. Another approach worth trying would be synthetic bilingual corpora (perhaps back-translated using commercial systems such as Google translate).

⁴⁰<https://github.com/bitextor/bitextor/>

- Word-order differences seem to occur locally (basically inside the noun phrase). This may only be a problem for longer noun phrases.
- The Yoruba side of corpora may be inconsistent as regards tone diacritics. This may be a problem when generating Yoruba. One possible solution would be to strip all diacritics at train time and then use a corpus-trained standalone diacriticizer.
- Getting the right form of Yoruba verbs (beyond simple present and past) can be sometimes tricky. Categories such as aspect (finished versus unfinished actions) are more important in Yoruba (where they are marked with auxiliaries) than tense (past versus present), and mappings are asymmetrical. Also,
- Yoruba does not have plural forms. It uses an auxiliary word (àwọn) but only where the plural meaning cannot be inferred from other words in the sentence or context. English plural nouns may have to be mapped to Yoruba structures where plural is not marked.
- Yoruba does not have a passive while English uses it often; it has to be mapped to impersonal *they* (Yoruba *a*) when there is not an agent, and converted to some active structure when there is an agent.
- English interrogatives have to be reordered when translating to Yoruba.
- Politeness distinctions in 2nd-person pronouns will be hard to generate in Yoruba as English does not mark politeness.
- Selecting a different translation for the verb ‘to be’ for ‘to be something’ and for ‘to be somewhere’ may pose some problems as both usages are quite abundant.
- In some texts, verbs may be written contracted with their objects, with elision phenomena and even some consonant changes, leading to a sharp increase in effective vocabulary size unless a sub-word approach is used.

3 Conclusion

This deliverable has described the available monolingual and bilingual resources and corpora, and the challenges that project GoURMET may expect to face when building neural machine translation between English and the sixteen low-resource languages of interest to the project GoURMET. Each description includes a quick fact sheet for the language, as well as a linguistic description of the main contrasts between the language and English.

The systematic description of the languages in this deliverable and the resources available for them will inform discussions about the languages to cover in years two and three of the project, as well as to document for researchers the challenges and opportunities available for these language pairs.

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D1.1 Survey of relevant low-resource languages