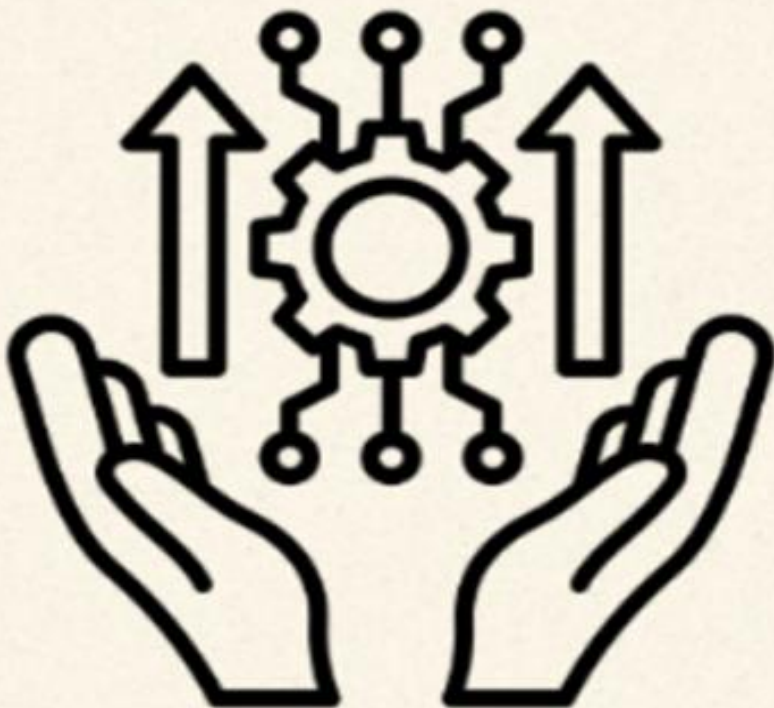




Tangkhul

Parallel Text Corpus:

Linguistic Features and Structures



TANGKHUL PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS: LINGUISTIC FEATURES AND STRUCTURES



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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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Table of Contents

Tangkhul Parallel Text Corpus	1
1.1 LDC-IL Parallel Text Corpus.....	1
1.2 Challenges in Creating A Parallel Corpus.....	1
1.3 Tangkhul: A Brief Introduction.....	2
1.4 Tangkhul parallel Corpus	3
1.5 Summary of Tangkhul parallel Corpus	3
1.6 Reference.....	4

TANGKHUL PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS

Yumnam Premila Chanu

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 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 TANGKHUL: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Tangkhul is a Sino-Tibetan spoken primarily in Manipur's Ukhrul and Kamjong districts of Manipur State, India. As per Census of India report 2011 there are 187263 speakers in India and 183,998 speakers are in the state Manipur, accounting for about 6.44 percent of the total population of the state. Due to the lacked of written documents, William Pettegrew introduced the Roman Script. With this adaptation, there 28 alphabets- English A-Z plus two additional characters: $\bar{A}$ (A with a dash above) and $\underline{A}$ (A with a dash below). Tangkhul language can be described as a dialect continuum because of their multi-dialectal situation. Almost all of the 200 villages speak their own distinct linguistic variety. To some extent, there is linguistic affinity among villages located within the same geographical direction; however, villages situated in different directions often lose this affinity and may find it difficult to comprehend each other's language variety. Among the all varieties Ukhrul (Hunphun) variety is regarded as the standard variety of Tangkhul Language. Because it serves as the district headquarters and the center for the trade and education so it adopted as common means of communication for the entire Tangkhul Tribe. It is known as Tangkhul Tui ("Tangkhul language").

Tangkhul is not only the means communication but also a carrier of the Tangkhul identity, oral traditions, and folklore. It plays an important role in festivals like Lura Phanit (seed-sowing festival), songs, and storytelling traditions. It is a blend of rich oral traditions and an evolving modern written culture, encompassing folk ballads, rhythmic hymns, and contemporary prose. While its historical roots lie in the folk songs (pheichak) and oral narratives passed down through generations, the transition to modern literature began in the late 19th century under the influence of William Pettigrew, who is often credited with formalizing the written script. From early theological translations to modern novels and poetry, the language serves as a vibrant vessel for the identity and cultural philosophy of the Tangkhul Naga people. Today, it remains a flourishing medium, maintained through a strong presence in local media and cherished by Tangkhul communities both in their ancestral hills and across the globe.

1.4 TANGKHUL PARALLEL CORPUS

Tangkhul is a tonal language belonging to the Tibeto-Burman family, characterized by its agglutinative nature and rich morphological structure. It exhibits complex verb morphology, where a single verb root can take multiple prefixes and suffixes to indicate tense, aspect, mood, and even the direction of an action. Traditionally an oral language, Tangkhul is now primarily written in the Roman (Latin) script, a transition that began in the late 19th century. This script adaptation precisely captures its unique phonetic requirements, including specific glottal stops and tonal variations. Structurally, Tangkhul typically follows a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) pattern, but it possesses a degree of grammatical flexibility and linguistic depth that makes it a fascinating subject for Tibeto-Burman studies. These features contribute to Tangkhul's uniqueness among the languages of Northeast India and highlight its importance in the broader field of Sino-Tibetan linguistics.

Tangkhul serves as a crucial resource for developing parallel text corpora with other mother tongue languages and major Indian tongues. Such a corpus is invaluable for researching syntactic divergence, the transition from oral to written traditions, and the phonological shifts occurring in multilingual environments such as India.

1.5 SUMMARY OF TANGKHUL PARALLEL CORPUS

The Tangkhul 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, Chirri, 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, 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, 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, Sambalpuri, Sangtam, Sanskrit, Santali, Saurashtra/Saurashtri, Sema, Shina, Sindhi, Sirmauri, Sugali, Surjapuri, Talgalo, Tamil, Telugu, Thado, Tibetan, Tikhir, Tripuri, Tulu, Urdu, Vaiphei, Wagdi, Wancho, Yerava, Yerukala/Yerukula, Yimchungre, Zeliang, Zemi, Zou.

There are 5,332 sentences/phrases in Tangkhul which are systematically structured based on 159 grammatical categories. Tangkhul has 28405 word count and 194103 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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