

Adding *ciofs* and *ciüfs* to BOUQuET

Benchmark Extension to Ladin

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Abstract

Benchmarks do more than report scores: they provide a shared basis for evaluating methods, comparing systems, and measuring progress. As language technologies are now widely integrated into everyday life, efforts should also be made to include minority languages in the resources that underpin language-technology development. If languages are absent from relevant benchmarks, they remain harder to evaluate, compare, and incorporate into future language technologies. Expanding benchmark coverage is therefore essential for ensuring fair evaluation, increasing visibility, and enabling continued development of language technologies for these communities. To support MT development for Ladin, we contribute a Ladin extension of BOUQuET to the WMT 2026 OLDI shared task, covering the Val Badia and Gherdëina varieties. We present a systematic reference-creation workflow combining human translation, expert revision, cross-variant alignment, and blind ranking to produce high-quality references. The dataset is released¹ under the CC BY-SA 4.0 license.

1 Introduction

Benchmarks are one of the main coordination mechanisms in NLP. They make progress measurable, allow systems to be compared under shared conditions, and provide a common target around which data collection, modelling, and error analysis can accumulate. This role is especially important in machine translation (MT), where model quality cannot be meaningfully discussed without reference to a particular language pair, domain, granularity, and evaluation protocol.

The title of this paper follows the BOUQuET metaphor quite literally: a useful multilingual benchmark becomes richer when more linguistic

BOUQuET		P112-S4
ENGLISH	Protect the environment; do not casually pick flowers and plants.	
Ladin – <i>human translation</i>		
GHERDĚINA	Scunëde l ambient; no tlupëde mé nsci ciofs y plantes.	
VAL BADIA	Sconede l'ambiënt; no coiede ma insciö ciüfs y plantes.	

Figure 1: Our main contribution: extending the BOUQuET benchmark to Ladin with reference translations in the two written varieties Val Badia and Gherdëina. The figure shows a sentence-level example from the resulting parallel dataset taken from paragraph P112.

varieties are represented in it. This is what we aim to do with our contribution, illustrated in Figure 1.

For MT, the long-term usefulness of a benchmark depends on the interaction of reference quality, difficulty, language and linguistic coverage, and alignment with intended use. BOUQuET was designed around these considerations by combining multi-way translation and paragraph-level structure with texts drawn from a diverse range of domains and registers, including, for example, social media posts, conversational texts, and how-to content (Andrews et al., 2025). For languages with limited digital resources, adding carefully produced references to such a benchmark therefore creates an open reference point for future system development, error analysis, and community discussion.

For Ladin, computational resources exist currently only in limited quantities. Ensuring that such resources exist therefore requires more than model development: it requires community involvement. The Open Language Data Initiative (OLDI)² shared task³ supports this idea by coordi-

¹<https://huggingface.co/datasets/facebook/bouquet>

²<https://oldi.org/>

³<https://www2.statmt.org/wmt26/open-data.html>

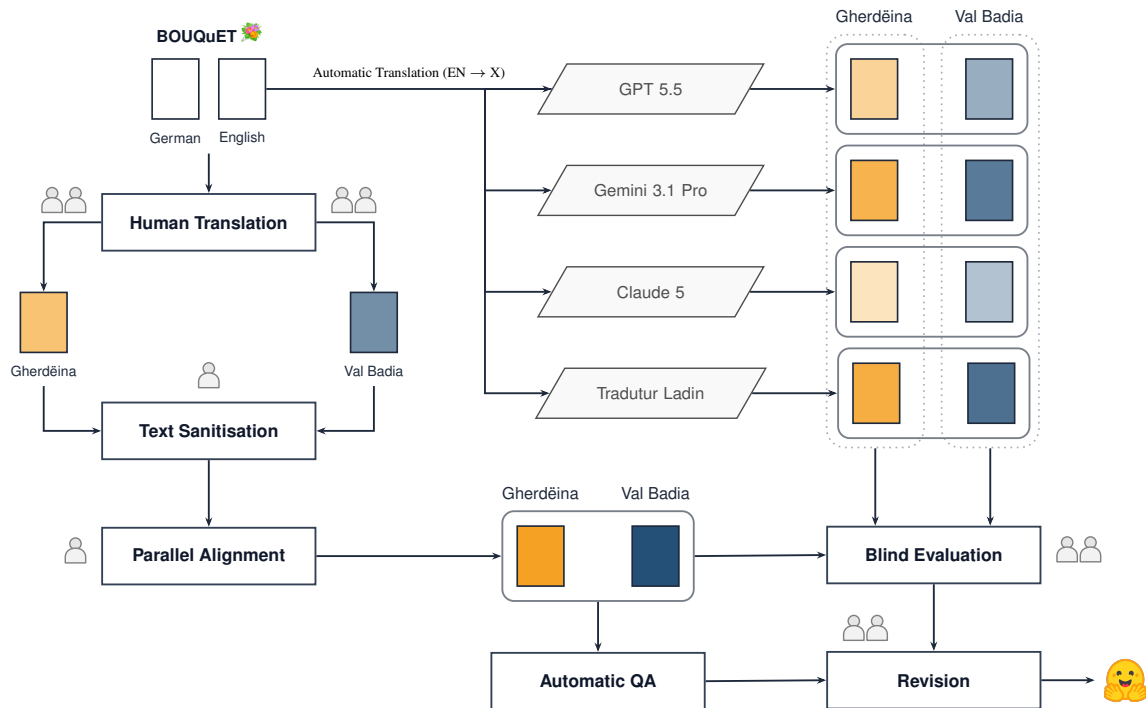


Figure 2: Workflow of the dataset creation process. BOUQuET source texts were manually translated into Val Badia and Gherdëina, sanitized, and parallel-aligned across varieties. The aligned outputs were then blind-evaluated against automatic translations, and the resulting evaluator feedback was used in a final revision step to refine the parallel references before release.

