A MACHINE TRANSLATION SYSTEM FROM HINDI TO SANSKRIT LANGUAGE USING RULE BASED APPROACH

NEHA BHADWAL∗, PRATEEK AGRAWAL† and VISHU MADAAN‡

Abstract. Machine Translation is an area of Natural Language Processing which can replace the laborious task of manual translation. Sanskrit language is among the ancient Indo-Aryan languages. There are numerous works of art and literature in Sanskrit. It has also been a medium for creating treatise of philosophical work as well as works on logic, astronomy and mathematics. On the other hand, Hindi is the most prominent language of India. Moreover, it is among the most widely spoken languages across the world. This paper is an effort to bridge the language barrier between Hindi and Sanskrit language such that any text in Hindi can be translated to Sanskrit. The technique used for achieving the aforesaid objective is rule-based machine translation. The salient linguistic features of the two languages are used to perform the translation. The results are produced in the form of two confusion matrices wherein a total of 50 random sentences and 100 tokens (Hindi words or phrases) were taken for system evaluation. The semantic evaluation of 100 tokens produce an accuracy of 94% while the pragmatic analysis of 50 sentences produce an accuracy of around 86%. Hence, the proposed system can be used to understand the whole translation process and can further be employed as a tool for learning as well as teaching. Further, this application can be embedded in local communication based assisting Internet of Things (IoT) devices like Alexa or Google Assistant.

Key words: Rule based approach, Natural Language Translation, Parts of speech tagging, Sanskrit Translation, Hindi Translation

AMS subject classifications. 68T50

1. Introduction. Machine translation is defined as the branch of artificial intelligence which covers the task of converting a source language to any other target language from the set of natural languages. The meaning of the text should be preserved and output should be fluent as well as correct. It is one of the applications of natural language processing (NLP), which is the study of interaction between human languages and the computers. It is important for the computers to read, analyze, understand and derive meaningful information from the human natural language. This needs to be done in an accurate and optimized way. Apart from machine translation, other applications of NLP include sentiment analysis, speech recognition, auto summarizing and topic segmentation.

1.1. NLP phases. Major phases involved in NLP, once the system receives the input, are as follows:

1.1.1. Morphological processing. It is the study of recognizing how a base word is modified to form words having similar meanings and syntactical structures.

1.1.2. Lexical analysis. It is the process of dividing the whole text into smaller units called lexicons. The lexicon of a language can be a paragraph, a sentence or a word.

1.1.3. Syntactical analysis (Parsing). It is the process which analyses the arrangement of the words which shows their relationship and checks the sentence for grammar.

1.1.4. Semantic analysis. It is the process of extracting and checking the dictionary meaning of each word. The text is checked for meaningfulness.

∗School of Computer Science & Engineering, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab, India (bhadwalneha21@gmail.com)
†School of Computer Science & Engineering, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab, India and Institute of ITEC, University of Klagenfurt, Austria (prateek061186@gmail.com): corresponding author
‡Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab (India) (vishumadaan123@gmail.com)
**Table 1.1**
*A Brief Comparison of Hindi and Sanskrit Grammar*

| Basis                  | Hindi                        | Sanskrit                      |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alphabets              | 45 characters (varnas)       | 46 characters (varnas)        |
| Total Vowels           | 12 vowels (swaras)           | 13 vowels (swaras)            |
| Total Consonants       | 33 consonants (vyanjanas)    | 33 consonants (vyanjanas)     |
| Number                 | 2; singular plural           | 3; singular, dual, plural     |
| Gender                 | 2; masculine, feminine       | 3; masculine, feminine, neuter|
| Person                 | 3; first, second, third      | 3; first, second, third       |
| Ordering of Sentence   | S-V-O (Subject-Verb-Object)  | Order free language           |
| Total Tenses           | 3; Present, Past, Future    | 6; Aorist, Perfect, Present, Imperfect, First future, Second future |
| Verb Mood              | 3; Indicative, Imperative, Subjective | 4; Imperative, Conditional Benedictive, Potential |

**Table 1.2**
*Vibhakti-Kaaraka relationship*

| Vibhakti | Karaka | Meaning                      |
|----------|--------|------------------------------|
| Nominative | Kartaa | Performer/Subject            |
| Accusative | Karama | Object                       |
| Instrumental | Karana | Instrument                   |
| Dative    | Sampradana | For whom the action is performed |
| Ablative   | Apadana  | From where (place) the action is performed |
| Genitive   | Sambandha | Denotes possession          |
| Locative   | Adhikarana | Location                     |
| Vocative   | Sambodhana | Used to address someone     |

1.1.5. Discourse integration. It is the study of the relationship between any two sentences in a text. The meaning of one sentence may depend upon the preceding sentence and also brings about the meaning of next sentence.

