

KALIMAT a Multipurpose Arabic Corpus

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1 Introduction

Resources, such as corpora, are important for researchers working on Arabic Natural Language Processing (NLP) (Al-Sulaiti et al. 2006). For this reason we came up with the idea of generating an Arabic multipurpose corpus, which we call KALIMAT¹ (Arabic transliteration of “WORDS”). The automatically created corpus could benefit researchers working on different Arabic NLP areas.

In our work on Arabic we developed, enhanced and tested many Arabic NLP tools. We tuned these tools to provide high quality results. The tools include auto-summarisers, Part of Speech Tagger, Morphological Analyser and Named Entity Recognition (NER). We ran these tools using the same document collection. We provide the output corpus freely for researchers to evaluate their work and to run experiments for different Arabic NLP purposes using one corpus.

2 KALIMAT Corpus

KALIMAT consists of: 1) 20,291 Arabic articles collected from the Omani newspaper Alwatan² by (Abbas et al. 2011). 2) 20,291 extractive single-document system summaries. 3) 2,057 multi-document system summaries. 4) 20,291 Named Entity Recognised articles. 5) 20,291 part of speech tagged articles. 6) 20,291 morphologically analyse articles.

The data collection articles fall into six categories: culture, economy, local-news, international-news, religion, and sports. Table 1 shows the collection statistics.

Topic	Number-of-Articles	Number-of-Words
Culture	2,782	1,359,210
Economy	3,468	3,122,565
International News	2,035	855,945
Local news	3,596	1,460,462
Religion	3,860	1,555,635
Sports	4,550	9,813,366
Total:	20,291	18,167,183

Table 1: Document Collection Statistics

The reason behind selecting Alwatan’s articles was that they contain real text written and used by native Arabic speakers. The collected articles were written by many authors from different backgrounds and they cover a range of topics from different subject areas, each with a credible amount of data. Figure 1 in the Appendix shows a random text sample of Alwatan’s articles.

3 Corpus Creation Process

The process of creating KALIMAT was applied to the entire data collection (20,291 articles).

Firstly, we summarised the document collection using two Arabic summarisers, Gen-Summ and Arabic Cluster-based.

Gen-Summ (El-Haj et al. 2010) is a single document summariser based on the VSM model (Salton et al. 1975) that takes an Arabic document and its first sentence and returns an extractive summary. A number of 20,291 system summaries have been generated. Cluster-based (El-Haj et al. 2011) is a multi-document summariser that treats all documents to be summarised as a single bag of sentences. The sentences of all the documents are clustered using different number of clusters. A summary is created by selecting sentences from the biggest cluster only (if there are two we select the first biggest cluster). We generated 2,057 multi-document extractive system summaries with a summary for each 10, 100 and 500 articles in each category, in addition to a summary for all the articles in each category. Table 2 shows the multi-document summaries distribution. Figures 2 and 3 show samples of the generated single and multi document summaries.

Topic	10	100	500	all	Total
Culture	250	25	5	1	281
Economy	327	33	7	1	368
International News	169	17	4	1	191
Local news	324	33	7	1	365
Religion	348	35	7	1	391
Sports	410	41	9	1	461

Table 2: Multi-document Summaries Statistics

Secondly, we used an Arabic Named Entity Recognition system (ANER) (Koulali and Meziane 2012) to annotate the data collection. ANER was developed using dependent and independent binary features and SVM implementation for sequence tagging based on HMM. To annotate the data collection we followed the Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL) 2002³ and 2003⁴

¹ <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/staff/elhaj/corpora.htm>

² <http://www.alwatan.com/>

³ <http://www.cnts.ua.ac.be/conll2002/>

⁴ <http://www.cnts.ua.ac.be/conll2003/>

shared tasks formed by tags falling into any of the following four categories:

- Person Names: محمود درويش (Mahmoud Darwish).
- Location names: المغرب (Morocco).
- Organisation Names: الأمم المتحدة (United Nations).
- Miscellaneous Names: NEs not belonging to any of the previous classes and include date, time, number, monetary expressions, measurement expressions and percentages.

ANER system was trained using ANERCorpus (Benajiba et al. 2007), a manually annotated corpus following the CoNLL shared task. The reason behind choosing ANERCorpus to train our system was that the corpus articles were chosen from Arabic newswires and Wikipedia Arabic, which is quite close to Alwatan's data collection, see Section 2.

ANERCorpus contains more than 150,000 tokens tagged according to the IBO2 annotation:

- B-PERS: the beginning of a person name.
- I-PERS: the continuation (inside) of a person name.
- B-LOC: the beginning of a location name.
- I-LOC: the inside of a location name.
- B-ORG: the beginning of an organisation name.
- I-ORG: the inside of an organisation name.
- B-MISC: the beginning of the name of an entity which does not belong to any of the previous classes (Miscellaneous).
- I-MISC: the inside of the name of an entity which does not belong to any of the previous classes.
- O: The word is not a named entity (Other).