nating open additions to foundational multilingual datasets. BOUQuET was originally introduced with the idea of building a universal translation quality evaluation (Andrews et al., 2025). Its subsequent extension to additional languages and to quality-estimation data was described in the Omnilingual MT work on translation for 1,600 languages (Omnilingual MT Team et al., 2026).

Ladin is still not adequately supported by general-purpose LLMs and MT systems, and the problem is not only low resource availability. The ISO 639-3 code `lld` is necessary for identifying Ladin as a language, but it is not sufficient for representing the written standards that speakers actually use. Outputs that mix spelling, morphology, or terminology of the different varieties are not acceptable benchmark references (even if they may appear plausibly Ladin to a system).

Here, we present a BOUQuET extension for two Ladin varieties: Val Badia and Gherdëina. (IETF BCP 47 language tags `lld_valbadia` and `lld_gherd`, respectively) and provide a documented workflow for translation, revision, quality assurance, and benchmark validation. Using explicit BCP 47-style tags for the standardized written forms is therefore a practical step toward mak-

ing this distinction visible to data infrastructure and model developers. Table 1 shows the concrete output of this work: BOUQuET text with English and German references and two variant-specific Ladin translations. The structure of BOUQuET makes the resource usable for both sentence-level and paragraph-level evaluation.

Adding two (of the main five written) Ladin varieties⁴ to it makes also visible a real sociolinguistic and orthographic distinction that would be lost under a single `lld` label. Finally, inclusion in an established open benchmark lowers the barrier for future system developers, who can evaluate Ladin MT with standard BOUQuET tooling, metrics, and data conventions used for other languages with limited public resources.

The dataset and accompanying metadata will be made available as part of the BOUQuET dataset at <https://huggingface.co/datasets/facebook/bouquet> and are released under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0) license⁵.

⁴A Ladin standard written variety, called “ladin dolomitan”, would be available (Schmid, 1998) but has not yet been widely accepted.

⁵<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en>

Language	Paragraph P438 • Domain Social Posts • Register U.S. English
English eng_Latn	Very trustworthy, professional and friendly people. One of my brakes was squeaking and I brought them the car to have it looked at. They fixed it overnight and the brakes are working great now. I will be back, without a doubt. I recommend it 100%.
German deu_Latn	Sehr vertrauenswürdige, professionelle und freundliche Leute. Eine meiner Bremsen quietschte und ich brachte ihnen das Auto, um es zu untersuchen. Sie haben es innerhalb eines Tages repariert und die Bremsen funktionieren nun wieder einwandfrei. Ich werde ohne Zweifel wieder kommen. Ich kann es zu 100% empfehlen.
Gherdëina lld_gherd	Jënt scialdi de crëta, prufesciunela y daulëibon. Una de mi premis ciguniova y ti é purtà l auto per l lascé cialé do. I l à cunceda te n di y la premis va sègn inò zënza problems. Uniré zënzauter mo n iede. Posse l cunsié al 100%.
Val Badia lld_valbadia	Jënt dër de crëta, profescionala y da orëi bun. Un de mi arferadus cigognâ y i ti á porté l'auto por le lascé ciaré do. Ai l'á cuncé te n de y i arferadus vá sègn indô zënza problems. I gnará zënzater ciamó n iade. I pó le aconsié al 100%.

Table 1: Example parallel paragraph from the BOUQuET test split.

2 Language Overview

Ladin, also referred to as *Ladin of the Dolomites* (Salvi, 2016; Moroder, 2022), is a Rhaeto-Romance language spoken in several valleys of the Dolomites of Northern Italy. It should not be confused with Judeo-Spanish Ladino (lad); the Ladin considered here has ISO 639-3 code lld and is written in the Latin script (Latn).

Background The linguistic unity of the ladin area in the Dolomites was first systematically identified by Ascoli (1873), who described a set of features characterizing the language group; later work discusses this classification and its linguistic basis in more detail (Goebel, 2020; Videsott et al., 2020). These features include, among others, preservation of the plural marker *-s* and of the second-person verbal ending *-s*, as well as palatalization of Latin velars before *A*, as in *cian* /tʃaŋ/ or /caŋ/ ‘dog’ from Latin CANE(M).

Unlike territorial languages with a dominant urban center, Ladin historically lacked a single demographic or economic center that could provide a natural koiné. The language therefore developed as a pluricentric cluster of localized idioms. The glottonym Ladin encompasses five major written varieties spoken across Alpine valleys in the provinces of Bolzano/Bozen, Trento, and Belluno: Val Badia, Gherdëina, Fascian, Fodom, and Anpezan Ladin. Recent estimates place the number of speakers at approximately 32,650 (Pan et al., 2016, 63–64). The single ISO 639-3 identifier lld is therefore only a partial representation of the written language situation: it identifies Ladin as a whole, but not the standardized written varieties that are relevant for MT evaluation.⁶ Owing to the historical administra-

tive fragmentation of the Ladin valleys, language policies differ across the speech area; in the autonomous region of Trentino–South Tyrol, Ladin enjoys official recognition as a minority language and is used compulsorily in administration and education in Ladin-speaking areas (Videsott, 2023).

