4th Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Indigenous Languages of the Americas

Proceedings of the Workshop

June 21, 2024
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Introduction

We would like to welcome you to AmericasNLP 2024, the Fourth Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Indigenous Languages of the Americas!

The main goals of the workshop are to:

- encourage research on NLP, computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, and speech around the globe to work on Indigenous American languages.
- promote research on both neural and non-neural machine learning approaches suitable for low-resource languages.
- connect researchers and professionals from underrepresented communities and native speakers of endangered languages with the machine learning and NLP communities.

In 2024, AmericasNLP is being held in Mexico City, Mexico, on June 21. Prior to the workshop two shared tasks were hosted: (1) the Shared Task on Machine Translation into Indigenous Languages and (2) the Shared Task on the Creation of Educational Materials for Indigenous Languages. During the workshop, there will be 2 invited talks, a poster session, and multiple paper and shared task submission presentations.

We received a total of 37 submissions: 21 research papers, 6 previously published papers, and 10 shared task system description papers (across both shared tasks). 16 archival papers were accepted (acceptance rate: 76%) – in addition to the previously published and system description papers.

AmericasNLP would not have been possible without the help of the following: first, we thank our sponsors, Amazon and Aditu, and second, we would like to acknowledge all the time and effort put into the reviewing process, and thank for program committee members for helping us create a high-quality program. Finally, we also thank all the authors who submitted their work to the workshop, the participants of both shared tasks, and everyone who will be at the workshop, both in-person and remote, to exchange and discuss their ideas for improving natural language technologies for Indigenous languages of the Americas!

Manuel Mager, Abteen Ebrahimi, Shruti Rijhwani, Arturo Oncevay, Luis Chiruzzo, Robert Pugh, and Katharina von der Wense

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Bio: My research is concerned with language and its role in human communication. In particular, my long-term research goal is to break down barriers in human-human or human-machine communication through the development of natural language processing (NLP) technologies. This includes the development of technology for machine translation, which helps break down barriers in communication for people who speak different languages, and natural language understanding, which helps computers understand and respond to human language. Within this overall goal of breaking down barriers to human communication, I have focused on several aspects of language that both make it interesting as a scientific subject, and hold potential for the construction of practical systems.
**Keynote Talk**

**Jaime Pérez González**  
University of California, Santa Barbara

**Bio:** As a morpho-syntactician, I study word formation and I am especially interested in the interface between morphology, syntax and semantics in human languages. I look at functional factors that shape the use of certain morphological constructions in agglutinative languages. Speakers activate these different domains when using their language, so there must be abstract and formal principles that determine how these patterns are represented in their minds. I investigate these topics in lesser-studied languages, with focus on Mayan languages and Miskitu (Misumalpan language spoken in Nicaragua and Honduras).
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