

The 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics

WACL-4

The 4th Workshop on Arabic Corpus Linguistics

Proceedings of the Workshop

January 20, 2025

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Preface

Welcome to the Fourth Workshop on Arabic Corpus Linguistics (WACL-4), held online on January 20, 2025, in conjunction with the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2025) in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The field of Arabic language research using corpora and corpus-based methods has undergone remarkable growth over the past decade. What began as a series of isolated initiatives has evolved into a dynamic and rapidly expanding domain of inquiry, encompassing a wide range of topics in both corpus and computational linguistics. Building on the success of the previous workshops—WACL-1 (2011), WACL-2 (2013, hosted at the Corpus Linguistics Conference at Lancaster University), and WACL-3 (2019, hosted at the Corpus Linguistics Conference at Cardiff University)—WACL-4 (2025, hosted at COLING) continues to provide a dedicated venue for advancing research and promoting collaboration in this vibrant field.

The primary objectives of WACL-4 are to showcase the latest developments in the creation, annotation, and application of Arabic corpora and to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. This year, we place a special emphasis on Arabic dialects, including non-standard and regional varieties, aiming to deepen our understanding of Arabic in its many forms and to support research on under-resourced linguistic varieties. The workshop also seeks to encourage advancements in Natural Language Processing (NLP) tailored for Arabic, focusing on integrating corpora into NLP workflows, developing new computational tools, and evaluating existing systems to enhance their performance in processing Arabic text.

We received 22 submissions most of which 13 were accepted. Each submission underwent rigorous review by at least three reviewers, ensuring the quality and relevance of the accepted contributions, resulting in an acceptance rate of 59

We thank the authors, reviewers, and organizing committee for their efforts and support. We hope these proceedings inspire new research and collaborations to advance the field.

Saad Ezzini, General Chair, on behalf of the organizing committee of the WACL-4 workshop.

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Conference Program

Monday, January 20, 2025

9:00–9:10 *Welcome and Opening Remarks*

9:10–9:50 *Invited Talk by Imed Zitouni: Bridging the Gap: Arabic Search in the Age of LLMs*

Session 1

9:50–10:10 *ArabicSense: A Benchmark for Evaluating Commonsense Reasoning in Arabic with Large Language Models*

Salima Lamsiyah, Kamyar Zeinalipour, Samir El Amrany, Matthias Brust, Marco Maggini, Pascal Bouvry and Christoph Schommer

10:10–10:30 *Lahjawi: Arabic Cross-Dialect Translator*

Mohamed Motasim Hamed, Muhammad Hreden, Khalil Hennara, Zeina Aldallal, Sara Chrouf and Safwan AlModhayan

10:30–11:00 *Coffee Break*

Session 2

11:00–11:20 *Lost in Variation: An Unsupervised Methodology for Mining Lexico-syntactic Patterns in Middle Arabic Texts*

Julien JB Bezançon, Rimane Karam and Gaël Lejeune

11:20–11:40 *SADSLyC: A Corpus for Saudi Arabian Multi-dialect Identification through Song Lyrics*

Salwa Saad Alahmari

11:40–12:00 *Enhancing Dialectal Arabic Intent Detection through Cross-Dialect Multilingual Input Augmentation*

Shehenaz Hossain, Fouad Shammery, Bahaulddin Shammery and Haithem Afli

12:00–12:20 *Dial2MSA-Verified: A Multi-Dialect Arabic Social Media Dataset for Neural Machine Translation to Modern Standard Arabic*

Abdullah Salem Khered, Youcef Benkhedda and Riza Batista-Navarro

12:20–13:20 *Lunch Break*

Monday, January 20, 2025 (continued)

Session 3

- 13:20–13:40 *Web-Based Corpus Compilation of the Emirati Arabic Dialect*
Yousra A. El-Ghawi
- 13:40–14:00 *Evaluating Calibration of Arabic Pre-trained Language Models on Dialectal Text*
Ali Al-Laith and Rachida Kibdani
- 14:00–14:20 *Empirical Evaluation of Pre-trained Language Models for Summarizing Moroccan Darija News Articles*
Azzedine Aftiss, Salima Lamsiyah, Christoph Schommer and Said Ouatik El Alaoui
- 14:20–14:40 *Dialect2SQL: A Novel Text-to-SQL Dataset for Arabic Dialects with a Focus on Moroccan Darija*
Salmane Chafik, Saad Ezzini and Ismail Berrada
- 14:40–15:00 *AraSim: Optimizing Arabic Dialect Translation in Children’s Literature with LLMs and Similarity Scores*
Alaa Hassan Bouomar and Noorhan Abbas
- 15:00–15:20 *Navigating Dialectal Bias and Ethical Complexities in Levantine Arabic Hate Speech Detection*
Ahmed Haj Ahmed, Rui-Jie Yew, Xerxes Minocher and Suresh Venkatasubramanian
- 15:20–16:00** *Coffee Break*
- 16:00–16:30** *Best Paper Award, Closing Remarks, and Wrap-Up by Dr Saad Ezzini*