Val Badia and Gherdëina In this contribution we focus on the two standardized varieties of South Tyrol, Val Badia and Gherdëina Ladin. For Glottolog mapping, Gherdëina corresponds to gard1241; Val Badia is most closely represented by badi1244, although this written standard also covers areas that are not perfectly captured by a single Glottolog entry. The two varieties share most linguistic features but can differ in orthography, morphology, and lexical choice. These differences matter for MT: final *-s* plural marking, palatalized consonants, local vowel marking, and contact-induced vocabulary from German and Italian all affect tokenization and generation. Closely related forms can also create false confidence for automatic systems, which may produce plausible-looking Ladin that follows the wrong variety or mixes standards.

To give an empirical indication of the distance between the two released references, we computed sentence-level character *n*-gram overlap (chrF) and token Jaccard similarity between corresponding Val Badia and Gherdëina translations of the 854 BOUQuET test sentences. Only 6 sentence pairs (0.44%) are identical across the two varieties; the mean sentence chrF is 48.0 and the mean token Jaccard similarity is 0.273. These values are not intended as a linguistic classification of the varieties, but they confirm that the two benchmark targets

⁶This situation is common to many minority languages.

It would therefore be important that ISO allows a further subdivision of its ISO 639-3 codes.

differ substantially at the surface level and should not be treated as interchangeable references.

Linguistic Resources Existing language resources include printed and online dictionaries (Forni et al., 2014; Moling et al., 2016; Mischí, 2025), orthographic guides (Forni, 2019a; Mischí et al., 2015), grammars (Videsott, 2025; Forni, 2019b), spellcheckers, and a small body of parallel data, including a complete Ladin smartphone user interface (Videsott and Frenademez, 2025). In the present workflow, dictionaries and spellcheckers were actively used during translation and revision. In particular, translators consulted the online Val Badia and Gherdëina dictionaries provided by the Ladin Cultural Institute “Micurá de Rü”,^{7 8 9} the digitized German–Ladin Val Badia dictionary in Wörterbuchnetz,¹⁰ and existing online dictionary portals for both varieties.¹¹

3 Related Work

BOUQuET. BOUQuET (Andrews et al., 2025) was launched in early 2025 with nine pivot languages and has since expanded through vendor commissions, a partnership with Mozilla Common Voice, and the OLDI open initiative. As of the time of this paper, BOUQuET covers 275 languages, 56 distinct language families, and 33 scripts; 18 of these languages were contributed entirely through community efforts (16 via Mozilla Common Voice, 2 through the open initiative), with the remainder commissioned through vendors (Omnilingual MT Team et al., 2026).

The large-scale extension effort in Omnilingual MT Team et al. (2026) is relevant for the present work because it frames benchmark extension as both a linguistic and an operational problem. In addition to adding languages, it reports that pivot language choice affects translation quality and re-sourcing: French, Indonesian, Swahili, and Spanish facilitated translation more readily than German or Hindi, while exclusive reliance on English as a pivot was associated with lower output quality and higher costs.

OLDI Shared Task and Ladin Contributions Similar community-driven contributions to open

multilingual datasets have been documented in preceding editions of the OLDI shared task. Burchell et al. (2024) report ten accepted submissions at WMT 2024, covering 16 languages and extending FLORES+ (Team et al., 2022; Goyal et al., 2022) and MT Seed. Dale et al. (2025) report eight accepted submissions at WMT 2025, including further extensions of FLORES+ and a new parallel training dataset. These shared tasks demonstrate the viability of coordinated, open data contributions as a mechanism for expanding multilingual evaluation coverage, and the present work follows in the same tradition.

The present work builds directly on our earlier extension of FLORES+ to Val Badia and Gherdëina Ladin (Frontull et al., 2025), which provided the first sentence-level parallel evaluation data for the two varieties. Compared with that earlier work, the present workflow was designed from the beginning as a parallel two-variant process: both varieties were translated in parallel, revised jointly, and then compared against automatic systems in a blind evaluation. For Ladin, BOUQuET now complements FLORES+ by offering paragraph-level, multi-register evaluation; together, the two benchmarks cover both granularities needed for a comprehensive assessment of Ladin MT systems.

MT for Ladin. Prior computational work on machine translation Ladin includes investigations on the impact of backtranslated data generated by paradigmatically different systems (Frontull and Moser, 2024), as well as LLM-based approaches for both Val Badia and Gherdëina using few-shot prompting strategies (Frontull and Ströhle, 2026).

4 Data Collection and Annotation

Our contribution consists of human translations of BOUQuET into Val Badia and Gherdëina Ladin. The full resource contains 1,358 sentence-level translations for each variant, with 854 sentences across 198 paragraphs in the test split and 504 sentences across 120 paragraphs in the dev split.