A percentage of 90% of the ANERCorpus was used for training and the remaining 10% was used for testing.

To improve the performance of the developed ANER system, an automatic pattern extractor framework was implemented. The extractor was based on POS tags information and linguistic filters including trigger words and stop-word elimination. The ANER system achieved an overall F-measure of 83.20%.

We used the ANER system to generate 20,291 NER annotated documents following IBO2 annotation. The annotated data collection could benefit researchers working on the Information Extraction, Question Answering and Machine Translation. Figure 5 in the Appendix shows a text sample annotated using ANER.

Thirdly, we used Stanford POSTagger (Toutanova et al. 2003) to annotate the 20,291 document collection. The system is a Java implementation of the log-linear part-of-speech taggers. The strength of the Stanford POSTagger

relies on the following points:

- Explicit use of both preceding and following tag contexts via a dependency network representation.
- Broad use of lexical features, including jointly conditioning on multiple consecutive words.
- Effective use of priors in conditional log-linear models.
- Fine-grained modeling of unknown word features

The Stanford POSTagger is a supervised system depending on different trained models for many languages including Arabic. The accurate model for Arabic was trained using the Arabic Tree-bank p1-3 corpus based on maximum entropy and using augmented Bies 5 mapping of ATB tags. The POSTagger identifies 33 part of speeches, using the Penn Treebank project codification such as: Noun (NN), Plural Noun (NNS), Proper Noun (NNP), Verb (VB), Adjective (JJ). The tagger reached an accuracy of 96.50%.

The POST annotated 20,291 documents could help researchers working on Arabic IR, Word Sense Disambiguation and supervised learning systems. Figure 6 in the Appendix shows the output of the Stanford POSTagger.

Finally, we applied a morphological analysis process on the data collection using Alkhalil morphological analyser (Mazroui et al. 2011).

Alkhalil⁶ Morphological Analyzer was written in Java, the lexical resources consist of several classes, each representing a type of the same nature and morphological features. The Analysis was carried out in the following steps: pre-processing (removal of diacritics), segmentation (each word is considered as [proclitic + stem + enclitic]). Alkhalil identifies possible solutions of the segmented words using their morphosyntactic features (i.e. vowelisation, nature of the-word, vowelled patterns, stems, roots, suffixes, prefixes and syntactic-forms), see Figure 4 in the Appendix.

Applying Alkhalil analyser on the data collection we reached an accuracy of 96%. We implemented a Viterbi algorithm to get one solution that is relevant to the context of the analyzed article.

The morphological analysis of 20,291 documents could help in improving the performance of many tools such as: automatic vocalization, spell checking, automatic summarization. See Figure 4 for a morphologically analysed text sample using Alkhalil's system.

⁵ <http://www.ircs.upenn.edu/arabic/Jan03release/arabic-POStags-collapse-to-PennPOStags.txt>

⁶ <http://sourceforge.net/projects/alkhalil/>

4 Conclusion

We provide KALIMAT⁷ for free including the articles, annotated text, entities and summaries to help advancing the work on Arabic NLP. The corpus can be downloaded directly from:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/kalimat/>.

The corpus and the results we achieved can be used by researchers as gold-standards and or baselines to test and evaluate their Arabic tools. We also welcome any amendments to the corpus by other researchers.

In our work we address the shortage of relevant data for Arabic natural language processing, taking into consideration the lack of Arab participants to come up with resources that are important for researchers working on Arabic NLP.

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⁷ <https://sourceforge.net/projects/kalimat/>

Figure 4: Morphological Analyser Sample

Appendix

KALIMAT corpus consists of 20,291 news articles collected from Alwatan newspaper (Abbas et al.). From the original HTML text only unformatted content text was kept, removing any images, tables or hyperlinks. We applied different NLP tools on the data collection to generate 20,291 single-document summaries, 2,057 multi-document summaries, and 20,291 Named Entity Recognition annotated articles. In addition to 20,291 part-of-speech tagged articles and 20,291 morphologically analysed articles. Figures 1 to 6 show samples of KALIMAT annotated text.

