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of the
First Workshop on Multimodal Machine Translation for Low Resource Languages (MMTLRL 2021)

in conjunction with

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Edited by

Thoudam Doren Singh, Cristina España i Bonet, Sivaji Bandyopadhyay, Josef Van Genabith

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Preface

Language does not exist in a vacuum. Yet, for a long time, large parts of NLP have focused on text- (or speech-) only scenarios: most work on machine translation (MT) e.g. is on text-to-text MT. In principle, the inclusion of additional context in the form of other modalities offers the promise of improving a translation. In practice, this is often hard (Lala et al. 2017, Elliott 2018). In this workshop, we would like to combine two strands of research that are hitherto not well connected: research on low-resource MT and research on multi-modal MT (MMMT). The reason why we would like to explore the connection is the following: while there has been important progress on both sides, including unsupervised (Artetxe et al. 2018, Lample et al. 2018) and self-supervised MT (Ruiter et al. 2019), and neural-network based modality combinations in MMMT (Çağlayan et al. 2019), the potential of mustering information in other modalities (such as images, videos and spoken language) to complement the text signal in low-resource MT has not yet been explored extensively. However, a combination may hold promise: a richer multimodal signal may help address some of the challenges that come with low-resource scenarios. Of course, there are no guarantees: a richer multimodal signal and with it an increase in the dimensionality of the data may make the problem worse.

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Thoudam Doren Singh, Cristina España i Bonet, Sivaji Bandyopadhyay, Josef Van Genabith (organizers of MMTLRL 2021)

Keynote Speakers

- Marine Carpuat, University of Maryland, USA
- Lucia Specia, Imperial College London, England

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- Jörg Tiedeman, University of Helsinki, Finland
- Deyi Xiong, Tianjin University, China
- Jingyi Zhang, DFKI, Germany

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