4.1 Translation Team

In total, six people were involved in the human translation workflow and two independent experts in the validation process. Four translators produced the initial translations, with two assigned to Val Badia and two Gherdëina. Two served as reviewers and revised the translated outputs. The people involved were native speakers of the correspond-

⁷<https://itavalbadia.ladinternet.it/>

⁸<https://forniita.ladinternet.it/>

⁹<https://www.micura.it/la/dizionars/gh/dlplus>

¹⁰<https://www.woerterbuchnetz.de/LDWB2>

¹¹<https://v11.smallcodes.com/>



Figure 3: BOUQuET web interface used for the human translation with spellchecker integration for Ladin: the word “Shanghai”, which is not recognized, is marked with a red wavy underline.

ing Ladin variety, had high proficiency in German, Italian and English, and were familiar with written Ladin norms. We estimate the total effort at 100 hours per variant for the initial translation pass and a further 100 hours for revision and blind evaluation, amounting to roughly 300 hours of expert work across the full project.

4.2 Human Translation

The first translation pass was carried out in the BOUQuET web interface¹² provided by Meta. Figure 3 shows the *Translate* page of the web application used during this step. Translators worked from the BOUQuET source material, using English and German as the reference languages, and could consult available dictionaries as well as the publicly released Italian and Rumantsch dataset translations as supplementary points of reference during the translation process. The web interface was used in Firefox, which allowed to use the existing Ladin spellchecker plugins for Gherdëina¹³ and Val Badia¹⁴. This setup was useful for distributed work because translators could work in a shared interface while receiving immediate orthographic feedback in the relevant variety. It also reduced format handling outside the benchmark platform, kept the required segment identifiers and paragraph units visible during translation, and made it easier to return to uncertain items during later review.

¹²<https://bouquet.metademolab.com/>

¹³<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/ladin-gherd%C3%ABina/>

¹⁴<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/ladin-val-badia/>

4.3 Text Sanitisation

We then carried out automated quality checks on the exported corpus,¹⁵ covering line alignment, length ratios, special symbols, numeric expressions¹⁶, (sentence-final) punctuation, and spellchecker statistics. We also incorporated notes collected during translation to identify uncertain terms, ambiguous source sentences, and cases requiring further discussion between the two Ladin varieties.

4.4 Parallel Alignment

The translated corpora for the two Ladin varieties were then reviewed side by side. We used Align-Fix (Frontull and Haller-Seeber, 2026) to support alignment and inspection at sentence and word level and to identify inconsistent terminology, accidental omissions, and cases where the two varieties had solved the same translation problem in different but instructive ways. This comparison was mutually useful: a well-formed solution in one variant often helped detect an omission, ambiguity, or inconsistent term in the other. The reviewers did not force the varieties into identical structures; instead, they harmonized terminology where appropriate while preserving legitimate differences in Val Badia and Gherdëina usage. At the same time, cases where differences reflected only translation choices rather than genuine linguistic variation were aligned where possible, such as maintaining consistent sentence structure across varieties.

¹⁵Jean Maillard kindly provided us with this preliminary version of the corpus exported from the BOUQuET platform.

¹⁶Numbers written out as words were normalized to numerals to match the English source.

Metric	Gherdëina	Val Badia
Sentences	1,358	1,358
Untouched Sent.	180 (13.25%)	138 (10.16%)
Modified Sent.	1,178 (86.75%)	1,220 (89.84%)
Total Word Edits	7,515	8,262
· Insertions	1,803	1,719
· Deletions	790	1,230
· Substitutions	4,922	5,313
Translation Edit Rate	39.76%	42.28%

Table 2: Quantification statistics for parallel alignment.

To quantify the effort required for parallel alignment, we measured word-level differences between the initial translations and the final aligned outputs using standard Levenshtein distance metrics. As reported in Table 2, the alignment process affected roughly four-fifths of the sentences in both varieties, with around one-fifth remaining unchanged. Substitutions accounted for the majority of edits, while insertions and deletions were limited. This distribution indicates that the initial translations already provided a strong structural and semantic basis. The alignment mainly involved fine-grained adjustments to improve consistency and linguistic naturalness across the two varieties.

In addition to lexical harmonization, the alignment process addressed grammatical and stylistic differences arising from source-language influence and variety-specific conventions. For instance, German recipe instructions frequently employ the polite form of address, while Ladin instructional texts generally favor the second-person form. Similar adaptations were made for agreement patterns and tense selection, ensuring that the final versions reflected natural Ladin usage.

4.5 Blind Human Evaluation

For human validation, we conducted two rounds of evaluation, before and after the parallel alignment, to assess the effectiveness of the parallel alignment process and to obtain additional guidance for the final revision step. Two independent native-speaker evaluators used LiTRA¹⁷ to rank five anonymized candidate translations: the final human reference, Tradutur Ladin, Gemini 3.1 Pro, GPT 5.5, and Claude Sonnet 5. Candidates were ranked from best to worst without revealing system identity. We performed the evaluation at sentence level (which may not fully capture document-level coherence).

¹⁷<https://github.com/schtailmuel/litra>

4.6 Revision

Following the automatic quality analysis and blind human evaluation, we performed a final revision of the aligned corpora. The revision process combined the results of both evaluation stages: automatic quality signals from COMET-based analysis and qualitative feedback from native-speaker judgments. These signals were used to identify segments requiring additional inspection, including cases where automatic analysis indicated potential inconsistencies or where human evaluators preferred one or more MT outputs over the initial reference translation. Native speakers subsequently revised the reference translations where appropriate, improving fluency, naturalness, and fidelity while maintaining consistency across the corpus. The resulting revised translations constitute the final version of the parallel corpora included in our benchmark.

