LoResLM 2025

The First Workshop on Language Models for Low-Resource Languages (LoResLM 2025)

Proceedings of the Workshop

January 20, 2025

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Preface

We are pleased to present the proceedings of the first Workshop on Language Models for Low-Resource Languages (LoResLM 2025), co-located at the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2025) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

There has been rapid growth in natural language processing (NLP) over the past few years, particularly with the invention of neural language models, such as transformers and large language models, which achieved state-of-the-art results in many tasks with diverse emerging capabilities. However, since the capabilities of language models (LMs) are primarily determined by the characteristics of their pre-trained language corpora, these models tend to be more focused on high-resource languages. They often struggle with low-resource languages, which are estimated to be around 7,000. Despite their worldwide usage, these languages generally receive little research attention and lack sufficient digital data and resources to support NLP tasks. Following this bias towards high-resource languages, which negatively affects a significant portion of the global community, there has been a growing trend in developing and adopting LMs for low-resource languages to promote linguistic fairness. To support and strengthen this movement, we initiated LoResLM this year to provide a forum for researchers to share and discuss their ongoing work on LMs for low-resource languages.

Primarily focusing on developing and evaluating neural language models for low-resource languages, LoResLM 2025 invited submissions on a broad range of topics, including creating corpora, developing benchmarks, building or adapting LMs, and exploring LM applications for low-resource languages. In total, we received 52 submissions, including 40 long papers and 12 short papers. Among these, we accepted 35 papers, including 28 long papers and seven short papers, to appear in the workshop proceedings following the review process.

The accepted papers cover a broad spectrum of low-resource languages spanning eight language families. The majority representation (47.2%) is from the Indo-European family, with contributions across its four first-level/major branches. In total, 28 low-resource languages were focused on in these studies. The papers also represent 13 diverse research areas, with the top three being Language Modelling, Machine Translation and Translation Aids, and Lexical Semantics. We are pleased to see such a wide range of contributions, with the potential to inspire diverse and impactful future research on low-resource languages.

LoResLM 2025 would not be successful without several wonderful people who joined this initiative. First of all, we would like to thank the authors who submitted their work to the workshop, encouraging research in many low-resource languages that span diverse research areas. We are very grateful for the programme committee members who played a crucial role towards this workshop's success with their timely engagement with the review process, providing constructive feedback to help authors improve the quality of their papers to meet the general standards. We are also particularly thankful to Prof Jose Camacho-Collados for accepting our invitation to serve as the keynote speaker, sharing his knowledge and experience, and providing valuable insights to the NLP community. Our sincere appreciation also goes to CLARIN-UK for sponsoring the workshop. We are very grateful to everybody for supporting us to make LoResLM 2025 successful.

Hansi Hettiarachchi, Tharindu Ranasinghe, Paul Rayson, Ruslan Mitkov, Mohamed Gaber, Damith Premasiri, Fiona Anting Tan, and Lasitha Uyangodage
(LoResLM 2025 Organisers)

https://loreslm.github.io/

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