

UGC and CSIR sponsored one week National Workshop on Multilingual Technologies (NWMLT 2013) from 11th – 13th Nov., 2013 organised by Dept. of Computer Science, Punjabi University, Patiala.

Research in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) has taken a big leap and now the focus is shifting from single language to multi-language. Research in multi-language technologies is very important for a country like India where we have 22 official languages beside their dialects. This national workshop on multilingual technologies was focused to provide a platform for the researchers and professionals to share their research work and knowledge with young researchers.

Through this workshop, the participants were acquainted with the tools and techniques of various multilingual technology applications covering NLP and OCR. The workshop was conducted through lectures by eminent experts in the fields of multilingual technologies including one day tutorial on Tamil TTS and Tamil OCR. During this workshop the topics covered include: Basic concepts and applications of NLP, NLP applications on mobiles, machine translation, speech recognition, text-to-speech synthesis, OCR systems for Indian scripts and their challenges, online handwritten recognition system, demonstration of various multilingual software. Resources required for the development of various NLP applications like lexicon, parser, POS taggers were also discussed during the workshop.

During this workshop, I also presented my research work titled “Text-To-Speech Synthesis: Techniques, Challenges and System Development”. I demonstrated text-to-speech (TTS) synthesis system for Punjabi language and discussed the challenges faced for the development of this TTS system.

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