Table 3 reports word and character counts for the final dataset alongside the existing BOUQuET references for English, German, and Italian, together with ratios relative to English. These values provide practical reference points for expected length ratios in downstream checks, for example when flagging unusually short or long translations during automatic QA.

5 Experimental Validation

We assessed the quality of the new references and translations through three complementary analyses. First, we evaluated current MT systems on the BOUQuET test split to characterize the performance of existing translation technologies on the new Ladin benchmark. For translation from Ladin into English, this evaluation determines whether current systems can reliably translate Ladin texts into English, supporting the use of English as a pivot for subsequent automatic quality estimation. For translation into Ladin, it provides a reference point for interpreting benchmark difficulty and the results of the subsequent blind human evaluation.

Language	Words	Chars	Word r.	Char r.
English	17,678	98,650	1.00	1.00
German	16,973	110,009	0.96	1.12
Italian	17,094	105,490	0.97	1.07
Gherdëina	20,078	106,223	1.14	1.08
Val Badia	19,912	107,287	1.13	1.09

Table 3: Word and character counts across languages for the full BOUQuET dataset (test + dev, 1,358 segments).

Second, we applied COMET-based automatic quality estimation by translating the generated Ladin outputs back into English and comparing the resulting translations against the original English references. This analysis provides an additional quality signal and helps identify potential issues, such as omissions or severe translation inconsistencies, that may not have been detected during manual review.

Third, we conducted a blind human ranking study in which independent evaluators compared the final human translations with automatic system outputs. The outcomes of these evaluations informed the final revision process, while also providing an overview of the performance of current zero-shot LLM baselines and dedicated MT systems on the new Ladin benchmark.

5.1 Benchmarking Current MT Systems for Ladin

We generated automatic translations of the test subset for all four evaluated directions: English $\rightarrow$ Val Badia, English $\rightarrow$ Gherdëina, Val Badia $\rightarrow$ English, and Gherdëina $\rightarrow$ English.¹⁸ The systems were GPT 5.5, Gemini 3.1 Pro, Claude Sonnet 5, and Tradutur Ladin, the current Ladin MT system deployed at the University of Innsbruck.¹⁹ The three LLMs were selected as representative general-purpose commercial systems, while Tradutur Ladin provides a dedicated Ladin neural MT baseline.

All LLM calls used temperature 0.0 and batched prompts instructing the model to preserve punctuation, numbers, proper names, and sentence boundaries; the full system prompt is reproduced in Appendix A. Tradutur Ladin was queried through its API with the corresponding source and target settings for each direction and variant. We report BLEU, chrF++, and TER computed with SacreBLEU using default settings.²⁰

English to Ladin The results indicate that the Tradutur Ladin is the strongest automatic baseline for translation into both Ladin varieties. More importantly for the present paper, the scores show that the benchmark does not saturate: there remains a clear gap between automatic outputs and the human references, and the systems are separated by

¹⁸The automatic MT outputs described in Section 5 were generated only after the human references had been produced; they were not used for translation or post-editing.

¹⁹<https://tradutur-informatik.uibk.ac.at/>

²⁰BLEU tokenizer 13a; chrF++ with character order 6 and word order 2; TER with standard tokenization.

System	BLEU $\uparrow$	chrF++ $\uparrow$	TER $\downarrow$
<i>English $\rightarrow$ Gherdëina</i>			
Claude Sonnet 5	9.99	32.44	81.37
GPT 5.5	14.52	39.64	70.26
Gemini 3.1 Pro	25.27	48.60	59.06
Tradutur Ladin	28.51	52.26	55.39
<i>English $\rightarrow$ Val Badia</i>			
Claude Sonnet 5	8.90	32.44	81.37
GPT 5.5	16.34	41.59	68.54
Gemini 3.1 Pro	27.06	49.71	57.45
Tradutur Ladin	33.34	55.32	51.72
<i>Gherdëina $\rightarrow$ English</i>			
Claude Sonnet 5	35.85	58.28	53.75
GPT 5.5	38.91	60.78	50.40
Gemini 3.1 Pro	43.02	63.48	46.10
Tradutur Ladin	33.24	56.31	54.46
<i>Val Badia $\rightarrow$ English</i>			
Claude Sonnet 5	36.94	58.75	52.84
GPT 5.5	39.35	61.55	49.96
Gemini 3.1 Pro	42.98	63.69	45.74
Tradutur Ladin	34.22	57.25	53.19

Table 4: MT results on the BOUQuET Ladin test sets for all translation directions. LLM rows are zero-shot baselines. Higher is better for BLEU/chrF++; lower is better for TER.

all three metrics. We also observe lower scores for Gherdëina than for Val Badia across systems, consistent with prior results (Frontull et al., 2025; Frontull and Ströhle, 2026). Because BLEU can be brittle in morphologically rich and low-resource settings, we interpret it together with chrF++, which provides a complementary character-level view of translation similarity.

Ladin to English The reverse direction (lower half of Table 4) reveals a different pattern. General-purpose LLMs in a zero-shot setting outperform Tradutur Ladin for both varieties, reversing the ranking observed in the English $\rightarrow$ Ladin direction. This is not presented as a new general property of LLMs; related translation asymmetries have also been reported for Romansh varieties (Vamvas et al., 2026).

