WMT24 System Description for the MultiIndic22MT Shared Task on Manipuri Language

Ningthoujam Justwant Singh, Kshetrimayum Boynao Singh,

Ningthoujam Avichandra Singh, Sanjita Phijam, and Thoudam Doren Singh

Centre for Natural Language Processing (CNLP) & Dept. of CSE, NIT Silchar, India

{njustwant92,boynfrancis,avichandra0420,phijamsan.jk,thoudam.doren}@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper presents a Transformer-based Neural Machine Translation (NMT) system developed by the Centre for Natural Language Processing and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the National Institute of Technology Silchar. India (NITS-CNLP) for the MultiIndic22MT 2024 Shared Task. The system focused on the English-Manipuri language pair for the WMT24 shared task. The proposed WMT system shows a BLEU score of 6.4, a chrF score of 28.6, and a chrF++ score of 26.6 on the public test set Indic-Conv dataset. Further, in the public test set Indic-Gen dataset, it achieved a BLEU score of 8.1, a chrF score of 32.1, and a chrF++ score of 29.4 on the Englishto-Manipuri translation.

1 Introduction

The Centre for Natural Language Processing and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the National Institute of Technology Silchar, India (NITS-CNLP) participated in The MultiIndic22MT 2024 Shared Task (Dabre and Kunchukuttan, 2024) for English-Manipuri language pair in the WMT2024 shared task. The shared task involves developing Machine Translation (MT) for English and 22 Indic Languages (Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Konkani, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri (Arabic script), Maithili, Malayalam, Marathi, Manipuri (Meitei script), Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi (Devanagari script), Tamil, Telugu, Urdu).

In recent years, there has been growing interest in developing effective machine translation systems for Manipuri (Singh et al., 2023a) (Singh and Singh, 2020) (Singh and Singh, 2022b) (Singh et al., 2023b), which is a language with a complex linguistic structure (Singh and Bandyopadhyay, 2010) and limited bitext. Various approaches have been explored to create models that can accurately translate between Manipuri and other languages(Singh and Singh, 2022a). These efforts include the development of translation models that handle different scripts, such as Bengali and Meitei Mayek, and the integration of linguistic (Singh and Bandyopadhyay, 2005) (Singh and Bandyopadhyay, 2010) and that are essential for producing high-quality translations.

1.1 Brief Description of Manipuri language

The Manipuri language can be written in: Bengali and Meitei Mayek. It is one of the 22 official languages of India included in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution. Historically, computational linguistics research and translation efforts for Manipuri have predominantly focused on the Bengali script, due to its extensive availability of digital resources.

Most English-to-Manipuri translation models and linguistic resources have been developed using the Bengali script. Numerous projects have created bitext and bilingual dictionaries in this script, significantly advancing machine translation for Manipuri.

In contrast, the Meitei Mayek script, which holds cultural and historical significance for the Manipuri people, has not received similar attention. Although recent years have seen a revival of the Meitei Mayek script, highlighting the need for computational resources and tools to support its use in modern digital contexts, it still faces challenges due to the limited availability of textual data and digital resources.

Efforts to address this gap include digitizing ancient manuscripts and developing new textual resources in Meitei Mayek.

2 Our Approaches

2.1 Dataset and Preprocessing

The training dataset (Gala et al., 2023) provided by the WMT Shared Task 2024 consists of 42,740 bitext. After incorporating additional data from the

Language	Sentence	Word
English-Training	63506	1093014
Manipuri-Training	63506	894411
English-Validation	997	30772
Manipuri-Validation	997	31799
English-Testing _{conv}	1502	14849
Manipuri-Testing conv	1502	12621
English-Testing _{gen}	1023	25347
Manipuri-Testing gen	1023	23421

Table 1: This table presents the BLEU, chrF, and chrF++ scores for the English-to-Manipuri machine translation system.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), we ensure that the dataset is properly aligned to each other to confirm that it consists of bitext, along with removing duplicates and noise. As a result, we obtain a clean training dataset of 63,506 bitext. The validation dataset, also provided by the WMT Shared Task 2024, contains 997 bitext. For testing, we use the test set from the WMT Shared Task 2024, which includes the Indic-Conv and Indic-Gen datasets, comprising 1,502 and 1,023 bitext, respectively.