1.1.6. Pragmatic analysis. It is the process which derives such aspects of the natural language that require real world knowledge. The text is re-interpreted to convey what it actually meant.

The benefits of using a machine translator instead of doing it manually are numerous. It is time-saving and optimizes effort and cost. It can also provide confidentiality and multi-lingual support which may not be possible in case of manual translation. However, problems may arise if context consideration is not taken into account. Similarly, languages may be ambiguous or have different structures. Also, machine translation is still not fully accurate.

1.2. Linguistic Features of Sanskrit. The Sanskrit language is one of the ancient Indo-Aryan languages. Vedic Sanskrit has been used to write many of the ancient documents. The classical Sanskrit is described in a famous grammar called Astadhyayi (Eight Chapters) composed by Panini. Sanskrit is written in Devanagari script as well as in various regional scripts. There are numerous works of drama and poetry in Sanskrit. It has also been a medium for creating treatise of philosophical work as well as works on logic, astronomy and mathematics. Grammatically, it is similar to Indo-European languages as it is an inflected language. Sanskrit language comprises of 46 characters (varnas) out of those, there are 33 consonants (vyanjanas) and 13 vowels (swaras). Sanskrit language comprises of a total of eight cases. There are six tenses (kaala). In addition, there are four moods (arthaa). These four moods and six tenses are together known as a total of ten Lakaaras of the Sanskrit grammar. In addition, Sanskrit word order is free which means most of the sentences can be read and written in free-word-order.

1.3. Comparison of Hindi and Sanskrit language. Hindi is one of the official languages of India [5]. It is the fourth most widely spoken language in the world after Mandarin, English and Spanish [22]. Hindi is directly derived from Sanskrit language. It is regarded as the Apabhramsha (corrupted version) of Prakrit which is the Apabhramsha of Sanskrit. Though both the languages have same root, there are grammatical differences between Hindi and Sanskrit.
Hindi has two types of vowels, short (Hrasva svaras) and long (Deergha svaras) vowels while Sanskrit has three types of vowels, short (Hrasva svaras), long (Deergha svaras) and elongated (Pluta svaras) vowels. In Sanskrit, the last syllable of the word is pronounced completely unless it is marked with a halanta (symbol). For Hindi, word order matters while for Sanskrit it does not matter. There are three basic parts of speech in Sanskrit namely, Shabda (nouns, pronouns, adjectives), dhaatu (verbs) and avyaya (indeclinables). Table 1.1 presents a comparison of Hindi and Sanskrit grammar.

1.3.1 Nouns and Gender. In Sanskrit, every noun has 24 forms which is a combination of a case (vibhakti) and a number (vachana). Also, each noun has a gender. However, adjectives in Sanskrit do not have fixed gender. It should comply with the noun it describes in gender, case and number.

1.3.2 Vibhaktis. A word can have eight possible vibhaktis. Six of these, which are related to actions, are called kaarakas. Possessive and denominative are not related to any action. Table 1.2 depicts the association between vibhakti and kaaraka.

1.3.3 Sandhi. When a certain set of letters come together either between or within words, there occurs certain euphonic changes. Depending on the type of letters involved in coalescence, Sandhi can be categorized as Swara Sandhi, Vyanjana Sandhi and Visarga Sandhi.

The paper is organized as follows. The main results are in 4, the proposed algorithm is in 3, and the conclusions follow in 5. The previous related work is in 2.

