

WSLP 2026

The Second Workshop on Sign Language Processing

Proceedings of the Workshop

October 29, 2026

©2026 Association for Computational Linguistics

Order copies of this and other ACL proceedings from:

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)
317 Sidney Baker St. S
Suite 400 - 134
Kerrville, TX 78028
USA
Tel: +1-855-225-1962
acl@aclweb.org

ISBN 979-8-89176-488-0

Introduction

Welcome to the Second Workshop on Sign Language Processing (WSLP-2026), held in Budapest, Hungary, on 29 October 2026, co-located with the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2026). WSLP brings together researchers, linguists, practitioners, and members of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities working at the intersection of natural language processing, computer vision, and sign linguistics. Sign languages are not visual encodings of the surrounding spoken language. They are independent natural languages in which handshape, orientation, movement, and location combine with facial expression, eye gaze, and torso shift, often at the same time. That simultaneity is linguistically ordinary and computationally inconvenient: most of the modelling toolkit inherited from spoken-language NLP assumes a linear token stream. More than 430 million people worldwide live with disabling hearing loss, and for a large part of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community, sign languages are the primary means of communication. The workshop exists to give under-resourced sign languages a dedicated computational venue, and to treat sign language processing as a set of related problems: translation, recognition, spotting, corpus design, transfer, and evaluation, rather than as a single translation benchmark.

The 2026 edition of the WSLP workshop at EMNLP widens the geographic range of the main program while keeping Indian Sign Language as the shared-task language. Topics of interest this year included sign language translation for low-resource and underrepresented languages; continuous and gloss-free methods; multilingual, cross-modal, and zero-shot transfer; cultural and dialectal variation; corpus creation and annotation practice; fairness, bias, and ethics; fingerspelling and isolated recognition under sparse labels; and applications that support Deaf communities in low-resource settings.

In this edition, we accepted archival long papers (up to eight pages plus references) and short papers (up to four pages plus references), reviewed double-blind through OpenReview, for publication in the EMNLP 2026 workshop proceedings. We received 40 submissions and accepted 22 papers, an acceptance rate of 55%. Fifteen of the accepted papers are main-workshop research contributions; the rest are official shared-task system descriptions. Main workshop papers propose new corpora and first baselines for Catalan, Uruguayan, Icelandic, Russian, and Bangla sign languages; compact gloss-free translation under realistic compute budgets; isolated recognition and fingerspelling; and a cluster of diagnostic studies on what actually transfers when a checkpoint is moved from a high-resource sign language to a low-resource one, on how annotation budgets should be spent, and on whether automatic metrics and multimodal models are measuring the signed signal at all.

In addition to the research track, WSLP-2026 hosted three shared tasks on Indian Sign Language: sentence-level translation from video or pose into English, isolated recognition over a large one-shot vocabulary, and word/sign presence prediction in continuous sentence video. Public training data were released on Hugging Face; official scoring was hosted on Codabench. Fifty-eight teams registered across the three tracks and 19 submitted official systems (translation: 23 registered, 5 submitted; presence prediction: 13 registered, 5 submitted; isolated recognition: 22 registered, 9 submitted). On the lexical tracks, the systems that report usable official scores treat the problem as retrieval or temporal alignment in a pose-embedding space. Translation submissions almost uniformly map pose sequences into a pre-trained T5 decoder and obtain fluent English more readily than scores that can be trusted at the current accuracy level. We thank every participating team. The shared-task overview and the accepted system papers are included in these proceedings.

WSLP-2026 is a one-day workshop. Accepted papers are scheduled as oral presentations or posters by the programme committee. The programme further includes the shared-task session.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all the authors for submitting their work, the members of the programme committee for their thorough and timely reviews, and the teams that took part in the shared tasks. We are grateful to the Deaf signers, interpreters, and linguists who contributed to the corpora and evaluations reported here, and to the EMNLP 2026 workshop chairs and the ACL publication chairs for their guidance.