2.2 Hyperparameter

2.2.1 Sentencepiece Model

We train a model (MT_{sp}) system based on a basic Transformer architecture (Vaswani et al., 2017), utilizing the OpenNMT toolkit (Klein et al., 2017)¹. In this model, we employ the SentencePiece (Kudo, 2018)² tokenization technique with a vocabulary size of 8,000 for both English and Manipuri. The model consists of 6 encoder and 6 decoder layers, each with 8 attention heads. The MT_{sp} system is trained for 200,000 steps, with validation conducted every 5,000 steps, and model checkpoints saved at 5,000-step intervals.

It utilizes a bucket size of 262,144 and a batch size of 2048, along with 8,000 warmup steps. Optimization is performed using the Adam optimizer (Kingma and Ba, 2014). The (MT_{sp}) is trained with a feed-forward layer size of 2048, a hidden size of 512, and a label smoothing of 0.1.

2.2.2 Proposed Subword Model

Our proposed model (WMT24_{proposed}) is also a transformer model trained using the OpenNMT toolkit. For tokenization, we employ the Byte Pair

Encoding (BPE) method (Sennrich et al., 2016)³ with the same vocab size 8000 for English and Manipuri. The proposed model shares the same hyperparameters as the (MT_{sp}), including training for 200,000 steps, with validation every 5,000 steps, and model checkpoints saved at 5,000-step intervals. It also uses the same bucket size of 262,144 and a batch size of 2048.

Both the (MT_{sp}) and $(WMT24_{proposed})$ models are configured with 8 attention heads, 6 encoder layers, 6 decoder layers, and a learning rate of 2, along with an attention dropout rate of 0.1. Optimization is performed using the Adam optimizer (Kingma and Ba, 2014), and the models share identical hyperparameters, including a feed-forward layer size of 2048, a hidden size of 512, and label smoothing of 0.1.

We train both the WMT24_{proposed} and MT_{sp} models using the complete set of 63,506 sentence pairs, which includes data from both the WMT Shared Task data and additional data provided by MeitY. We utilize the same validation sentences, and the testing data remains unchanged.

The performance of each model is evaluated using BLEU (Papineni et al., 2002), chrF (Popović, 2015), and chrF++ (Popović, 2017) metrics, utilizing the sacreBLEU tool (Post, 2018)⁴ for score evaluation.

3 Results and Discussion

In this section, we discuss the experimental results and performance of the models. The reported BLEU, chrF, and chrF++ scores are calculated based on the de-tokenized text. The scores of the systems are given in Table 2. The English-to-Manipuri translation WMT24_{proposed} model achieves a BLEU score of **6.4**, a chrF score of 28.6, and a chrF++ score of 26.6 on the Indic-Conv dataset. In contrast, the MT_{sp} achieves a BLEU score of 5.1, a chrF score of 30.9, and a chrF++ score of 27.1 on the same dataset.

For the Indic-Gen dataset, the WMT24_{proposed} achieves a BLEU score of **8.1**, a chrF score of 32.1, and a chrF++ score of 29.4, while the MT_{sp} achieves a BLEU score of 6.8, a chrF score of 32.8, and a chrF++ score of 28.7. These results highlight the superior performance of the WMT24_{proposed} compared to the MT_{sp} model across all evaluation metrics.

