

## **Document Overview**

- This is a documentation overview of how to use Batchalign2 to do syntactic and morphological parsing with examples in Italian using the [VoxCommunis spoken Italian corpus](#)

## **Batchalign2 Overview**

- Batchalign2 is a command-line pipeline developed under the TalkBank project for automatic morphological tagging and Universal Dependencies (UD) syntactic parsing across multiple languages, including Italian.
- It takes linguistic transcripts in the CHAT (.cha) format and produces two key annotation layers:
  - %mor: morphological analysis (lemmas, parts of speech, and inflectional features)
  - %gra: syntactic analysis following the Universal Dependencies (UD) standard.
- Batchalign2 integrates the **Stanza** NLP models and the **UD framework** into the TalkBank/CLAN ecosystem, enabling consistent morphosyntactic annotation of multilingual corpora.
- It automates tokenization, morphological tagging, lemmatization, and dependency parsing, storing all results back in CHAT format—making the output directly usable with CLAN tools for further linguistic or developmental analysis.
- Functions and Commands:
  - asr: ASR!
  - morphosyntax: PoS and dependency analysis
  - fa: Forced Alignment (requires utterance-level timings already)

## **Universal Dependencies Overview**

- **Universal Dependencies (UD)** is an international framework for the consistent annotation of grammar—covering parts of speech, morphological features, and syntactic dependencies—across human languages.
- UD is an open, collaborative project involving over 600 contributors, maintaining more than 200 treebanks in 150+ languages.
- Its goal is to create a cross-linguistically consistent representation of grammatical relations, allowing comparable syntactic analysis across languages like Italian, Mandarin, English, and many others.

## **What we need to do in terms of using CLAN and Batchalign2 to do morphological and syntactic analysis and parsing:**

1. **Download CLAN (MacBook or Windows, or for a more detailed overview of CLAN, please see → [here](#))**  
<https://dali.talkbank.org/clan/>

**2. Download Batchalign/Environment Setup (Open MacBook Terminal and paste the following)**

```
# Install UV (a lightweight Python environment manager)
curl -LsSf https://astral.sh/uv/install.sh | sh

# Install Batchalign2 for Python 3.11
UV_PYTHON=3.11 uv tool install batchalign

# Ensure ~/.local/bin is in your PATH
echo 'export PATH="$HOME/.local/bin:$PATH"' >> ~/.zshrc
source ~/.zshrc

# Check installation
batchalign --help
```

**3. Data Preprocessing (R Studio) → also see [txt-to-cha.R](#)**

**Aim data cleaning:** Txt file → cha file

- A valid .cha file must follow CHAT conventions: every utterance on its own line and starting with a speaker code (e.g., \*ADU:, \*CHI:, \*MOT:).

**Tips:**

- A Cha file can be automatically converted to a txt file and vice versa (just **rename** the a cha file to a txt file! **Example:** Sample.cha → Sample.txt)
- **@Languages:** must include the language code (e.g., ita, zho, eng, spa).
  - The Italian model will be loaded automatically from Stanza/UD based on **@Languages: ita**.
- Sentences must end with a space and punctuation (., !, or ?).
- Delete empty or malformed tokens like <>, which cause lexer errors.

**Things we need to do for the VoxCommunis dataset:**

1. Add speaker tier at the beginning of each sentence (e.g., \*ADU: )
2. Remove all other symbols (e.g., @, \*, % or <>:)
3. Ensure a space before punctuations (e.g., . ! or ?)
4. Add a final period if missing
5. Make sure to add the following at the beginning of the cha file
  - @UTF8
  - @Begin
  - @Languages: ita
  - @Participants: ADU Adult
  - @ID: ita|troncamento|ADU||||Adult||

6. Make sure to add the following at the end of the cha file
- @End

### **Successful Example:**

```
@UTF8 → Must
@Begin → Must
@Languages: ita → Must
@Participants: ADU Adult → Must
@ID: ita|troncamento|ADU||||Adult|| → Must
@Media: 10192025, audio → optional
@Date: 19-OCT-2025 → optional
*ADU: Il libro ha suscitato molte polemiche a causa dei suoi contenuti . → Must
@End → Must
```

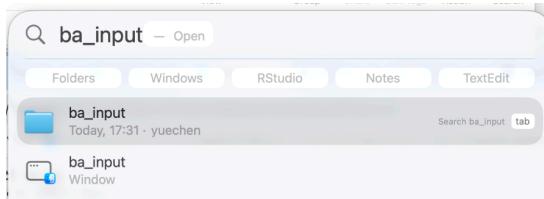


```

1 @UTF8
2 @Begin
3 @Languages: ita
4 @Participants: ADU Adult
5 @ID: ita|troncamento|ADU||||Adult||
6 @Media: 10192025, audio
7 @Date: 19-OCT-2025
8 *ADU: Il libro ha suscitato molte polemiche a causa dei suoi contenuti .
9 @End
10