Workshop travel and related costs for the IIT Kanpur organizers were supported in part by the Research-I Foundation of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kanpur, and in part by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) under Grant No. ANRF/ARG/2025/009207/ENS. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Science Foundation Ireland ADAPT Centre for Digital Content Technology under Grant No. 13/RC/2106. The ADAPT Centre's grant is co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund. The organizers affiliated with the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen have been exclusively supported by the grant of the University of West Bohemia, Project No. SGS-2025-011.

ISBN 979-8-89176-488-0

WSLP 2026 Organizing Committee

Sanjeet Singh, Abhinav Joshi, Pokala Dattatreya,
Keren Artiaga, Khushi Jaydeep Pujara, Tomáš Železný,
Ivan Gruber, Jakub Honzík, Sabyasachi Kamila,
Facundo Manuel Quiroga, Marek Hruží, Mohammed Hasanuzzaman,
Ashutosh Modi

Organizing Committee

General Chairs

Sanjeet Singh, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur), India
Abhinav Joshi, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur), India
Pokala Dattatreya, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur), India
Keren Artiaga, ADAPT Centre, MTU, Cork, Ireland
Khushi Jaydeep Pujara, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur), India
Tomáš Železný, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic
Ivan Gruber, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic
Jakub Honzík, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic
Sabyasachi Kamila, Manipal Institute of Technology Bengaluru, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India
Facundo Manuel Quiroga, Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP), Argentina
Marek Hruží, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic
Mohammed Hasanuzzaman, ADAPT Centre, MTU, Cork, Ireland
Ashutosh Modi, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur), India

Program Committee

Reviewers

Shiva Ahir, Areej Ahmad, Humayun Akhtar

Rakesh Chandra Balabantaray

Nischal Reddy Chandra, Mrinal Chaturvedi, Anal Roy Chowdhury

Mrinal Devnath, Aritra Ambudh Dutta

Vinay Edula

Habib Irani

Arshia Kermani, Aman Koli, Rajeev Kumar

Shikhar Mathur, Vangelis Metsis, Kishan Kumar Mishra

Astha Swarupa Nayak

Gokul Srinath Seetha Ram, Jean Paul Nunes Reinhold, Franco Ronchetti

Karahan Sahin, Muktikanta Sahu, Murat Saraclar, Jyoti Kunal Shah, Godwin Shalom, Oscar Agustín Stanchi

Ashish Upadhyay

Table of Contents

Second Workshop on Sign Language Processing (WSLP-2026)

Sanjeet Singh, Abhinav Joshi, Pokala Dattatreya, Keren Artiaga, Khushi Jaydeep Pujara, Tomáš Železný, Ivan Gruber, Jakub Honzík, Sabyasachi Kamila, Facundo Manuel Quiroga, Marek Hruží, Mohammed Hasanuzzaman and Ashutosh Modi 1

Findings of the Shared Tasks at the Second Workshop on Sign Language Processing (WSLP 2026)

Sanjeet Singh, Abhinav Joshi, Pokala Dattatreya, Keren Artiaga, Khushi Jaydeep Pujara, Tomáš Železný, Ivan Gruber, Jakub Honzík, Sabyasachi Kamila, Facundo Manuel Quiroga, Marek Hruží, Mohammed Hasanuzzaman and Ashutosh Modi 11

ISLiM: A Compact End-to-End Sign Language Translation Framework

Shoaib Ahmed and Dipti Mishra 18

Whitening and Fine-Tuning Are Substitutes: One-Shot Indian Sign Language Recognition

Galiveeti Poornima and Sandeep Mathias 32

What Actually Transfers? Diagnosing Output-Projection Initialization in Low-Resource Sign Language Translation

