

Language Technology Team

Performance report for the period 01 January- 07 July 2014

Adama Ras Hotel
27 July 2014

Language Technology Team members

1. Derib Ado - Group Coordinator
2. Dr Feda Negesse
3. Demeke Asres
4. Binyam Ephrem
5. Dawit Hassen
6. [Prof. Janne B. Johannessen](#)
7. [Björn Gambäck](#)
8. [Lilja Øvrelid](#)
9. [Kristin Hagen](#)
10. [Anders Nøklestad](#)
11. [Joel Priestley](#)

Planned activities

The following activities were planned for the period by the Language Technology Team

- Participate at the Networking Workshop originally planned for May 19-20, 2014
- Conduct fieldwork probably from April 25- May 10 to collect Oromo dialect corpus
- If possible present a preliminary paper in the July (present) workshop
- Conduct a Workshop on recording for speech corpora and introducing the use of corpora for research
- Purchase servers and necessary equipment

Activities performed

- Two of the team members, Dr. Feda Negesse and Dr. Derib Ado participated in the networking workshop held from 23-24 May 2014 in Hawassa. The coordinator introduced the members and the main activities planned to be accomplished during the project period.
- Dr. Feda and Dr. Derib did fieldwork from 26 May to 05 June in Adama and collected a 5 hour audio data from Tulama Oromo. A metadata has been prepared for the collected audio data.
- The team got additional data from Tulama dialect (Collected from Tulubolo) contributed by a PhD student at the Oriental University of Naples (Italy)
- Workshop on recording for speech corpora and introducing the use of corpora for research was conducted by Prof. J.B. Johannesen in March 2014
- Two audio recorders, five video cameras with mosquito mics and tripods have been purchased by UiO team members and from this set, two audio recorders, a video camera, tripod and mosquito mic are received by our Department.
- The preliminary paper we wanted to present in the seminar was not possible mainly due to time constraints, but will be ready for the November workshop.

Challenges

- Originally UiO promised to buy a server and set up the system in our Department. Unfortunately they have withdrawn their pledge mainly on grounds that there are technical difficulties to connect the server to the main university server and then access data from abroad. Thus, a solution that we have agreed is to lease a cloud server which AAU and UiO will have access. The system will be set up on the remote server and later AAU can transfer that system to the University server.
- Another difficulty that the team faced was the field situation that was reported during the field report.

- In addition, it has been found out that transcribing data is costly both in terms of time and money, which made it difficult to transcribe a one hour data that we pledged to present.

Best regards,

Derib Ado
Coordinator, Language Technology Team