```

### **Sample Input file (where you should put it? Search ba\_input!):**



### **4. Parsing: Commands used for Batchalign2 (MacBook Terminal)**

```
# check input file
sed -n '1,25p' ~/ba_input/troncamento.cha
```

```
# run batch aligner
batchalign morphotag ~/ba_input ~/ba_output

# check output file %mor / %gra
grep -n "^\%mor:\|^%gra:" ~/ba_output/troncamento.cha | head
```

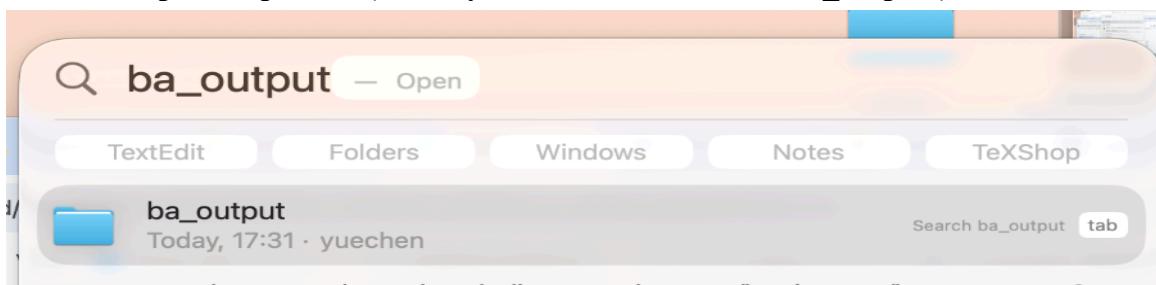
### What you will see if it's successfully running:

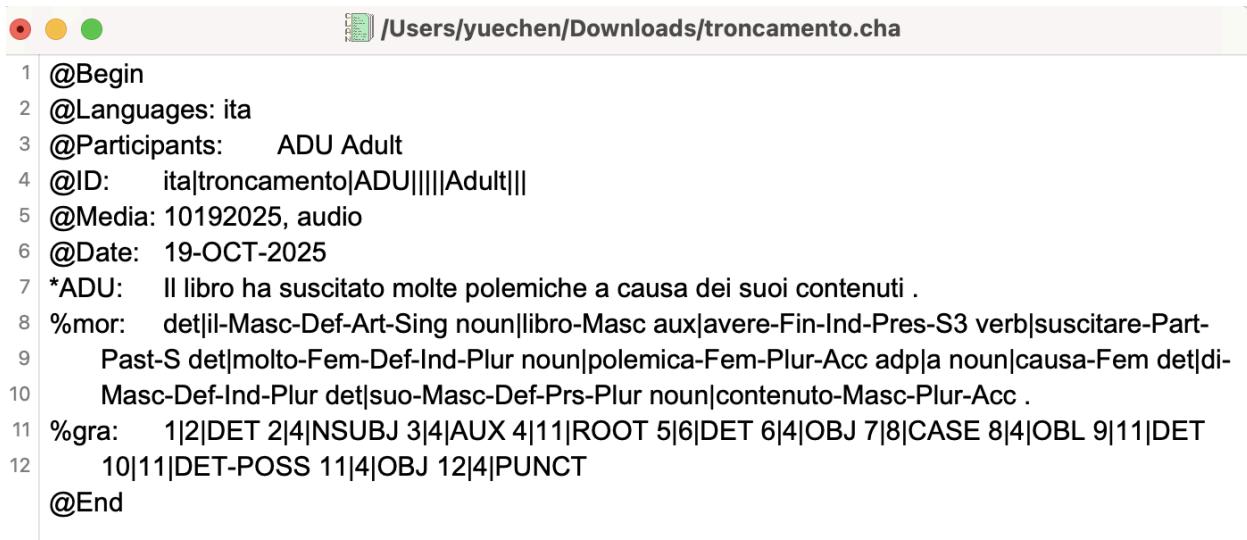
● ● ● ⚡ yuechen — python -m batchalign morphotag ~/ba\_input ~/ba\_output — 8...

```
/Users/yuechen/.local/share/uv/tools/batchalign/lib/python3.11/site-packages/pr
atio/utilities/utils.py:9: UserWarning: pkg_resources is deprecated as an API. S
ee https://setuptools.pypa.io/en/latest/pkg_resources.html. The pkg_resources pa
ckage is slated for removal as early as 2025-11-30. Refrain from using this pack
age or pin to SetupTools<81.
    from pkg_resources import resource_filename
/Users/yuechen/.local/share/uv/tools/batchalign/lib/python3.11/site-packages/pya
nnote/audio/core/io.py:212: UserWarning: torchaudio._backend.list_audio_backends
    has been deprecated. This deprecation is part of a large refactoring effort to
    transition TorchAudio into a maintenance phase. The decoding and encoding capabi
    lities of PyTorch for both audio and video are being consolidated into TorchCode
    c. Please see https://github.com/pytorch/audio/issues/3902 for more information.
    It will be removed from the 2.9 release.
        torchaudio.list_audio_backends()

Mode: morphotag; got 1 transcript to process from /Users/yuechen/ba_input:
Downloading https://raw.githubusercontent.com/stanfordnlp/stanza-resources/main/
Downloading
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/stanfordnlp/stanza-resources/main/resources_1.
11.0.json: 436kB [00:00, 242MB/s]
: troncamento.cha ----- 3% 0:32:56 Running: Morpho-Syntax
```

