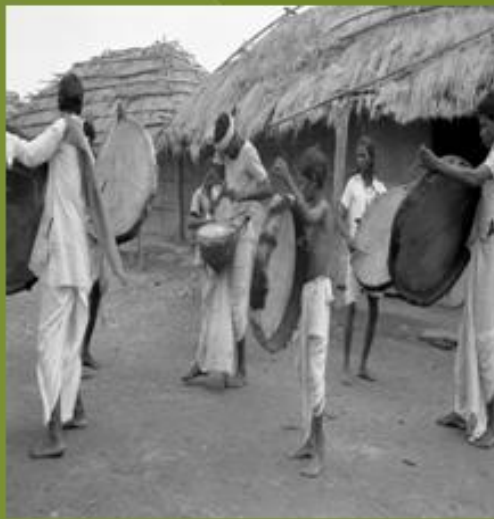


KOLAMI PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS: LINGUISTIC FEATURES AND STRUCTURES



KOLAMI PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS: LINGUISTIC FEATURES AND STRUCTURES



34

Annotated, quality language data (both-text & speech) and tools in Indian Languages to Individuals, Institutions and Industry for Research & Development - Created in-house, through outsourcing and acquisition.

Authors:

Dr. Modugu Kasimbabu

Dr. Rejitha K. S

Dr. Narayan Choudhary

Prof. Shailendra Mohan

**Linguistic Data Consortium for Indian Languages
Central Institute of Indian Language
Mysuru, India-570006**

भारतीय भाषा संस्थान

उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग, शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, मानसगंगोत्री, हुन्सूर रोड, मैसूरु-570006, कर्नाटक

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India

Manasagangotri, Hunsur Road, Mysuru-570006, Karnataka

www.ciil.gov.in :: e-✉ ciil.publication@gmail.com :: ☎ +91-821-234-5182

Kolami Parallel Text Corpus: Linguistic Features and Structures

Authors: Dr. Modugu Kasimbabu, Dr. Rejitha K. S., Dr. Narayan Choudhary, Prof. Shailendra Mohan

Contributors: Athram Mothiram, Athram Rajkumar, Tekam Tulsiram

e-ISBN: 978-81-69099-64-6

CIIL Publication No.: 1628

First published: AD 2026 March :: Phalguna 1947 Śaka

© Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru 2026

Publisher: Prof. Shailendra Mohan, Director, CIIL

Printing & Publication Unit

Aleendra Brahma, Officer-in-Charge, Printing Press & Publication Unit

B Manju Bhargavi, Unit-in-Charge, Printing Press & Publication Unit

M.N. Chandrashekar, Compositor, Printing Press & Publication Unit

Cover design: Modugu Kasimbabu

Table of Contents

Kolami Parallel Text Corpus 1

1.1 LDC-IL Parallel Text Corpus..... 1

1.2 Challenges in Creating A Parallel Corpus..... 2

1.3 Kolami: A Brief Introduction..... 2

1.4 Kolami parallel Corpus 2

1.5 Summary of Kolami parallel Corpus 3

1.6 Reference..... 4

KOLAMI PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS

Modugu Kasimbabu

1.1 LDC-IL PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS

LDC-IL has developed parallel corpus in Indian mother tongues. India has 270 mother tongues as per 2011 census. Most of these mother tongues have no written text readily available and they are mostly oral languages. Most of them do not have any script of their own or use one or more than one dominant script used in that region. Following the requirements of the NEP-2020, LDC-IL initiated to collect sentences from different mother tongues that could give an idea about the basic structure of these 270 mother tongues.

A parallel corpus is a collection of texts in two or more languages that are carefully aligned sentence wise in pairs and placed either side by side or matched with a common sentence/phrase identification number. It is widely used in linguistics, translation studies, and Natural Language Processing. Researchers use it to compare vocabulary, grammar, and meaning across languages, while computational systems rely on it to train statistical and neural machine translation models. Parallel corpora also support language learning by providing real translation examples and enable cross-language information retrieval, allowing users to access information in multiple languages efficiently.

