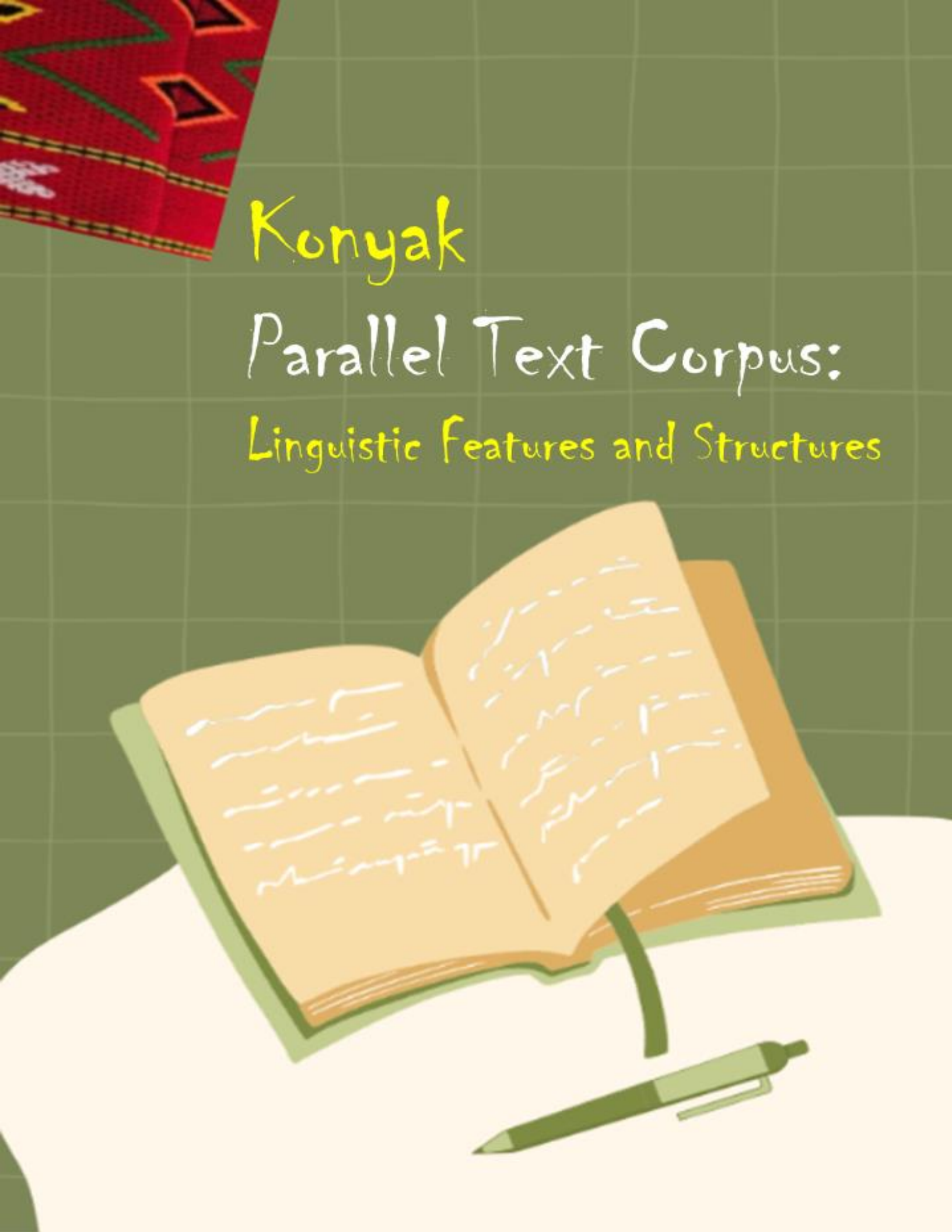
Konyak Parallel Text Corpus:

Linguistic Features and Structures



KONYAK PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS: LINGUISTIC FEATURES AND STRUCTURES

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.

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e-ISBN: 978-81-69099-71-4
CIIL Publication No.: 1623

First published: AD 2026 March :: *Phalguna 1947 Śaka*

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: Umesh Chamling Rai

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KONYAK PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS

Umesh Chamling Rai

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 system, 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 KONYAK: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Konyak is a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in northeastern Nagaland (India) and parts of Myanmar. The people refer to their language as 'Konyak Ngao' or 'Pangmon Naga,' meaning 'Konyak language.' According to the 2011 Census, there are about 244,477 Konyak language speakers. Konyak is considered under-documented and vulnerable. Most Konyak people are multilingual and commonly speak Nagamese, English, and Hindi. Nagamese functions as the lingua franca in the region which helps in communication between different variety groups.

Konyak also has dialect variation. Almost every village speaks different variety. Many of these varieties may not be mutually intelligible. Geographic and social isolation are major reasons for these differences. Language contact and limited interaction between villages have also contributed to dialect development. The distinction between a dialect and a separate language is not always clear. Mutual intelligibility is often used as a criterion, but political, social, and cultural factors also influence classification.

1.4 KONYAK PARALLEL CORPUS

Konyak is a tonal language, meaning that a change in pitch can change the meaning of a word. It has three tones and 17 consonant phonemes. The sounds /w/ and /v/ are in complementary distribution; /w/ becomes /v/ in certain environments. Texts are written without tone distinction, resulting in the reading and speaking error.

Konyak follows a Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) word order. It is an agglutinative language, where grammatical meanings like tense, aspect, and case are added to the root through suffixes. It shows an ergative–absolutive case system, where the subject of a transitive verb is marked differently from the subject of an intransitive verb. Postpositions are used instead of prepositions and usually follow the noun. Modifiers such as adjectives and determiners generally come before the noun. Relative clauses can appear either before or after the noun they modify.

There is some inconsistency in spelling, especially in representing certain sounds. Different writers and regions prefer different spellings, making standardization difficult. Efforts have been made to simplify and standardize the orthography, but variation still exists.

Compared to Hindi-English-Assamese, the Konyak language has way more limited vocabulary. Therefore, in the case of interpretation or translation many terms from these language to Konyak, several English terms have to be retained because most of the equivalent words are not available in Konyak. The above mentioned features contribute to Konyak's uniqueness among the languages of India and highlight its importance in the study of linguistics.

Konyak 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 KONYAK PARALLEL CORPUS

The Konyak parallel text corpus connected with English and 146 mother tongues of India. Those mother tongues are Anal, Angami, 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, Gujari, Halabi, Handuri, Hara/Harauti, Haryanvi, Hindi Multani, Hindi, Irula/Irular Mozhi, Kabui, Kachchhi, Kangri, Kannada, Kashmiri, Khandeshi, Khari Boli, Khasi, Khezha, Khiemnungan, Khortha/Khotta, Kisan, Kodava, Kolami, Koli, Kom, Konda, Konkani, Koya, Kudubi/Kudumbi, Kuki, Kurmali 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, Nimadi, Nyishi, Nocte, Odia, Pahari, Paite, Palmuha, Pania, Pawari/Powari, Phom, Pnar/Synteng, Pochury, Poula, Punjabi, Purkhi, Rai, Rajasthani, Reang, Rengma, Rongmei, Sadan/Sadri, Sambalpuri, 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 Konyak which are systematically structured based on 159 grammatical categories. Konyak has 34232 words count and 190414 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

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