### Sample Output file (where you can find it? Search ba\_output!):





```

1 @Begin
2 @Languages: ita
3 @Participants: ADU Adult
4 @ID: ita|troncamento|ADU|||||Adult|||
5 @Media: 10192025, audio
6 @Date: 19-OCT-2025
7 *ADU: Il libro ha suscitato molte polemiche a causa dei suoi contenuti .
8 %mor: det|il-Masc-Def-Art-Sing noun|libro-Masc aux|avere-Fin-Ind-Pres-S3 verb|suscitare-Part-
9     Past-S det|molto-Fem-Def-Ind-Plur noun|polemica-Fem-Plur-Acc adp|a noun|causa-Fem det|di-
10    Masc-Def-Ind-Plur det|suo-Masc-Def-Prs-Plur noun|contenuto-Masc-Plur-Acc .
11 %gra: 1|2|DET 2|4|NSUBJ 3|4|AUX 4|11|ROOT 5|6|DET 6|4|OBJ 7|8|CASE 8|4|OBL 9|11|DET
12 10|11|DET-POSS 11|4|OBJ 12|4|PUNCT
@End

```

## 5. Understanding the Output:

**Sample sentence:** Il libro ha suscitato molte polemiche a causa dei suoi contenuti.

**English Translation:** The book has sparked much controversy because of its contents.

**Morphological layer (%mor)** (also see the column named [morphonological analysis](#) in the `it_vxc_spkr17_with_parsing.tsv` file):

```
%mor: det|il-Masc-Def-Art-Sing noun|libro-Masc aux|avere-Fin-Ind-Pres-S3
verb|suscitare-Part-Past-S det|molto-Fem-Def-Ind-Plur noun|polemica-Fem-Plur-Acc
adp|a noun|causa-Fem det|di-Masc-Def-Ind-Plur det|suo-Masc-Def-Prs-Plur
noun|contenuto-Masc-Plur-Acc .
```

### What does the Morphological layer (%mor) tire do?

- Breaks the sentence down word-by-word and encodes part of speech + grammatical features (gender, number, tense, etc.).
  - Lemma (dictionary form): e.g. libro, suscitare
  - Part of speech: noun, verb, det, adp, etc.
  - Morphosyntactic features:
    - Gender: Masc/Fem
    - Number: Sing/Plur
    - Tense: Pres, Past, Fut
    - Mood: Ind (indicative), Subj (subjunctive)
    - Person: S1, S2, S3 (subject 1st, 2nd, 3rd person)
    - Case: Nom (nominative), Acc (accusative), etc.

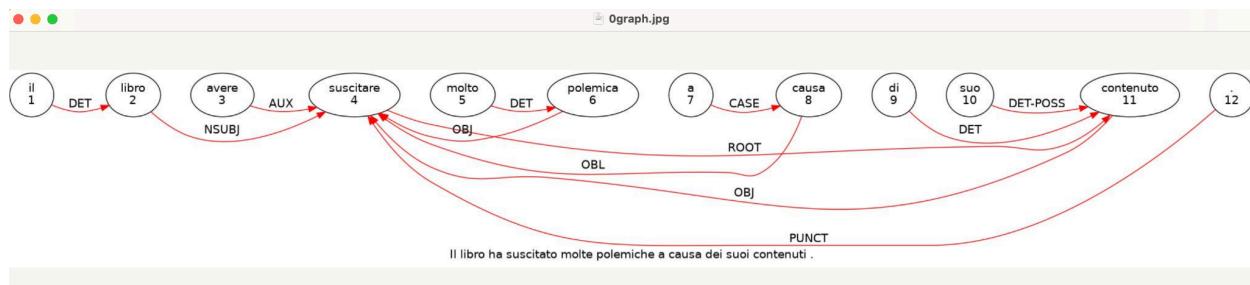
**Syntactic layer (%gra)** (also see the column named **syntactic\_parsing** in the `it_vxc_spkr17_with_parsing.tsv` file):

```
%gra: 1|2|DET 2|4|NSUBJ 3|4|AUX 4|11|ROOT 5|6|DET 6|4|OBJ 7|8|CASE 8|4|OBL  
9|11|DET 10|11|DET-POSS 11|4|OBJ 12|4|PUNCT
```

### What does the Syntactic layer (%gra) tire do?

- These lines show token IDs (word order, such as word 1, word 2, word 3), dependency heads, and UD relations (e.g., NSUBJ = subject, OBL = oblique).