¹https://github.com/OpenNMT/OpenNMT

²https://github.com/google/sentencepiece

³https://github.com/rsennrich/subword-nmt

⁴https://github.com/mjpost/sacrebleu

MT systems	Test Set	BLEU	chrF	chrF++
WMT24 proposed	conv	6.4	28.6	26.6
MT _{sp}	conv	5.1	30.9	27.1
WMT24 proposed	gen	8.1	32.1	29.4
MT _{sp}	gen	6.8	32.8	28.7

Table 2: This table presents the BLEU, chrF, and chrF++ scores for the English-to-Manipuri machine translation system.

3.1 Qualitative Analysis

In the table 3, sample 1, the word $\overline{\rho} \Re^{\circ} \blacksquare$, meaning "tomorrow" is correctly translated in both models. The word "movie" has been translated to a more beautiful word in both translations as 服用 超用 , which we call movies in the early period, while in the reference, it is translated as cinema, which is not so accurate. While "Mom" has been translated as \vec{P}^{\bullet} in the reference but it is transliterated in MT_{sp} ₩[•]F. In the second sample, the phrase "school and I'' is accurately translated; the reference ぜ の取す is correctly represented in the output as 亚乙的國司, but the overall meaning of the sentence is not conveyed as the reference text is "not to go" while both translations have translated it as "go". In the third sample, the word "holiday" is translated properly, with the reference being のびびい, here both models show a better translation than the reference text. In the fourth sample, the phrase "14 April right" is accurately translated as መንጠብኘ ዓይ, but in the WMT24proposed, the word o.t.p W.Jof.mf has been included, which changes the overall meaning. In the fifth sample, the name "Lelina" is correctly translated as でで in the WMT24proposed, but the meaning of the sentence cannot be conveyed as the phrase "thank you" has not been translated. The word "thank you" has been translated in the MT_{sp}. Still, the name "Lelina" is not translated. In the sixth sample, "Ambedkar Jayanti" is correctly translated as መዙኛ እመሮ ርጽፎን in the WMT24_{proposed} model; however, the adequacy is hampered by the missing translation of "tomorrow" in the output, and the fluency is also affected by the ill-formed sentence structure. Meanwhile, in the MT_{sp} model, the word "Jayanti" is missing. In sample 7, the word "municipal" אַקַעומוֹאל has been translated in both models, while MT_{sp} performs better. Some keywords have been translated like the "senior citizen" ወየሮ የአዋ ወን የሚሰመር. In sample 8, the word "motorcycle" 耶日° 吃的 Ш 耶 f is included in the WMT24_{proposed}, which is an extra word.

In the table 4, sample 1, the words "shoes," "clothes," "tie," "jewelry," "hairstyle," "make-up," "watch," "cosmetics," and "perfume" have been translated in both models. In the second sample, "dry" is translated as ய國 and "stone" as CШC; in both samples, the overall meaning is conveyed. In sample 3, "chilli powder" 又行 服盟 has been translated correctly. In sample 4, the phrase "metro station" has been translated correctly in both models, but in this case, the MT_{sp} model performs better. In the sample 5, the word "Xeres" has not been translated, and the overall meaning of the sentence cannot be conveyed. In the last sample, while the output contains some keywords from the reference, it fails to translate the overall meaning of the sentence.

Four native speakers assessed the adequacy and fluency of the translations. The overall output of the sample has been shown in the figure 1. This evaluation indicates the quality of the sample outputs, reflecting how fluent and adequate the translations are in conveying the intended meaning.



Figure 1: Adequacy and Fluency for the output samples

4 Conclusion

We develop and evaluate two Transformer-based machine translation (MT) systems tested on two different datasets (Indic-Conv and Indic-Gen) for translating English to Manipuri. One system (MT_{sp}) utilizes the OpenNMT toolkit with Senten-

