DravidianLangTech EACL 2021

# 16th conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL)

Proceedings of the First Workshop on Speech and Language Technologies for Dravidian Languages

April 19,2021

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## Preface

The development of technology increases our internet use, and most of the global languages have adapted themselves to the digital era. However, many regional, under-resourced languages face challenges as they still lack developments in language technology. One such language family is the Dravidian (Tamil) family of languages. Dravidian is the name for the Tamil languages or Tamil people in Sanskrit, and all the current Dravidian languages were called a branch of Tamil in old Jain, Bhraminic, and Buddhist literature (Caldwell, 1875). Tamil languages are primarily spoken in south India, Sri Lanka, and Singapore. Pockets of speakers are found in Nepal, Pakistan, Malaysia, other parts of India, and elsewhere globally. The Tamil languages, which are 4,500 years old and spoken by millions of speakers, are under-resourced in speech and natural language processing. The Dravidian languages were first documented in Tamili script on pottery and cave walls in the Keezhadi (Keeladi), Madurai and Tirunelveli regions of Tamil Nadu, India, from the 6th century BCE.

The Tamil languages are divided into four groups: South, South-Central, Central, and North groups. Tamil morphology is agglutinating and exclusively suffixal. Syntactically, Tamil languages are head-final and left-branching. They are free-constituent order languages. To improve access to and production of information for monolingual speakers of Dravidian (Tamil) languages, it is necessary to have speech and languages technologies. These workshops aim to save the Dravidian languages from extinction in technology. This is the first workshop on speech and language technologies for Dravidian languages.

The broader objective of DravidianLangTech-2021 was

- To investigate challenges related to speech and language resource creation for Dravidian languages.
- To promote a research in speech and language technology in Dravidian languages.
- To adopt appropriate language technology models which suit Dravidian languages
- To provide opportunities for researchers from the Dravidian language community from around the world to collaborate with other researchers.

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## **Table of Contents**

Tamil Lyrics Corpus: Analysis and Experiments     Dhivya Chinnappa and Praveenraj Dhandapani     1
DOSA: Dravidian Code-Mixed Offensive Span Identification Dataset Manikandan Ravikiran and Subbiah Annamalai
Towards Offensive Language Identification for Dravidian LanguagesSiva Sai and Yashvardhan Sharma18
Sentiment Classification of Code-Mixed Tweets using Bi-Directional RNN and Language Tags Sainik Mahata, Dipankar Das and Sivaji Bandyopadhyay
<i>Offensive language identification in Dravidian code mixed social media text</i> SUNIL SAUMYA, Abhinav Kumar and Jyoti Prakash Singh
Sentiment Analysis of Dravidian Code Mixed Data Asrita Venkata Mandalam and Yashvardhan Sharma
Unsupervised Machine Translation On Dravidian Languages Sai Koneru, Danni Liu and Jan Niehues
Graph Convolutional Networks with Multi-headed Attention for Code-Mixed Sentiment Analysis Suman Dowlagar and Radhika Mamidi
Task-Specific Pre-Training and Cross Lingual Transfer for Sentiment Analysis in Dravidian Code-SwitchedLanguagesAkshat Gupta, Sai Krishna Rallabandi and Alan W Black73
Analysis of Uvama Urubugal in Tamil Sangam Literatures SUBALALITHA CN
Task-Oriented Dialog Systems for Dravidian LanguagesTushar Kanakagiri and Karthik Radhakrishnan
A Survey on Paralinguistics in Tamil Speech Processing Anosha Ignatius and Uthayasanker Thayasivam
<i>Is this Enough?-Evaluation of Malayalam Wordnet</i> Nandu Chandran Nair, Maria-chiara Giangregorio and Fausto Giunchiglia100
LA-SACo: A Study of Learning Approaches for Sentiments Analysis inCode-Mixing Texts Fazlourrahman Balouchzahi and H L Shashirekha109
<i>Findings of the Shared Task on Machine Translation in Dravidian languages</i> Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi, Ruba Priyadharshini, Shubhanker Banerjee, Richard Saldanha, John P. McCrae, Anand Kumar M, Parameswari Krishnamurthy and Melvin Johnson
<i>Findings of the Shared Task on Troll Meme Classification in Tamil</i> Shardul Suryawanshi and Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi

#### Findings of the Shared Task on Offensive Language Identification in Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada

Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi, Ruba Priyadharshini, Navya Jose, Anand Kumar M, Thomas Mandl, Prasanna Kumar Kumaresan, Rahul Ponnusamy, Hariharan R L, John P. McCrae and Elizabeth Sherly 133