### Example of the Universal Dependencies (UD) dependency tree:



### Overall, what this shows:

- Each oval = a token (word), labeled with
  - its lemma (dictionary form), and
  - its index (1–12 here).
- Each red arrow = a dependency relation between two words:
  - The arrow points from the head (governing word) to its dependent (modified word).
  - The label on the arrow (e.g., NSUBJ, AUX, OBJ, OBL, etc.) indicates the syntactic relation type.

### Final sample [TSV file output](#):

	it_vxc_spkr17_with_parsing
1	12 DET 2 4 NSUBJ 3 4 AUX 4 11 ROOT 5 6 DET 6 7 OBJ 7 8 CASE 8 4 OBJ 9 11 DET 1
2	12 CASE 2 9 ADM MOD 3 4 DET 4 9 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 AUX 7 9 COMP 8 1 ADM MOD 5
3	13 COP 2 3 DET 3 10 ROOT 4 6 CASE 5 6 DET 6 3 NMOD 7 8 PUNCT 8 6 CONJ 9 10
4	12 DET 2 3 DET 3 2 OBL 4 2 PUNCT 5 2 PUNCT
5	12 DET 2 3 DET 3 2 OBL 4 2 PUNCT
6	13 CASE 2 3 DET 3 6 OBL 4 3 PUNCT 5 6 NSUBJ 6 14 ROOT 7 8 MARK 8 6 XCOMP 9
7	12 ROOT 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
8	13 CASE 2 3 DET 3 6 OBL 4 3 PUNCT 5 6 NSUBJ 6 9 ROOT 7 8 DET 8 6 OBJ 9 14 AMOD 10 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
9	13 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT 4 5 DET 5 3 OBJ 6 5 AMOD 7 8 MARK 8 3 ADV C 11 PROPN 12 CASE 2 8 OBL 3 2 PUNCT 4 8 NSUBJ 5 6 CC 6 HICONJ 7 8 AUX 8 1 ROOT 9 1 PUNCT
10	12 DET 2 3 OBL 3 2 PUNCT 4 8 NSUBJ 5 6 CC 6 HICONJ 7 8 AUX 8 1 ROOT 9 1 PUNCT
11	12 DET 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
12	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET 8 6 OBJ 9 14 AMOD 10 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
13	12 DET POSS 2 3 NSUBJ 3 1 3 ROOT 4 5 DET 5 3 OBJ 6 11 CC 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
14	13 CASE 2 3 DET 3 2 OBL 4 3 PUNCT 5 6 NSUBJ 6 5 AMOD 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
15	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
16	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
17	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
18	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
19	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
20	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
21	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
22	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
23	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
24	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
25	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
26	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
27	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
28	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
29	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
30	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
31	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
32	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
33	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
34	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
35	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
36	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
37	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
38	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
39	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
40	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
41	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
42	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
43	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
44	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
45	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
46	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
47	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
48	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT
49	12 DET 2 3 ADM MOD 3 4 NSUBJ 5 4 AMOD 6 9 COP 7 8 DET POSS 8 1 NSUBJ 2 1 FLAT-NAME 3 1 PUNCT

**R code of how to merge the CHA file to the TSV file:**

- See [Cha-to-TSV.R](#)

## **6. Some CLAN Post-processing (optional, if you want to look at a different analysis)**

- Once %mor and %gra tiers exist, you can analyze the Italian corpus with CLAN tools:
    - **kwal +t%mor ~/ba\_output/troncamento.cha** # view morphology
      - **Command example:**
      - **kwal +t%mor /Users/yuechen/ba\_output/troncamento.cha**
    - **kwal +t%gra +s"OBL" ~/ba\_output/troncamento.cha** # search dependencies
    - **freq +t%mor -t\* ~/ba\_output/troncamento.cha** # POS frequency

## 7. Citation and Documentation

- Batchalign2: <https://talkbank.github.io/batchalign2/>
  - CLAN Manual section on Batchalign and role conversions

- **Reference article:** [Liu, H. & MacWhinney, B. \(2024\). Morphosyntactic Analysis for CHILDES. Language Development Research, 4\(1\), 233–258.](#)