Result	Samples for Indic22-Conv test dataset
Source 1:	Mom, let's go for a movie tomorrow.
Reference 1:	ແທລັຈກັ ຊົກເລີຍ ເປັນເປັນ ເປັນເ
WMT24 _{proposed} 1:	॥ <i>ដ</i> េយ រាសេក ២ភាសារាភាយ តែមួយ នៃការ រាយ ទេត លេយ អ [ូ] ត៍
MT _{sp} 1:	
Source 2:	I don't have to go to school.
Reference 2:	
WMT24proposed 2:	
MT _{sp} 2:	
Source 3:	It is a holiday.
Reference 3:	ດັ້ນເປັນເປັນເປັນເປັນເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັ
WMT24 _{proposed} 3:	ແມ່ນ ແລະ ເປັນ ແລະ ເປ
MT _{sp} 3:	ແຕ່ ຫຼົ້ອງ ເລັ້ອ ແລະ ເປັນ ແລະ ເ
Source 4:	Oh, tomorrow is the 14th of April right?
Reference 4:	? « <u>ອັ</u> ຮະນັ້ ຂອ ໃຫ້ເຄ <u>ີຍ</u> ຫເພື່ອຫຼາຍ ແລະ ເພື່ອ
WMT24 _{proposed} 4:	ພ [ູ] .ວາມ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ
MT _{sp} 4:	បាលាយ នខ ក <u>ាមរា</u> លេយ
Source 5:	Thank you, Lelina.
Reference 5:	ມ້ຫະຈັກຍາ, ອ ^ະ ອໃບ້ແ
WMT24 _{proposed} 5:	្រ្តានកត៍ បាទទា, រានឧទអាយ បាយត៍ប
MT_{sp} 5:	ាមកស្វី និងស្វី និង ខ្មែរ និង ខ្មរ និង
Source 6:	It is Ambedkar Jayanti tomorrow!
Reference 6:	ייט ז משאר ארא ארא ארא ארא ארא ארא ארא ארא ארא
WMT24 _{proposed} 6:	កល្លាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក្មនាយក
MT_{sp} 6:	មាយសាសមាយ នេះ
Source 7:	Even the municipal corporation people also worked round the clock so that they can
	get the electricity back on time as there were kids and senior citizens present who were
	facing a lot of difficulties.
Reference 7:	ວອົກ ສະເສ ວຮ້ຣ ວຼສວາພໍຄຸຊສ໌ ວສົກ ຮົກມ ພາດຮາດເພື່ອຈັນ ພັດສາມ ພາດພົພມ
	ាាឋស្រី ចាំងារ អារាយ អារាយ អារាយ ហារាយ ហារាយ ហារាយ អារាយ
	ល្លុក 🛯 🗧
WMT24 _{proposed} 7:	ສະເສ ຳາຮັ້ວ ສຊົເໝ ພາຼາແ ຼູດພາດ <i>ແ</i> ຍໃສ ກແພຣ໌ ບອດອອ ^ເ ຫເອ ^ເ ໝ Fົກແງດໃບ <u>ຊ</u> ົງສ
	र्षेषा पार्ल्य रहेमा जस्त्र प्रस्त राज्य मधम राज्य सिमधेल पाठा राज्य गिणाललू
	መሐ መንግሥት በ
MT _{sp} 7:	ល្អភ្លាយ ខ្លាយ សារ សារ ស្រ្តា ស្រុង ស្ថាយ សារ ស្រុង សារ
	ាំបារាគាយ សាររារា អ៊ី បរ្ភភះយ អាមាអា បាំលាអា, កៃ សំ យាខរ សត្ថរារា បាំច្បារា សបអាយ រាវាយ សាយ ទេ
	នេះស សមាងបាន អ៊ាយ ស៊ុស ស្ថ័ង ស្ថ័ង ស្ថ័ង ស្ថាលា ស្ថាលា អ្នក ស្រាំ អាយ
Source 8:	There are a lot of organisations here which are catering help to the people, in terms of
	groceries, medical facilties and medicines and all the necessary items as and when it
	is needed.
Reference 8:	ັ້ ມະສາ ພຽກສາມ ພາດາພະພຣ໌ ພັສສາດ ພຽກສາມ ຮົກ ພາສສາການ ເຮັ້ນ ແຮງ ແລະ ການ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັນ ເປັ
	ळवार्टम खिवायमण्डामण्डार भ्यार ठर्टर राज्य ठर्णमण्ड वार्ण्य वार्ण्य वार्ण्य वार्
	៉ាំ 🕺 🕺 🕺 🕺 🕺 🕺 🖉 🕺 🖉 🖉 🖉 🖉 🖉 🖉 🖉
WMT24 _{proposed} 8:	, ៣១១១៩១% នៃស្ថា ភេះកា , ភ្នំ អាម ភ័យ ភេះមាអ ភាពលា មានអ
r . r	รสะบาโໝานินบร์–านเสีง ,นไดงกนะวรร์–วัม ,นไดรชะงว โจนไดคพิสต์อาล์ซะส
	រោះស្រី និយាយ នេះ
MT _{sp} 8:	ឹងភា ភ្នៃអាយ ៣២ភ័ក សំណា, ម៉ៃតំច ភុស្ស វាច្នេ នាំ១៣៣ ៣ ខែការ ភ្នំអាវិកា៣ ហៅលេខា ខា
•	। রেমণ্ডনা হর্ণ যেনা আআর্জান হিরানা আনাআরন্ মহা হর্গ

