YERUKALA/YERUKULA 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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1.1 LDC-IL PARALLEL TEXT CORPUS

LDC-IL have 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 in spoken form. They don't have script of their own. Following the requirements of the NEP-2020, LDC-IL initiated to collect sentences from different mother tongues that could give an idea about the structure of these 270 mother tongues.

A parallel corpus is a collection of texts in two or more languages that are carefully aligned so each segment matches its translation. 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 categories like Adjective, Adverb, Compounding, Interrogative, Imperative, Speech type, Statement, Structural Question, Coordination, and Subordination etc. Moreover, it includes linguistic features such as Adposition, Anaphora, Derivational Morphology, Inflectional Morphology and language specific features like Emphasis, Equative, Posession, Reciprocal, Reflexive etc. For more details, refer to LDC-IL Corpus Insights.

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 foundation 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 orange economy. Local languages often contain indigenous knowledge about agriculture, medicine,

environment, and culture. Bringing them into digital systems safeguards and shares this knowledge.

Supporting Low-resource languages makes AI more inclusive, intelligent, and representative of linguistic diversity. In India, where hundreds of mother tongues coexist, 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 use in their region. Some mother tongues may use multiple scripts or recently developed 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 YERUKALA/YERUKULA: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Yerukula, also known as Yerukala or Erukula, is a minority language of the Dravidian family spoken in South India by the Yerukala community, who call it Kurru basha or Kulavatha. It belongs to the Southern branch of Dravidian and is related to languages such as Irula and Ravula.

According to the 2011 Census of India, there are about 58,000 speakers, though some estimates suggest up to 70,000. Because many Yerukala people are bilingual and often report Telugu, Tamil, or Kannada as their primary language, the actual number of active speakers may vary. Reduced transmission to younger generations has led to its classification as a vulnerable or endangered language. Yerukula speakers are mainly found in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with smaller groups in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Traditionally associated with semi-nomadic occupations such as basket weaving and fortune-telling, the community now largely lives in settled, multilingual environments, which encourages language contact and shift.

Historically an oral language without a standardized script, Yerukula evolved within the broader Dravidian linguistic tradition. Structurally, it is agglutinative, forming grammatical meanings through suffixes. It follows a head-final pattern with typical Subject–Object–Verb word order and uses postpositions, reflecting common Dravidian typological features.

Linguistically, Yerukula displays typical Dravidian features. It is largely agglutinative, forming grammatical meanings by adding suffixes to root words. Information such as case, number, tense, and agreement is expressed within the word itself, often through multiple layered suffixes. Syntactically, Yerukula follows a head-final pattern with Subject–Object–Verb (SOV) order. Verbs occur at the end of clauses, modifiers come before the nouns they describe, and postpositions are used instead of prepositions, reflecting general Dravidian structural traits.

1.4 YERUKALA/YERUKULA PARALLEL CORPUS

Yerukala/Yerukula is a highly agglutinative language with rich morphophonemic features. It exhibits complex morphophonemic alternations, extensive case marking, productive compounding, and relatively flexible word order. Yerukala/Yerukula language is written in Yerukala/Yerukula script derived from the Brahmi tradition. 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. These features contribute to Yerukala/Yerukula's uniqueness among the languages of India and highlight its importance in the study of linguistics.

Yerukala/Yerukula 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 YERUKALA/YERUKULA PARALLEL CORPUS

The Yerukala/Yerukula 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, Gujari, 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, Tangkhul, Tamil, Telugu, Thado, Tibetan, Tikhir, Tripuri, Tulu, Urdu, Vaiphei, Wagdi, Wancho, Yerava, Yimchungre, Zeliang, Zemi, Zou.

There are 5,332 sentences/phrases in Yerukala/Yerukula which are systematically structured based on 159 grammatical categories. Tamil has 22,375 word count and 148,657 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.