2. Previous Work. A method is presented in [14] to perform syntax analysis of Hindi sentences via a parsing technique based on probability. This technique makes use of CYK (Cocke–Younger–Kasami) parsing algorithm. This morphological analyzer tool was used to identify whether the Hindi sentence is right or not when studied semantically by creating parse tables and making use of morphological information with around 80% accuracy in the syntax analysis stage and around 89% in the semantic analysis phase (given the syntax analysis phase generates positive results). A rule-based lexicon parser is proposed by [23] for parsing tokens of Hindi sentence. The Hindi sentence was analyzed both syntactically and semantically after it was tokenized. This analysis was performed with the help of Hindi Wordnet by applying multiple tags. This parser was claimed to produce an accuracy of around 89% when evaluated for different sentences. English-Sanskrit-Hindi translation pair divergences are presented by [8]. The authors study English-Sanskrit and Hindi Sanskrit language pairs to identify divergences specific to each language involved. Verb frames for Hindi language were developed by [4]. A linguistic tool was developed to analyze and understand Hindi verbs. A classification of verbs was performed.
Algorithm 2 HST algorithm

```plaintext
1: procedure HST(W, Vp, F, T, C, N, P, S0, S1, P1, P2, D)
2: W: Set of all Hindi words given in the sentence
3: Vp: Set of all verb form words in Hindi
4: F: Set of all prepositions in Hindi
5: T: Set of all tenses in Sanskrit
6: C: Set of all cases in Hindi
7: N: Set of all numbers in Sanskrit
8: P: Set of prefixes for Sanskrit verb form words
9: S: Set of suffixes for Sanskrit verb form words
10: S0: Set of translated Sanskrit words
11: S1: Set of translated Sanskrit words
12: P1: Set of translated Sanskrit verb words
13: P2: Set of translated Sanskrit verb words
14: D: Set of Sanskrit words in sentence after translation
15: S0, S1 = empty
16: FOR EACH w in W
17:     IF w1 = NULL AND w1+1 = = "हरि" | "विष्णु" THEN
18:         S0 = w1, U V0, U w1+1
19:     ELSE
20:         S0 = w1, U w1+1
21:     ENDIF
22:     S1 = S0
23:     ENDIF
24:     Compare reverse [S0] with predefined ending phrase list E[n] from corpus
25:     Store tense 't', number 'r' and gender 'g' corresponding to E[n]
26:     IF substrings s1, s2, s3, ..., sn ∈ S0, match with E[n] THEN
27:         S0 = MAX(length(s1), length(s2), ..., length(sn))
28:     ENDIF
29:     S1 = (S0, S0)
30:     IF S1 = Vp THEN
31:         Store Sanskrit verb Vp corresponding to Vp present in corpus
32:     ENDIF
33:     IF (t & r & g) = (T[n] & N[n] & G[n]) THEN
34:         Store prefix, P1 and suffix, S1 corresponding to (T[n] & N[n] & G[n]) from corpus
35:     ENDIF
36:     ENDIF
37: ENDFOR
38: FOR EACH w in (W-S0)
39:     IF w1 = NULL AND w1+1 = NULL AND w1+2 = = "अंद्रेश" | "वामन" THEN
40:         w1 = (w1, U "अ""
41:     ELSE
42:         w1 = (w1, U "अ""
43:     ENDIF
44:     IF w1 = NULL AND w1+1 = P THEN
45:         IF w1+1 = = "वा" THEN
46:             c = nominative
47:         ELSE IF w1+1 = = "अ" THEN
48:             c = accusative
49:         ELSE IF w1+1 = = "अ" THEN
50:             c = dative
51:         ELSE IF w1+1 = = "अ" THEN
52:             c = genitive
53:         ELSE IF w1+1 = = "अ" THEN
54:             c = locative
55:         ELSE IF w1+1 = = "अ" THEN
56:             c = ablative
57:         ELSE IF w1+1 = = "अ" THEN
58:             c = instrumental
59:         ENDIF
60:     ELSE IF w1+1 = = "अ" THEN
61:         i = i + 1
62:     ELSE
63:         i = i + 2
64:     ENDIF
65:     Store word form w as last character of w_i
66:     w_i = last [w_i]
67: IF (c & w_i & r) = = (C[n] & F[n] & N[n]) THEN
68:     Store prefix P1 and suffix S1 corresponding to (C[n] & F[n] & N[n]) from corpus
69: ENDIF
70: P1 = S1, U S1
71: P2 = P1, U P1
72: ENDFOR
73: Combine two outputs to give final output D
74: D = (P1, U P2)
75: Display D
```
and verb frames were created using the kaaraka relationships of the verbs. The criteria of classification was the syntactic and semantic differences between the verbs.