GX@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Multilingual Neural Machine Translation and Back-translation Wanying Xie
OFFLangOne@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Transformers with the Class Balanced Loss for Offen- sive Language Identification in Dravidian Code-Mixed text. Suman Dowlagar and Radhika Mamidi
Simon @ DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Detecting Offensive Content in Kannada Language Qinyu Que
Codewithzichao@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Exploring Multilingual Transformers for Offensive Language Identification on Code Mixing Text Zichao Li
JudithJeyafreedaAndrew@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021:Offensive language detection for Dravidian Code-mixed YouTube comments Judith Jeyafreeda Andrew
professionals@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Malayalam Offensive Language Identification - A Min- imalistic Approach Srinath Nair and Dolton Fernandes
UVCE-IIITT@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Tamil Troll Meme Classification: You need to Pay more Attention Siddhanth U Hegde, Adeep Hande, Ruba Priyadharshini, Sajeetha Thavareesan and Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi
IIITT@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Transfer Learning for Offensive Language Detection in Dra- vidian Languages Konthala Yasaswini, Karthik Puranik, Adeep Hande, Ruba Priyadharshini, Sajeetha Thavareesan and Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi
Hypers@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021:Offensive language identification in Dravidian code-mixedYouTube Comments and PostsCharangan Vasantharajan and Uthayasanker Thayasivam195
HUB@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Identify and Classify Offensive Text in Multilingual Code Mix- ing in Social Media Bo Huang and Yang Bai
HUB@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Meme Classification for Tamil Text-Image Fusion     Bo Huang and Yang Bai   210
ZYJ123@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Offensive Language Identification based on XLM-RoBERTa     with DPCNN     Yingjia Zhao and Xin Tao

IIITK@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Offensive Language Identification and Meme Classification in Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada
Nikhil Ghanghor, Parameswari Krishnamurthy, Sajeetha Thavareesan, Ruba Priyadharshini and Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi
cs@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Offensive Language Identification Based On Multilingual BERT Model shi chen and bing kong
CUSATNLP@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021:Language Agnostic Classification of Offensive Content in Tweets Sara Renjit and Sumam Mary Idicula
IIIT_DWD@EACL2021: Identifying Troll Meme in Tamil using a hybrid deep learning approach     Ankit Kumar Mishra and SUNIL SAUMYA
Amrita_CEN_NLP@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Deep Learning-based Offensive Language Iden-tification in Malayalam, Tamil and KannadaSreelakshmi K, Premjith B and Soman KP249
NLP-CUET@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Offensive Language Detection from Multilingual Code-Mixed Text using TransformersOmar Sharif, Eftekhar Hossain and Mohammed Moshiul Hoque255
<i>IRLAB-DAIICT@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Neural Machine Translation</i> Raj Prajapati, Vedant Vijay Parikh and Prasenjit Majumder
IRNLP_DAIICT@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021:Offensive Language identification in Dravidian Languages using TF-IDF Char N-grams and MuRILBhargav Dave, Shripad Bhat and Prasenjit Majumder
Hate-Alert@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Ensembling strategies for Transformer-based Offensive language Detection Debjoy Saha, Naman Paharia, Debajit Chakraborty, Punyajoy Saha and Animesh Mukherjee270
TrollMeta@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Meme classification using deep learningManoj Balaji J and Chinmaya HS277
Maoqin @ DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: The Application of Transformer-Based Model     Maoqin Yang
Simon @ DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Meme Classification for Tamil with BERT Qinyu Que
Bitions@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Ensemble of Multilingual Language Models with Pseudo Labeling for offence Detection in Dravidian LanguagesDebapriya Tula, Prathyush Potluri, Shreyas MS, Sumanth Doddapaneni, Pranjal Sahu, Rohan Sukumaran and Parth Patwa291
NLP-CUET@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Investigating Visual and Textual Features to Identify Trolls from Multimodal Social Media Memes

<i>SJ_AJ@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Task-Adaptive Pre-Training of Multilingual BERT models for Offensive Language Identification</i>
Sai Muralidhar Jayanthi and Akshat Gupta
SSNCSE_NLP@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Offensive Language Identification on Multilingual Code Mixing Text
Bharathi B and Agnusimmaculate Silvia A
JUNLP@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Offensive Language Identification in Dravidian Langauges Avishek Garain, Atanu Mandal and Sudip Kumar Naskar
MUCS@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021:COOLI-Code-Mixing Offensive Language Identification Fazlourrahman Balouchzahi, Aparna B K and H L Shashirekha
<i>indicnlp@kgp at DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Offensive Language Identification in Dravidian Languages</i> Kushal Kedia and Abhilash Nandy
SSNCSE_NLP@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Meme classification for Tamil using machine learning approach
Bharathi B and Agnusimmaculate Silvia A
MUCS@ - Machine Translation for Dravidian Languages using Stacked Long Short Term Memory Asha Hegde, Ibrahim Gashaw and Shashirekha H.L
<i>OffTamil@DravideanLangTech-EASL2021: Offensive Language Identification in Tamil Text</i> Disne Sivalingam and Sajeetha Thavareesan
Codewithzichao@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Exploring Multimodal Transformers for Meme Clas- sification in Tamil Language
Zichao Li
DLRG@DravidianLangTech-EACL2021: Transformer based approachfor Offensive Language Identification on Code-Mixed Tamil
Ratnavel Rajalakshmi, Yashwant Reddy and Lokesh Kumar