Kai-Yang Peng, Chunki Lim and Shu-Kai Hsieh 43

LSC-CARE: An annotated dataset for medical Catalan Sign Language

Carlos Escolano, Joan Gomà Cortés, Gemma Barberà, Gerard Sant and Maite Melero 54

Metric-Learning Retrieval for Cross-Signer Isolated Sign Language Recognition

Md. Asif Ali, Md. Mosharaf Hossain Apurbo and Kazi Reyazul Hasan 70

Multiple-Instance Contrastive Alignment for Pose-Based Sign Spotting

Md. Mosharaf Hossain Apurbo, Md. Asif Ali and Kazi Reyazul Hasan 77

Isolated Sign Language Recognition for Icelandic Sign Language: Experiments in a Low-resource Setting

Finnur Ágúst Ingimundarson, Guðný Björk Þorvaldsdóttir, Mathias Müller and Sarah Ebling . 84

Using Sign Phonology to Improve Few-Shot Cross-Lingual Transfer Learning for Sign Language Recognition

Matteo Lanza 96

Recognizing Uruguayan Sign Language Glosses in Continuous Discourse: A Curated Dataset and First Baselines

Manu Bervejillo Rosá, Facundo Techera, Emilio Valle Lisboa, Ariel E. Stassi and Luis Chiruzzo 111

Coverage Is Not Enough: A Controlled Study of Annotation Selection for Low-Resource Sign Language

Gyanendra Shrestha and Liting Zhang 121

Shared-Encoder Contrastive Grounding for Pose-Based Indian Sign Language Translation

Gyanendra Shrestha and Liting Zhang 132

CARE: A Coverage-Aware Retrieval Ensemble for Isolated Sign Language Recognition

Nguyen Tu Nam and Hiroki Takahashi 141

Bukva: Russian Sign Language Alphabet

Petr Surovtsev, Alexander Nagaev, Karina Kvanchiani, Elizaveta Petrova and Alexander Kapitanov 147

<i>Cross-Lingual Transfer of Self-Supervised Representations for Sign Language Translation: A Case Study for Turkish Sign Language</i>	Özge Can Özel, Saliha Nur Şahin and Murat Saraclar	162
<i>SpaMo-BdSL: Gloss-Free Bangla Sign Language Translation Using Spatial Configurations and Motion Dynamics with LLMs</i>	Kowshik Saha, Adibah Mahmud and M Saifur Rahman	172
<i>Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Recognition of Sign Language Handshapes</i>	Marcel Granero Moya, Carolina Del Corral Farrarós, Gloria Haro, Coloma Ballester and Ricardo Marques	177
<i>HandReader: Advanced Techniques for Efficient Fingerspelling Recognition</i>	Pavel Korotaev, Petr Surovtsev, Alexander Kapitanov, Karina Kvanchiani and Alexander Nagaev	193
<i>Znaki: A Russian Fingerspelling Recognition Dataset</i>	Petr Surovtsev, Pavel Korotaev, Alexander Nagaev and Alexander Kapitanov	203
<i>TransAlign-SLT: Complementary Temporal and Semantic Supervision for Gloss-Free Sign Language Translation</i>	Pallapu Mohan Krishna, Uppala Sanjay Kumar, M.K. Bhuyan and Debanga Raj Neog	213
<i>Articulator-Level Cross-Lingual Transfer in Sign Language Translation</i>	Ali Elaswad and Omar Mokhtar Gaber Saqr	224
<i>SignaFusion@WSLP 2026: Gated Vision–Language Adjudication and Multi-Expert Fusion for Isolated Sign Language Recognition</i>	Bolisetty Samanvitha, Ojas Srivastava, Pruthwik Mishra and Praveen Kumar Chandaliya	237
<i>Testing Video MLLM Sensitivity to Hand-Localized Visual Detail in Chinese Sign Recognition: A Matched Visual Intervention Study</i>	Bowen Ye, Dengfeng Yao, Siyuan Jing, Peng Jin, Hongzhe Liu and Cheng Xu	243