LDC-IL developed a framework to accommodate all the linguistic features of mother tongues. The sentences were collected from Indian scheduled languages especially from descriptive grammar books. The sentences cover the general grammatical and structural types like adjectival phrases, adverbial phrases, compounding, Interrogative sentences, Imperative sentences, different speech types, statements, structural question, coordination, subordination and so on. Moreover, it includes linguistic features such as use of adposition, anaphora, derivational morphology, inflectional morphology and language specific features like emphasis, equative, possession, reciprocation, reflexive expression and so on. For more details on the source collection for this parallel corpus, please refer to the [LDC-IL Corpus Insights \(2025\)](#).

This parallel corpus can be used in AI development by enabling the creation of Indic multilingual foundation models, develop cross-lingual knowledge graphs and create low-resource language adapters. By providing high-quality linguistic data, it strengthens natural language understanding and generation. As India rapidly advances in the digital age, it is essential to preserve and promote undocumented mother tongues by bringing them onto digital platforms, ensuring they are sustained and able to thrive for future generations.

Low-resource languages have a significant impact on both AI development and digital world. When AI systems are trained mostly on high-resource languages, they become biased toward those linguistic and cultural contexts. Including low-resource languages helps build stronger multilingual foundational models. Exposure to diverse grammar structures, vocabulary, and linguistic patterns improves cross-lingual learning and generalization. Language carries cultural knowledge. Incorporating low-resource languages enriches AI systems with diverse worldviews, idioms, and traditional knowledge systems. If a language is not supported digitally, its speakers

may be excluded from online education, e-governance, healthcare services, and digital commerce. When digital tools support local languages, more people can participate in the economy. Local languages often contain indigenous knowledge about agriculture, medicine, environment, and culture and therefore bringing them into digital ecosystem safeguards the linguistic treasures that language might contain.

Supporting low-resource languages makes AI more inclusive, intelligent, and representative of linguistic diversity. In India, where hundreds of mother tongues co-exist, investing in low-resource language technologies is essential for equitable digital growth.

1.2 CHALLENGES IN CREATING A PARALLEL CORPUS

Creating a Parallel Corpus for mother tongues in India involves several linguistic, technical, and socio-cultural challenges. The major difficulty is the lack of standardized orthography in many regional and tribal mother tongues. Most of the mother tongues use the prominent script used in their region. Some mother tongues may use multiple scripts or even a newly created writing systems, which complicates the corpus development. Another challenge is the scarcity of written and digitized resources. Many mother tongues are used for daily communication only.

Dialectal variation is another serious issue, as a single mother tongue may have numerous regional varieties with differences in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar. This makes it difficult to ensure consistency and representativeness in the corpus. Accurate translation is a concerned matter. Proficient bilingual speakers may be limited for low-resource languages. Maintaining semantic equivalence across mother tongues with different cultural contexts can be challenging. Sometimes equivalent words are not available due to the socio-cultural differences. These factors affect large-scale parallel corpus development in Indian mother tongues. The creation of reliable and balanced parallel corpora for Indian mother tongues is a complex and resource-intensive task.

1.3 KOLAMI: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Kolami is a non-literary Dravidian language. It belongs to the Central Dravidian sub-branch. Kolams spread across the Adilabad district of Telangana state, Yeotmal, Wardha and Nanded districts of Maharashtra state. Kolams are 1,28,451 total population according to 2011 census. There are narratives in the Kolami language, tells that they belong to the family of Bhīma of the epic Mahabharata. They got the name ‘Kolam’ because they keep bamboo poles with them. The bamboo sticks are called ‘kola’ or ‘kol’ and ‘-am’ is a nominal suffix. They were named based on caste and occupation. Hence, the name is Kolam or Kolami. The majority of the Kolami speakers speak Telugu, Gondi, and Marathi.

Kolami has three dialects: the Wardha dialect, the Yeotmal dialect, and the Adilabad dialect. The neighboring outsiders called them ‘kolavar’. It means ‘people who belong to the bamboo wood workers’. Kolams call themselves in Wardha and Yeotmal areas as ‘*kōlavar*’ and known as ‘*kolavār*’ in Adilabad area. Kolams themselves call their language in Wardha area as ‘*kōlav pāna*’ and in Adilabad area it is ‘*kolava goṭṭi*’. There is no evidence of their migration anywhere from central India. Kolams live mainly in the northeastern parts of Maharashtra (Yeotmal and Wardha districts) and in the neighboring states of Telangana (Old Adilabad district) and Maharashtra.