Domain Specific Performance Figure 4 shows that the aggregate patterns in Table 4 are broadly stable across domains, but not uniform. For English $\rightarrow$ Ladin, Tradutur Ladin has the largest area in both varieties and performs especially strongly in domains such as comments, reflection, and web miscellaneous; the LLM baselines are closer in some conversational material, particularly for Gherdëina. In the reverse directions, Gemini 3.1

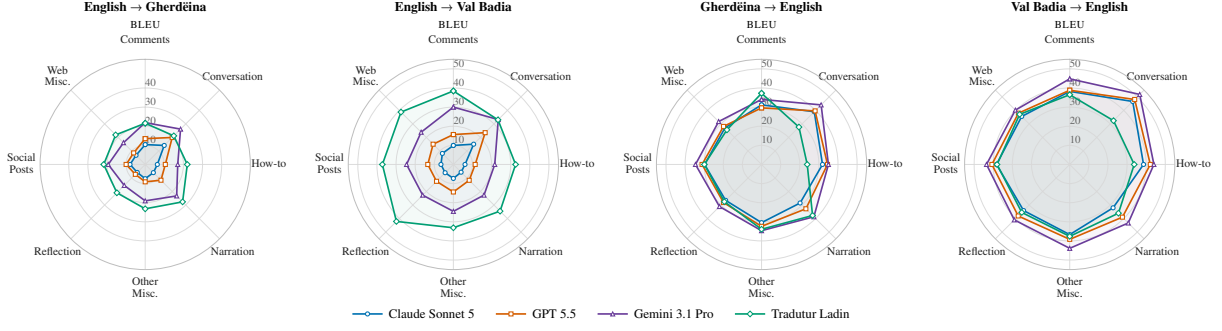


Figure 4: Domain-level translation performance across four translation directions, measured using BLEU. Each radar chart reports performance across eight domains. The legend is shared across all panels. Note that the radial scales differ across translation directions to preserve within-direction variation.

Pro is generally strongest across domains, while differences between the remaining systems vary by domain. The domain plots therefore reinforce the main conclusion without suggesting a single domain-independent ranking: translation direction and text type both affect the observed system gaps.

A notable exception is comparatively weaker performance of the Tradutur Ladin in the conversation domain. This drop is likely driven by a training-data mismatch: the Tradutur Ladin is primarily trained on formal parallel corpora (such as news, historical texts, and institutional documents).

5.2 Automatic Quality Estimation

The Ladin → English MT results presented above confirm that English translations of Ladin texts can be used as a reliable pivot for automatic quality checks. We therefore translated all generated Ladin outputs for both variants (lld_valbadia and lld_gherd) into English using the four independent MT systems. Each resulting sentence was then evaluated using the reference-based COMET model Unbabel/wmt22-comet-da²¹ (Rei et al., 2022). For each sentence, we first averaged the COMET scores obtained from the four English translations, reducing the impact of any single pivot system. We then aggregated these sentence-level averages separately for each Ladin variety by reporting the global mean, minimum, and 99% confidence interval.

For Val Badia, the average sentence-level COMET score was 0.8485 (min.: 0.4417; 99% CI: [0.8424, 0.8546]). For Gherdëina, the corresponding average was 0.8323 (min.: 0.4395; 99% CI: [0.8263, 0.8383]). We used lower-scoring outliers to flag sentences for closer human inspection.

²¹<https://huggingface.co/Unbabel/wmt22-comet-da>

5.3 Human Evaluation Results

Table 5 presents the pairwise win-rate heatmaps for both Ladin varieties before and after parallel alignment. Values are strict win rates, and ties are implicit as the remainder to 100% for each pairwise comparison. The pre- and post-alignment rounds used different evaluation items ($N = 51$ before and $N = 50$ after), while maintaining the same evaluation procedure and evaluator. This design preserved blinding and avoided exposing evaluators to post-edited variants of previously evaluated items. The results show a consistent shift in favor of the human references following parallel alignment. Before alignment, *Tradutur Ladin* was preferred to the human reference in 33.3% of comparisons for Gherdëina and 30.0% for Val Badia. After alignment, these proportions decreased to 22.0% and 20.0%, respectively. Thus, in both Ladin varieties, the revised human translations were more frequently preferred to the automatic translations. The consistent reduction across both varieties provides evidence that the alignment process improved the quality of the human reference translations.²²

6 Conclusion

In this work, we have contributed a Ladin extension of BOUQuET covering two major written varieties, Val Badia and Gherdëina, along with a documented workflow for benchmark creation that combines human translation, revision, parallel alignment, and blind evaluation. The automatic MT results serve as validation baselines that demonstrate the benchmark provides meaningful evaluation signal

²²Because the evaluation sets were independently sampled and relatively small, however, the magnitude of this improvement should be interpreted with caution as the observed differences may also reflect variation in the evaluated items.