## **Conference Program**

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

<u>00.00</u> 00.20	Voundton	Vasu Renganathan	(Drovidion)	I amourage)
09:00-09:30	Revnote:	vasu Kenganalnan	(Dravidian)	Languages)

- 09:30-10:00 Keynote: John P McCrae (Under-resourced Languages)
- 10:00–11:00 Paper Session I
- 10:00–10:15 *Tamil Lyrics Corpus: Analysis and Experiments* Dhivya Chinnappa and Praveenraj Dhandapani
- 10:15–10:30 *DOSA: Dravidian Code-Mixed Offensive Span Identification Dataset* Manikandan Ravikiran and Subbiah Annamalai
- 10:30–10:45 *Towards Offensive Language Identification for Dravidian Languages* Siva Sai and Yashvardhan Sharma
- 10:45–11:00 Sentiment Classification of Code-Mixed Tweets using Bi-Directional RNN and Language Tags Sainik Mahata, Dipankar Das and Sivaji Bandyopadhyay

11:00-11:30 Break

#### 11:30–13:00 Paper Session II

- 11:30–11:45 *Offensive language identification in Dravidian code mixed social media text* SUNIL SAUMYA, Abhinav Kumar and Jyoti Prakash Singh
- 11:45–12:00 *Sentiment Analysis of Dravidian Code Mixed Data* Asrita Venkata Mandalam and Yashvardhan Sharma
- 12:00–12:15 *Unsupervised Machine Translation On Dravidian Languages* Sai Koneru, Danni Liu and Jan Niehues
- 12:15–12:30 Graph Convolutional Networks with Multi-headed Attention for Code-Mixed Sentiment Analysis Suman Dowlagar and Radhika Mamidi
- 12:30–12:45 *Task-Specific Pre-Training and Cross Lingual Transfer for Sentiment Analysis in Dravidian Code-Switched Languages* Akshat Gupta, Sai Krishna Rallabandi and Alan W Black
- 12:45–13:00 *Analysis of Uvama Urubugal in Tamil Sangam Literatures* SUBALALITHA CN
- 13:00–14:00 Lunch Break

#### 14:00–15:00 Paper Session III

- 14:00–14:15 *Task-Oriented Dialog Systems for Dravidian Languages* Tushar Kanakagiri and Karthik Radhakrishnan
- 14:15–14:30 *A Survey on Paralinguistics in Tamil Speech Processing* Anosha Ignatius and Uthayasanker Thayasivam
- 14:30–14:45 *Is this Enough?-Evaluation of Malayalam Wordnet* Nandu Chandran Nair, Maria-chiara Giangregorio and Fausto Giunchiglia
- 14:45–15:00 LA-SACo: A Study of Learning Approaches for Sentiments Analysis inCode-Mixing Texts Fazlourrahman Balouchzahi and H L Shashirekha
- 15:00–16:00 Session Poster: Poster Session
- 15:00–16:00 *Findings of the Shared Task on Machine Translation in Dravidian languages* Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi, Ruba Priyadharshini, Shubhanker Banerjee, Richard Saldanha, John P. McCrae, Anand Kumar M, Parameswari Krishnamurthy and Melvin Johnson
- 15:00–16:00 *Findings of the Shared Task on Troll Meme Classification in Tamil* Shardul Suryawanshi and Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi
- 15:00–16:00 Findings of the Shared Task on Offensive Language Identification in Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada
  Bharathi Raja Chakravarthi, Ruba Priyadharshini, Navya Jose, Anand Kumar M, Thomas Mandl, Prasanna Kumar Kumaresan, Rahul Ponnusamy, Hariharan R L, John P. McCrae and Elizabeth Sherly
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15:00–16:00	IIIT_DWD@EACL2021: Identifying Troll Meme in Tamil using a hybrid deep learn- ing approach Ankit Kumar Mishra and SUNIL SAUMYA
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16:00–17:00 Closing Remarks