IJCNLP 2011

Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop on South and Southeast Asian Natural Language Processing (WSSANLP 2011)

November 8, 2011
Shangri-La Hotel
Chiang Mai, Thailand

AFNLP

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Collocated event at the 5th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing

November 8, 2011
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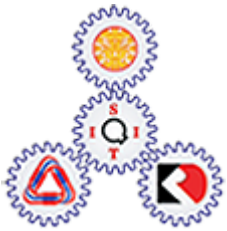

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Preface

Welcome to the IJCNLP Workshop on South and Southeast Asian Natural Language Processing (WSSANLP). South Asia comprises of the countries, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Southeast Asia, on the other hand, consists of Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

This area is the home to thousands of languages that belong to different language families like Indo-Aryan, Indo-Iranian, Dravidian, Sino-Tibetan, Austro-Asiatic, Kradai, Hmong-Mien, etc. In terms of population, South Asian and Southeast Asia represent 35 percent of the total population of the world which means as much as 2.5 billion speakers. Some of the languages of these regions have a large number of native speakers: Hindi (5th largest according to number of its native speakers), Bengali (6th), Punjabi (12th), Tamil(18th), Urdu (20th), etc.

As internet and electronic devices including PCs and hand held devices including mobile phones have spread far and wide in the region, it has become imperative to develop language technology for these languages. It is important for economic development as well as for social and individual progress.

A characteristic of these languages is that they are under-resourced. The words of these languages show rich variations in morphology. Moreover they are often heavily agglutinated and synthetic, making segmentation an important issue. The intellectual motivation for this workshop comes from the need to explore ways of harnessing the morphology of these languages for higher level processing. The task of morphology, however, in South and Southeast Asian Languages is intimately linked with segmentation for these languages.

The goal of WSSANLP is:

• Providing a platform to linguistic and NLP communities for sharing and discussing ideas and work on South and Southeast Asian languages and combining efforts.
• Development of useful and high quality computational resources for under resourced South and Southeast Asian languages.

We are delighted to present to you this volume of proceedings of 2nd Workshop on South and Southeast Asian NLP. We have received 15 long and short submissions. On the basis of our review process, we have competitively selected 9 papers.

We look forward to an invigorating workshop.

Rajeev Sangal (Chair WSSANLP),
IIIT Hyderabad, India

M.G. Abbas Malik (Chair of Organizing Committee WSSANLP),
Faculty of Computing and Information Technology (North Branch),
King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia

2nd Workshop on South and Southeast Asian Natural Language processing

Workshop Chair:

Rajeev Sangal, IIIT Hyderabad, India

Workshop Organization Co-chair:

M. G. Abbas Malik, Faculty of Computing and Information Technology (North Branch), King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia

Invited Speaker:

Pushpak Bhattacharyya, IIT Bombay, India

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Amitava Das, Jadavpur Univeristy, India
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Ruvan Weerasinghe, University of Colombo School of Computing, Sri Lanka

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WSSANLP Session I

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Kartik Suba, Dipti Jiandani and Pushpak Bhattacharyya

11:00–11:30 *Improving Persian-English Statistical Machine Translation:Experiments in Domain Adaptation*
Mahsa Mohaghegh, Abdolhossein Sarrafzadeh and Tom Moir

11:30–12:00 *Thai Word Segmentation Verification Tool*
Supon Klaithin, Kanyanut Kriengket, Sitthaa Phaholphinyo and Krit Kosawat

12:00–12:30 *The Semi-Automatic Construction of Part-Of-Speech Taggers for Specific Languages by Statistical Methods*
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Suriani Sulaiman, Michael Gasser and Sandra Kuebler

14:30–15:00 *Punjabi Language Stemmer for nouns and proper names*
Vishal Gupta and Gurpreet Singh Lehal

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Zobia Rehman, Waqas Anwar and Usama Ijaz Bajwa

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WSSANLP Session III

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Mourad Gridach and Noureddine Chenfour

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