Model		A	B	C	D	E
Human	A	–	44.0%	68.0%	86.0%	98.0%
Tradutur Ladin	B	30.0%	–	64.0%	90.0%	96.0%
Gemini 3.1 Pro	C	8.0%	14.0%	–	68.0%	92.0%
GPT 5.5	D	4.0%	8.0%	18.0%	–	66.0%
Claude Sonnet 5	E	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%	16.0%	–

(a) Val Badia, Before Parallel Alignment ($N = 50$)

Model		A	B	C	D	E
Human	A	–	62.7%	76.5%	96.1%	98.0%
Tradutur Ladin	B	33.3%	–	66.7%	94.1%	96.1%
Gemini 3.1 Pro	C	21.6%	25.5%	–	96.1%	96.1%
GPT 5.5	D	3.9%	5.9%	2.0%	–	78.4%
Claude Sonnet 5	E	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	17.6%	–

(c) Gherdëina, Before Parallel Alignment ($N = 51$)

Model		A	B	C	D	E
Human	A	–	52.0%	64.0%	96.0%	98.0%
Tradutur Ladin	B	20.0%	–	54.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Gemini 3.1 Pro	C	10.0%	18.0%	–	72.0%	88.0%
GPT 5.5	D	0.0%	6.0%	10.0%	–	62.0%
Claude Sonnet 5	E	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	16.0%	–

(b) Val Badia, After Parallel Alignment ($N = 50$)

Model		A	B	C	D	E
Human	A	–	72.0%	86.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Tradutur Ladin	B	22.0%	–	74.0%	92.0%	100.0%
Gemini 3.1 Pro	C	10.0%	24.0%	–	88.0%	100.0%
GPT 5.5	D	0.0%	8.0%	12.0%	–	76.0%
Claude Sonnet 5	E	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	24.0%	–

(d) Gherdëina, After Parallel Alignment ($N = 50$)

Table 5: Pairwise win-rate heatmaps showing head-to-head human preference across all evaluated candidate translations for both Ladin dialects (Val Badia and Gherdëina), before and after human parallel alignment. Each cell in row R and column C reports the percentage of total evaluation items (N) where model R was ranked strictly higher than model C by native evaluators.

across current systems. Together with the FLORES+ Ladin extension presented in earlier work, BOUQuET now offers complementary sentence-level and paragraph-level evaluation resources for the assessment of MT systems for Ladin.

Future Work The released benchmark should remain held out for evaluation. Beyond this test resource, however, a similar community workflow could be used to create companion training corpora for Ladin. Even small amounts of high-quality parallel text can have a substantial impact on translation quality in low-resource settings (Maillard et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2024; Caswell et al., 2025). Future efforts could therefore also focus on creating additional Ladin training data by translating suitable multilingual resources into the language, such as OLDI Seed (Team et al., 2022) and SMOL (Caswell et al., 2025; Jones et al., 2023). In this context, the released benchmark could serve as a reference point for quality control and evaluation, helping to ensure the consistency and reliability of newly created training material. With respect to the BOUQuET benchmark extension introduced in this work, future directions will incorporate the previously undocumented terms surfaced in this work into existing lexicographic resources and expand coverage to the other Ladin written varieties (Fascian, Fodom, Anpezan and Ladin Dolomitan). For this, the current dataset can serve as a useful source of translation support and cross-checking, but it will not serve as a normative target. In particular, since the translations were finalised by

native-speaker reviewers with full authority over variety-specific choices, they represent stable, independently justified reference points rather than compromises made to force cross-variety consistency. Consequently, expanding the benchmark will neither trigger revisions of the current varieties nor obligate new varieties to conform to them.

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A Translation Prompt

The following system prompt was used for all LLM translation calls (GPT 5.5, Gemini 3.1 Pro, Claude Sonnet 5) in all translation directions. The placeholders {source_variant}, {target_variant}, and {batch_size} are substituted at run-time with the source-language name (e.g., *English*), the target-language name (e.g., *Ladin* (*Val Badia*)), and the number of sentences in the current batch, respectively.

You are a professional literary translator. Translate the given list of {source_variant} sentences into {target_variant}.

CRITICAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Return ONLY a JSON object containing a key ``translations``.
- The output array MUST contain exactly {batch_size} translations.
- Preserve punctuation, numbers, proper names, and sentence boundaries.
- Do not add any extra commentary or text outside the JSON object.

B Selected Challenging and Previously Undocumented Terms

In this section, we present a selection of terms that proved particularly challenging during the translation process, partly because they were previously undocumented. For each term, we report the translations submitted for Val Badia and Gherdëina, together with the submitted translations.

1. **exercise program** (P006), VB: program d’alenamënt, GH: program d’alenamënt 2. **God willing** (P015), VB: sce Di ó, GH: sce Die uel 3. **chicken (food)** (P038), VB: galüc, GH: gialuc 4. **marriage website** (P042), VB: portal matrimonial, GH: portal matrimoniel 5. **setting (phone)** (P059), VB: impostaziun, GH: impustazion 6. **brightness (screen)** (P059), VB: lominosité, GH: linëus 7. **game pieces** (P060), VB: toc de jüch, GH: pec de juech 8. **draw (game)** (P060), VB: parité, GH: pèr 9. **health supplements** (P063), VB: integradus alimentars, GH: ntegradëures alimenteres 10. **spring onion** (P065), VB: ciola d’aisciöda, GH: ciola d’ansciuda 11. **consumer feedback** (P084), VB: feedback di cliënc, GH: feedback di tlienc 12. **short stocks** (P086), VB: venüda de aziuns a öt, GH: venduda de aziuns a uet 13. **macro factors (stock market)** (P086), VB: faturs macroeconomics, GH: fatores macroeconomics 14. **Residence Permit** (P100), VB: lizënza de sojornanza, GH: lizënza de sujurnanza 15. **railway passenger** (P100), VB: passajiers dla ferata, GH: passajieres dla ferata 16. **online classes** (P109), VB: insegnamënt a destanza, GH: nseniamënt a destanza 17. **load-bearing wall** (P114), VB:

mür che porta, GH: mur che porta 18. **vaccination criteria** (P113), VB: criters de vazinaziun, GH: criters de dlavea 19. **decorating style** (P120), VB: stil por l’aredamënt, GH: stil per l’aredamënt 20. **order number** (P127), VB: numer d’apostaziun, GH: numer de apustazion 21. **sparkling apple cider** (P129), VB: n süch de pom frizant, GH: n süch de mëil frizant 22. **spaceship** (P138), VB: barca spaziala, GH: berca spaziela 23. **pink giant donuts** (P142), VB: donuts rosa giganc, GH: donuts rosa giganc 24. **bank clerk** (P144), VB: impiegat bancar, GH: mpiegat de banca 25. **wealth management** (P144), VB: gestiun de patrimoni, GH: gestion de patrimoni 26. **self-pick-up** (P158), VB: da gní a do instësc, GH: da uní a tò nstësc 27. **caring** (P159), VB: da orëi bun, GH: da ulëi bon 28. **dog treats** (P161), VB: golosaries por cians, GH: gulujaries per cians 29. **Editor-in-Chief** (P165), VB: caporedadëssa, GH: caporedadëura 30. **painter’s tape** (P171), VB: vëta adesiva da moler, GH: vëta adesiva da moler 31. **loyalty** (P187), VB: lealté, GH: redlëza 32. **corner of her eye** (P199), VB: piza dl edl, GH: piza dl uedl 33. **dashboard** (P217), VB: dashboard, GH: dashboard 34. **collaborative tools** (P217), VB: stromënc de colaboraziun, GH: strumënc de culaburazion 35. **productivity loss** (P220), VB: pordüda de produtivité, GH: perduda de produtivité 36. **endurance** (P224), VB: dorada, GH: artenienza 37. **diametrically opposed** (P224), VB: contrar, GH: cuntrer 38. **support innovation** (P231), VB: sostëgn la inovaziun, GH: sustën la inuvazion 39. **high voltage power line** (P232), VB: linia eletrica a tensciun alta, GH: linia eletrica a tencion auta 40. **death by electrical shock** (P232), VB: prigo de mort por scassada eletrica, GH: pericol de mort per scassada eletrica 41. **dearest** (P247), VB: mia cera, GH: mi cëra 42. **regular check up** (P252), VB: vijita regulara de prevenziun, GH: vijita regulara de prevenzion 43. **heartbeat** (P253), VB: bate dl cör, GH: bater dl cuer 44. **superheroine** (P254), VB: supereroina, GH: supereroina 45. **self-promotion** (P260), VB: fá reclam a se instës, GH: fé retlam a sé nstësc 46. **simple look** (P265), VB: aspet scëmpl, GH: aspet scëmpl 47. **swag** (P270), VB: segurëza, GH: segurëza 48. **guardians** (P276), VB: ghirai, GH: respunsabli per l’educazion 49. **sewer** (P300), VB: canal dles eghes fosces, GH: canal dal’eghes fosces 50. **dude** (P300), VB: vedl, GH: ueidl 51. **media design** (P323), VB: design multimedial, GH: design multimediel 52. **domestic commissions** (P323), VB: inciaries nazionales, GH: ncëries nazioneles 53. **wolf spider** (P325), VB: aragn lu, GH: arani lëuf 54. **courier service** (P328), VB: sorvisc de spediziun, GH: servisc de spedizion 55. **account** (P334), VB: acunt, GH: acont 56. **nut on your guitar** (P350), VB: selina de tüa chitara, GH: capotast de ti chitara 57. **trapezius muscle** (P355), VB: muscul trapez, GH: mustl trapez 58. **blazer** (P363), VB: blazer, GH: blazer 59. **handsome young man** (P363), VB: bel jonn, GH: blöt jëun 60. **everything is hanging (software)** (P366), VB: döt é bloché, GH: dut ie blocà 61. **post (social media)** (P375), VB: post, GH: post 62. **middle-aged** (P378), VB: mesa età, GH: mesa età 63. **budget** (P381), VB: budget, GH: budget 64. **so cool** (P384), VB: ci bel, GH: ce bel 65. **current law** (P392), VB: lege varënta, GH: lege n droa 66. **business analyst** (P394), VB: analist aziendal, GH: analist aziendel 67. **plastic-free packaging** (P396), VB: produc nia fac ia te plastica, GH: prudoc nia fac ite te plastica 68. **smartphone** (P399), VB: smartphone, GH: smartphone 69. **teenage daughter** (P399), VB: möta adolescënta, GH: muta jëuna 70. **reliability** (P399), VB: segurëza, GH: segurëza 71. **neck of the bottle** (P412), VB: col dla boza, GH: col dla boza 72. **survival mode** (P420), VB: modalité de suraviënza, GH: modus de sëuravivënza 73. **inconvenience** (P422), VB: galia, GH: galia 74. **follow us** (P437), VB: gnidesse do, GH: unidenes do 75. **one’s own image** (P452), VB: so bun inom, GH: si bon inuem 76. **freedom of expression** (P452), VB: liberté de minunga, GH: lidëza de minonga 77. **tourist apartments** (P458), VB: abitaziuns da vacanza, GH: cuatieres da vacanza 78. **essential goods** (P461), VB: bëgnns essenziail, GH: bëns essenziail 79. **income tax returns** (P463), VB: detlaraziun dles cutes, GH: detlarazion dla chëutes