Natural language processing technique is applied by [11] to parse Hindi words and to extract the root words after performing stemming on each individual word. A tool is implemented by [26] to paraphrase the Hindi sentences by using active-passive voice rules and synonym-antonym replacement methods. An algorithm for the transliteration from English to Sanskrit text is presented providing 100% accuracy [12]. The process performs the mapping by making use of Hindi Unicode characters.

Also, a review of various types of MTS is presented by [24]. In their survey, the researchers highlighted and categorized mainly used approached for machine translation system as; rule-based, corpus-based and hybrid machine translation. In addition, [18] provided a view of example based machine translation system (EBMT). It was then compared with RBMT and SMT systems. The prominent characteristics of Sanskrit grammar and a comparison of English language and Sanskrit language were presented. The paper has shown the divergence between English and Sanskrit language with the help of illustrative examples. An overview of a FOS (Free and Open Source) rule-based MTS named Apertium is given by [7]. A comparison of rule-based MT and Statistical MT was performed keeping in account the origin of the languages [29]. A five-way comparison between RBMT and SMT followed by English and Indian origin language was done.

An evaluation method is given by [15] which they applied to the three major MT approaches namely, rule-base, phrase-based and neural MT. They have used a case study as the basis of their research work, which performs the translation from English to German language. A number of research efforts were reviewed by [28] under the example-based machine translation paradigm and attempted to categorize them into various classes. The features of various EBMT systems were discussed. The limitations and advantages of an EBMT system were highlighted.

Statistical methods were discussed by [6] along with pre-processing and post-processing of words to improve the performance of English to Arabic language MT such as morphological tokenization, syntactic reordering, orthographic normalization, morphological de-tokenization, orthographic de-tokenization and orthographic enrichment etc. An MTS was designed by [10] for English to Finnish translation, which uses rule-based approach. An empirical study was performed by [21] of the top five state-of-the-art machine translation systems from English to the languages which were considered to be having lesser resources namely, Lao(la), Myanmar(mm) and Thai(th) in both the directions. Various methods of MT were emphasised such as string-to-tree, tree-to-string, phrase-based, hierarchical phrase-based, operational sequence model statistical MTS.

A machine translation system based on rule-based approach was proposed by [17], which worked from English to Sanskrit language. The proposed approach, makes use of a set of transfer rules which are hand-written and convert the lexicons (could be paragraphs, sentences or phrases) from English to Sanskrit language. On a similar note, a process engine named EtranS which accepts sentence in English and produces its equivalent sentence in Sanskrit after translation, was developed by [3]. The approach followed was rule-based and they discussed firstly some syntactical features of the Sanskrit language followed by a comparison between Sanskrit grammar and Context Free Grammar. Another rule-based approach to manifest knowledge representation of a machine translation procedure from Sanskrit to English language was presented by [9]. Various MTS which involve Sanskrit as either a source, target or a key support language are discussed by [13]. They also presented different techniques used by researchers for machine translation, such as, Corpus based, Rule based and Direct translation. The principal objective of this paper was to find out the Sanskrit language suitability, morphology and apply most suitable MT techniques. Furthermore, an RDR POS tagger was developed by [20] to tag the words based on part of speech of the given sentence. A rule-based MT approach from Hindi to English was proposed by [16]. In his Ph.D. thesis report, [1] proposed a machine translation system for Sanskrit to Hindi language.

[2] provide an overview of Machine Learning giving an insight to why it is the future of computing industry. Ant Colony Optimization algorithm and its variants are reviewed based on various categories of problems they are applied to by [27]. [19] highlights various state-of-the-art Virtual Reality (VR) & Augmented Reality (AR) technologies that will prove to be beneficial for tourism and hospitality industry. A cumulative analysis of multiple text document classification algorithms has been discussed by [25].
### Table 2.1
Steps followed by HTS