Table 3: Sample input and output of the English to Manipuri MT system on the Indic22-Conv test dataset.

Result	Samples for Indic22-Gen test dataset
Source 1:	An appearance is a bunch of attributes related to the service person, like their shoes,
	clothes, tie, jewellery, hairstyle, make-up, watch, cosmetics, perfume, etc
Reference 1:	, ២ មាន, រកាយស្រី សារ សេរ្ត សារ
	บาม สามาส <u>รา</u> ยาท , รัชชาน รชาน , ในส , ซาน , แชบาส ใขาสุด , เหรูว์ด , दर्ष
	開いた国家の行行を行う
WMT24 _{proposed} 1:	, ១០, រាខេយ។, <u>ម៌ភ</u> , ៅរាទររ្គារុខ, វារេទ្ត១, វារេទ្ត, ទ្រុវ , រាខេយ។ ទារខេះក្ ។ ទាន នេទំព្
MT _{sp} 1:	, ಉಸಗಿರ್, ಗಿ ಇಲ್, ಹಗಿಲಗಿತ, ಸಾಘದ್ ನ ಗಿ ಸದೇ ಸ, ಹಗಿಲಲಗಿ ಗಾ ಕಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ ಗಿ ಈ ಸಗಿ ಸ ಕಲ್ ಹ
	װד <u>ּאַ</u> בשאת , צוטשטַ דּטָא , צַכ <i>ּי</i> ש וֿײ ַ אָשיּשש , צַכּיש וֿײַשיּעָד , זוּגעב , ישאַכ <i>י</i> ש
Source 2:	Make this into powder with a dry grinder or in a stone pestle.
Reference 2:	៣១৮៩៥ អធ្ថារអា ឆេ២ ⁶ ៩ ហៃ៣០ ហ <u>ាម</u> ៥៩៦០ ឆ្នាំ២ ២ឆ្នាំ២ ២ឆ្នាំ២
WMT24 _{proposed} 2:	៣១៩ ៣៣១៩ និង
MT _{sp} 2:	॥
Source 3:	The use of chilli powder in this region is done cautiously.
Reference 3:	$\ddot{\mathbf{H}}$
WMT24 _{proposed} 3:	កម្មាន នៅក្រុង នៅ និង
MT _{sp} Output 3:	ខ្លាយ និង ស្រុកស្រុងស្រុងស្រុងស្រុង ហេសារ នៅក្នុង នៅលាយ មានអាច
Source 4:	The nearest Delhi Metro station is Arjan Garh, on the Yellow Line.
Reference 4:	॥ਹਿਸਾ ਡ੨ੱਸੁਡ ਠੱਤ ਕ਼ੁਡਟਰ 'ਤਾਲ ਕਿਤਾਨਾਨਟ ' <u>ਬ</u> ਣਾਜ ਸਾਘਾ ਸਾਸ਼ਨਟ <u>ਸਟ</u>
WMT24 _{proposed} 4:	॥ ័៍ភ ឆ២ភ្នប៍ ឃាំំភ ទោះ ហែយ ២៣ <u>«ក</u> ហំ <u>ម</u> ើះ អា ៣២០ រំ។ា <i>ឆ</i> ភភ <u>៍ក</u>
MT _{sp} 4:	॥ៗមាង שਣਥੇਸ ਠੈੱਤ ਡਾਡਲ਼ਰ 'ਤਾਲ ੀਅਸ שਅ <u>ੱਲ</u> ' <u>ਚ</u> ਣਾਂਜ ਤਿਸੀਡ ਸ਼ਾਘਰ ਮਿਡਟਨ <u>ਾਂਟ</u>
Source 5:	After him, came Xerxes II for a short while.
Reference 5:	॥त्रियार्ट्र II സിസ്മുല് ସद [्] य भिषय मध्य मध्य ज्ञ उद्य शिष्य यार्ट्र ज
WMT24 _{proposed} 5:	॥15F°छ स्रभारम ठछार्थ्य प्रथा प्रथा स्थान राज हो साम्य प्र
MT _{sp} 5:	װאל א דער אינא אינא אינא אינא אועיע אינא אושישלא און אַמשיַנא I און אינא אינא אינא אינא אינא און און אינא אינא