1.4 KOLAMI PARALLEL CORPUS

Kolami is an agglutinative language with rich morphological features. It exhibits complex morphophonemic alternations, extensive case marking, productive compounding, and relatively flexible word order. Kolami language is written in Telugu script. The Kolami vowels are like ‘a, aa, i, ii, u, uu, e, ee, o, oo, am’; consonants are like ‘ka, ga, gna, ca, ja, Ta, Da, ta, da, na, pa, ba, ma, ya, ra, la, va, sa’. It has an extensive set of consonant and vowel symbols that precisely capture its phonemic distinctions. It generally follows Subject-Object-Verb pattern but it is linguistically rich and structurally complex language. The above mentioned features contribute to Kolami’s uniqueness among the languages of India and highlight its importance in the study of linguistics.

Kolami is a valuable resource for developing parallel text corpora with other Indian mother tongues. This parallel text corpus can serve as a valuable research resource for studying syntactic divergence, morphological richness, code-mixing phenomena, and script variation, which are particularly relevant in multilingual contexts such as India.

1.5 SUMMARY OF KOLAMI PARALLEL CORPUS

The Kolami parallel text corpus connected with English and 146 mother tongues of India. Those mother tongues are Anal, Angami, Apatani, Are, Assamese, Awadhi, Bagheli/Baghel Khandi, Bagri Rajasthani, Bagri, Balti, Bengali, Bhadrawahi, Bharmauri/Gaddi, Bhojpuri, Bilaspuri Kahluri, Bodo, Brajbhasha, Bundeli/Bundel khandi, Chakru/Chokri, Chambeali/Chamrali, Chang, Chhattisgarhi, Chirr, Chungli, Churahi, Coorgi/Kodagu, Deori, Dhundhari, Dimasa, Dogri, Gangte, Garhwali, Garo, Gojri/Gujjari/Gujar, Gujarati, Gujar, Halabi, Handuri, Hara/Harauti, Haryanvi, Hindi Multani, Hindi, Irula/Irular Mozhi, Kabui, Kachchhi, Kangri, Kannada, Karbi/Mikir, Kashmiri, Khandeshi, Khari Boli, Khasi, Khezha, Khiemnungan, Khortha/Khotta, Kisan, Kodava, Kokbarak, Kolami, Koli, Kom, Konda, Konkani, Konyak, Koya, Kudubi/Kudumbi, Kuki, Kurmal Thar, Ladakhi, Lepcha, Liangmei, Limbu, Lotha, Lyngngam, Magadhi/Magahi, Maithili, Malayalam, Malvi, Manipuri, Mao, Mara, Maram, Marathi, Maring, Mech/Mechhia, Mewari, Mewati, Miri/Mising, Mishmi, Mizo, Mongsen, Monpa, Mundari, Muwasi, Nawait, Nepali, Nimadi, Nissi, Nocte, Odia, Pahari, Paite, Palmuha, Pania, Pawari/Powari, Phom, Pnar/Synteng, Pochury, Poula, Punjabi, Purkhi, Rai, Rajasthani, Reang, Rengma, Rongmei, Sadan/Sadri, Sambalpur, Sangtam, Sanskrit, Santali, Saurashtra/Saurashtri, Sema, Shina, Sindhi, Sirmauri, Sugali, Surjapuri, Talgalo, Tamil, Tangkhul, Telugu, Thado, Tibetan, Tikhir, Tripuri, Tulu, Urdu, Vaiphei, Wagdi, Wancho, Yerava, Yerukala/Yerukula, Yimchungre, Zeliang, Zemi, Zou.

There are 5,332 sentences/phrases in Kolami which are systematically structured based on 159 grammatical categories. Kolami has 23108 word count and 153502 character count. The corpus is aligned with 146 mother tongues and English, comprising 4,404,845 words (over 4.4 million tokens) and 23,374,289 characters (approximately 23.3 million).

1.6 REFERENCE

- [1] Rejitha K. S. and Narayan Kumar Choudhary. (ed.). (2025). LDC-IL Corpus Insights. CIIL, Mysore. 978-93-48633-33-0.
- [2] Krishnamurthi Bhadriraju, (2003), the Dravidian Languages, Cambridge University Press, 9780521771115, 1139435337.
- [3] Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Shailendra Mohan, Dupukuntla Rameshbhushan, Rajakrishna M. (ed.).(2024). KOLAMI-TELUGU PRIMER, CIIL, Mysuru in collaboration with NCERT, New Delhi, 978-81-977442-5-9.