| Step | Description | Output |
|------|-------------|--------|
| 1    | Input text provided to the system | raama raavanNa ko baaNa se dharna kee rakshA kolye ayodhya se jaakara maarataa hai |
| 2    | Transliteration of the input text | रम //NNP सावण /NNP की /PSP बाण /NN से /PSP प्रलं /NN की /PSP रक्षा /NNP के लिये /NN अवधारणा /NNP से /PSP जाकर /VM मारता /NN है /VAUX |
| 3    | POS tagging of input text | रम //NNPC सावण /NNP की /PSP बाण /NN से /PSP प्रलं /NN की /PSP रक्षा /NNP के लिये /NN अवधारणा /NNP से /PSP जाकर /VM मारता /NN है /VAUX |
| 4    | Semantic analysis of input text | रम में सावण की बाण से अवधारणा की रक्षा के लिये अवधारणा से जाकर मारता है |
| 5    | Explanation of the analysis | रम / पुहुचचित्र / 1 ने / संबंध सुधार अवधारणा सावण / पुहुचचित्र / 2 की / संबंध सुधार अवधारणा बाण / बाण / 3 ने / संबंध सुधार अवधारणा धरण / पुहुचचित्र / 4 की / संबंध सुधार अवधारणा रक्षा / पुहुचचित्र / 5 के लिये / संबंध सुधार अवधारणा मारता है / पुहुचचित्र प्रदाता / PM |
| 6    | Final translation | रमः रामम् बलानु धर्ममुद्र रक्षाती अवधारणातः महां हर्षती |

### Table 2.2
Sample for Semantic Analysis of tokens (Hindi words & phrases)

| S.N. | Input | Expected Output | Actual Output | Match |
|------|-------|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| 1    | रम   | रमः             | रमः           | Yes   |
| 2    | जाता है | गभुचित्री | गभुचित्री | Yes   |
| 3    | जीत   | च   | च   | Yes   |
| 4    | अक्षर है | पदात   | पदात   | Yes   |
| 5    | विद्वायत   | विद्वायतम् | विद्वायतम् | Yes   |
| 6    | रम की | रामम् | रामम् | No    |
| 7    | खेलना बाहिणें | खेलेचवित्र् | खेलेचवित्र् | Yes   |
| 8    | पुजा करते हैं | अनुज्जति | अनुज्जति | Yes   |
| 9    | दश रात की | अवधारणा | अवधारणा | Yes   |
| 10   | जाणा | गभुचित्री | गभुचित्री | Yes   |
| 11   | देते हैं | पुहुचचित्र | पुहुचचित्र | Yes   |
| 12   | हम नेत्र | द्वादश | द्वादश | Yes   |
| 13   | देते हो | गभुचित्र | गभुचित्र | Yes   |
| 14   | सीता | सीता | सीता | Yes   |
| 15   | रामम् की | रामम् | रामम् | Yes   |
| 16   | रहना बाहिणें | राजस्वयम् | राजस्वयम् | Yes   |
| 17   | हटती है | पुहुचचित्र | पुहुचचित्र | Yes   |
| 18   | नहीं पर | नदिम् | नदिम् | No    |
| 19   | मरे | हत्तु | हत्तु | Yes   |
| 20   | देते हैं | विद्वायतम् | विद्वायतम् | Yes   |
A Machine Translation System from Hindi to Sanskrit Language using Rule based Approach

Fig. 2.1. Providing input text to the system

Fig. 2.2. Transliteration of input text

Fig. 2.3. POS tagging of input text

Table 2.3
Confusion matrix for Semantic Analysis

| Output tokens | C   | I   | Total |
|---------------|-----|-----|-------|
| C             | 74  | 06  | 80    |
| Input tokens  |     |     |       |
| C             |     |     |       |
| I             | 00  | 20  | 20    |
| Total         | 74  | 26  | 100   |

* C - Correct  I - Incorrect
3. Proposed Methodology. The Hindi to Sanskrit Translation system (HST) is a rule-based model. The prototype model that we have developed is a machine translation system from Hindi to Sanskrit language and it makes use of the rule-based approach. A rule-based machine translation system (RBMT) makes use of dictionaries (bilingual or multilingual) and grammars of both the source and target languages. This linguistic information contains the semantic, syntactical and morphological patterns of each of the languages. An RBMT system can either be a dictionary based MT, a transfer based MT or an Interlingua. Our system is a direct system (dictionary based MT) which maps input (Hindi text) to output (Sanskrit text) with basic rules. We have developed a Java application for implementation purposes. The system is fast and easy to implement. Moreover, the accuracy and performance can be further improved by the addition of more complex rules to cover the overall features of the language.