Source 6:	In Karaikal liquor is cheaper than in the neighbouring Tamil Nadu, there are quite a
	few decent bars in Karaikal - the Niagra bar in the Nanda hotel, the Thunder bar in the
	Paris International, the City bar - a very famous one in the town, and The Sea Gulls
	Restaurant owned by the government of Pondicherry which is at the sea shore and is
	good to hang out in the evenings. \rightarrow
Reference 6:	שנה היהב ביבי ביבי שבי ביבי ביבי ביבי ביבי
WMT24 6	
W WI I 24proposed 0:	
	ידי איז איז איז איז איז איז איז איז איז אי
MTOutput 6.	ורטאנגער איז
Si spourput o.	, ເປັນ ມີຫຼືແນນນູ້ວ່າ ໃຫ້ ຄຸ້ນນັ້ນວ່າ ໃຫ້ ຄຸ້ມແລະ ອີພັດ ພັງ ພາກ ແລະ ອີມັດ ແມ່ນ ແລະ ອີກ ແລະ ອີກ ແລະ ອີກ ແລະ ອີກ

Table 4: Sample Input and Output of the English to Manipuri MT System on the Indic22-Gen test dataset.

cepiece tokenization for tokenization, while the proposed model (WMT24_{proposed}) employs the Open-NMT toolkit with Byte Pair Encoding (BPE). Both models are trained on a comprehensive dataset that

includes data from WMT24 and MeitY.

The model is optimized with the Adam optimizer and is evaluated using BLEU, chrF, and chrF++ metrics. Additionally, the translations are assessed for both adequacy and fluency. The models successfully convey the overall meaning of the source sentences, but they often lack fluency, producing disjointed or grammatically incorrect outputs.

Overall, the WMT24_{proposed} produces translations that are more syntactically correct, contextually appropriate, and idiomatically fluent, while MT_{sp} offers more direct, simpler translations that sometimes lose nuance or complex structure.

Limitations

The proposed (WMT24_{proposed}) model translation conveys the main ideas of the reference sentence, despite certain errors and structural challenges. It captures some aspects of the overall meaning of the reference sentences. In the case of longer sentences, there is a large amount of adequacy. However, the fluency of these translations deteriorates as the length of the input sentences increases.

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