SWA BHASHA: MESSAGE-BASED TYPING TRANSLATION

K.A. Maneesha Udari Athukorala

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) degree in Software Engineering

Department of Computing

Informatics Institute of Technology, Sri Lanka
in collaboration with
University of Westminster, UK

Abstract

Machine translation in natural language processing provides the ability to translate many

languages into many different languages in a computational way. This makes people life

easier than in the translation processors such as translating the mother language to another

language. Therefore, machine translation holds an important place in modern society.

In the Sri Lankan context also language translation holds a great place when it comes to

the translation of Sinhala language, the official language in Sri Lanka translates into

various languages. Sinhala is a rare language in the world. In the NLP, machine translation

this is one of the low resourced languages in the world. People in Sri Lanka, use informal

language while texting named 'Singlish' which means Sinhala words typing in English

words in order to make the typing process easier while texting.

This message-based typing translation system also based on the Singlish translation. The

main aim behind this implementation is to reduce the complexity and the difficulties that

the university students faced while typing Singlish words with vowels, without vowels and

reducing the vowel count in the real Sinhala word that the existing system doesn't have

supported at the moment and give a better experience in Singlish typing.

This "Swa Bhasha" translator has developed using the rule-based machine translation

approach and supports the translation in word-level for Singlish words with vowels,

without vowels and reducing the vowel count in the real Sinhala word and provide the

relevant native Sinhala word for them as the result and try to provide a great experience for

the Sri Lankan university students.

Keywords:

Rule-based machine translation, language code-mixing, Singlish words, Sinhala

Translation

iii