The proposed model takes in as input a Hindi text, processes it and produces the corresponding Sanskrit text as output as shown in figure 2.6. The processing phase is divided into multiple modules. These modules are described in the following subsections and algorithm 2 presents the steps involved:

3.1. Transliteration module. Transliteration refers to the process of converting a set of characters that are in the source language to a set of characters that are in the target language which have similar pronunciation. In other words, the phonetic similarity of the two languages is taken into account for transliteration. We have used a set of rules to perform this mapping from Latin to Devanagari script giving a 100% accuracy based on [12].

3.2. POS tagging module. POS (Part-Of-Speech) tagging is referred to as the task of assigning every word in a text to a particular part of speech such as, noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, etc. This tagging depends upon the actual meaning and the context of the word in the text. We have used the RDR (Ripple Down Rule based) POS tagger which uses an error-driven approach to construct tagging rules in the form of
A Machine Translation System from Hindi to Sanskrit Language using Rule based Approach

3.3. Rule-base engine. We have created a database to store rules for translation from Hindi to Sanskrit text. The database consists of multiple rules which are being used to identify and map verbs, nouns, etc. This is done by identifying the number (vachana), gender, case and person (purusha). The conversion from source to target language takes place by comparing, mapping and identifying the corresponding values from the corpus.

3.4. Root Verb extraction module. This module outputs the equivalent Sanskrit verb for the input Hindi verb. The root verb depends upon person, gender and number of the noun to which the verb corresponds to. The algorithm first tries to extract the person, number and case for the verb. Then, it extracts the root verb, compares and finds an appropriate mapping from Hindi to Sanskrit.
4. Implementation and Results. We have implemented our Hindi to Sanskrit translation (HST) system in Windows using Java. A GUI (Graphical User Interface) has been developed wherein the user is prompted to enter the Hindi sentence as input from the keyboard (in Latin script) and the end result, in the form of Sanskrit sentence, is displayed on the interface. The input text is first transliterated to phonetically similar Devanagari script, Ripple Down Rule-based Parts Of Speech (RDR-POS) tagging is performed to identify different parts of speech, input sentence is then analyzed semantically and finally, the translation to Sanskrit is performed. It also shows the result after transliteration and POS tagging (using RDR POS tagger) of the input Hindi sentence before translation to Sanskrit. Various steps followed by the system are explained and shown in figure 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, and 2.6. The description and output of every step is presented concisely in table 2.1.

Semantic analysis is applied to tokens which eventually combine to form sentences. Out of 100 tokens, 80 are correct for which a sample is displayed in the form of table 2.2. The 20 incorrect tokens are not recognized by the system. Since no output is produced for them they are not displayed in the table. Table 2.3 depicts the confusion matrix created for the analysis purpose.

\[
\text{Accuracy} = \frac{74+20}{100} = \frac{94}{100} = 0.940
\]

\[
\text{Error Rate} = \frac{6+0}{100} = \frac{6}{100} = 0.060
\]

Pragmatic analysis is performed on 50 sentences, out of which 35 are correct and 15 are incorrect. The sample for analysis is displayed in table 2.4. Table 2.5 depicts the confusion matrix created for the analysis purpose.

\[
\text{Accuracy} = \frac{30+13}{50} = \frac{43}{50} = 0.860
\]

\[
\text{Error Rate} = \frac{5+2}{50} = \frac{7}{50} = 0.140
\]

5. Conclusions and Future Work. The work proposed above strives to translate different kinds of possible Hindi sentences to equivalent Sanskrit sentences. All of these modules provide a deep and thorough understanding of the interaction between the two languages and their translation process. The rule-based approach can explain the detailed comparison of the two languages of interest and the logical process of how we reach a particular result. These features make this translation system an excellent tool for study involving languages and their interaction. Apart from being a learning tool, it can be used as a teaching pedagogy tool. This will be beneficial for the students and teachers who are involved in the process of learning and teaching Sanskrit language.

In future, we can try to translate interrogative and more complex type of sentences. We can also attempt to use other approaches to machine translation apart from the rule based approach and compare the results. The system can be enhanced to support voice translation taking speech (in source language) as input and producing speech (in target language) as output. We can try to minimize the processing time and the memory requirements of the translator so that the use of the computer resources is optimized.

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