سامل الرحبى : تطلق اليوم الدورة البرامجية الجديدة للتلذيبيون والاذاعة ببرنامج الشباب والتى تستمر طوال شهر ابريل ومايو ويونيو وتتمثل فى طياتها العديد من البرامج الجديدة والغيرات الشيقية التي تتناسب مع اذواق جميع المشاهدين والمستمعين على حد سواء . دورة البرامج الحالية راعى فيها المسئولون في وزارة الاعلام التترع والتى تجددت فى البرنامج اضافة الى مراعاة اوقات المشاهدين والمستمعين بمحبى فنائهم حيث تم الاعداد المسبق لخارطة التلفزيون بشكل منهجى من خلال نوعيات مبنقة من البرنامج كما تم تعديل تشكيلا السهرات امساكية وتحفيز جمهور البرنامج الواقعيه بحيث تشمل التتنوع الفقهي عن التركيز على طرح البرامج المحلى التجدد فيها . وقد اكثت ادارة التلذيبيون فى القاء الصحفى الذي عقدته ظهر امس بمكتب مدير عام التلذيبيون المهندس عبدالله العريبي وبوجود صالح بن محفوظ القاسمى مدير البرنامج العامة بالتلذيبيون ووزينة الراشدى منسقة مكتبة التلذيبيون ان الادارة سعت اجل الخروج بدورة تغطية تماشى مع رغبات المشاهد المعنوى بالدرجة الاولى مع التركيز ايضا على المناقشة الصحيفية بين باقى الفنوات الفضائية مشيرين الى ان ادارة التلذيبيون اصبحت تخترى البرامح التي تربى وتنظرها في الدورة البرامجية بعد ان كانت تفرض بعض البرامح وجودها وذلك من اجل ارتفاع ضاء المشاهد ، والذى يأتى بالصورة الاقنعة امامه

Figure 1: Data Collection Text Sample

نحوه البرامج الحالية راعى فيها المسؤولون في وزارة الاعلام التنوّع والتّجدّد في البرامج
فضلاً على مراعاة اوقات المشاهدين والمستمعين بجميع فئاتهم حيث تم الاعداد المسبق لخارطة
التنافيزيون بشكل منتهي من حال نويعات منتقاة من البرامج كما تم تعديل شكلة السهرات
اللاسيوية وتغيير جدول البرنامج الوثائقية بحيث تشمل التنوّع التلفافي مع التركيز على طرح
البرامج المجلحة التجدد فيها

Figure 2: Single-document Summary Text Sample

القاهرة (الوطن) : الحوار مع ممدوح عدوان ليس بجاجة لأي مقدمة لهذا الشاعر والمسرحي والروائي والسيناريست والمترجم السوري حاله لا تقتل الارهان لأي سلطة أو قاعدة سوى ما يقوله في هذا الحوار عن الخطوط الlassانية والإبداع كحالتين مطلقتين تحكمان حياته ! ! ممدوح عدوان في هذا الحوار الذي يجئه غفوة وصادقاً ينافك الحقائق الراسخة في قعر الوعي ويمضي في التاريخ الشخصي بعيداً وفي زوابيا غير معروفة ومن وضعه الصحي إلى العديد من التفاصيل في المشهد التلقائي إلى متاهة الميدع بين الأشكال الفنية المتعددة في البداية أود أن أسلكك عن شغلك الصحي وهو ما شغل الكثيرين من فراشك في البداية ساوجز عن حكاية عدوان :
حكاية عدوان : في بداية عام 2003 بدأت أحاسن بتغيرات غير صحية أو تغيرات مزاجية في طبعي فتمنلا أنا في العادة أحبكي كثيراً وأضشك كثيراً ولم أحد أضنك أو أحبكي أو ألاحرى فقدت شيئاً من حرفيتها وبعدها سافرت إلى القاهرة وعدد و كانت هناك أصدقاء على يقôون فيها : بما هو ممدوح وأنا لم أحس بشيء طبقي في وحيدين عدت للعمل لاحظت أنني بدأت أنسني بشكل غير طبقي فعدمت كنت أكتب حوارية ما بين شخصين كنت أنسني أحدهما ! أو حين كنت أرد على الهاتف إذ حين أرفع السماعة كنت أعود لا لغّلها مائشة .

Figure 3: Multi-document Summary Text Sample

word	vowels	prefix	stem	type	pattern	root	suffix
اَشْهَرُ	اَشْهَرُ	#	اَشْهَرُ	فعل امر	افْعَلٌ	شَهْرٌ	#
تَشْكِيلَةٌ	تَشْكِيلَةٌ	#	تَشْكِيلَةٌ	مصدر	تَفْعِيلَةٌ	شَكْلٌ	ةَ: تَأْتِي التَّالِيَّتُ
دُورَةٌ	دُورَةٌ	#	دُورَةٌ	مرة مصدر	مَرَّةٌ فَعْلَةٌ	دُورٌ	ةَ: تَأْتِي التَّالِيَّتُ
طَوَالٌ	طَوَالٌ	#	طَوَالٌ	أصلي اسم	فَعَالٌ	طَولٌ	#
مُنْتَقَاهُ	مُنْتَقَاهُ	#	مُنْتَقَاهُ	مفعول مصدر	مَفْعَاهٌ نَفَرٌ	نَقَاهٌ	ةَ: تَأْتِي التَّالِيَّتُ
نُوعِيَاتٍ	نُوعِيَاتٍ	#	نُوعِيَاتٍ	صناعي ت	فَعْلَيَاتٍ	نَوْعٌ	ةَ: تَأْتِي التَّالِيَّتُ

Figure 5: Named Entity Recognition Text Sample

Figure 6: Part of Speech Tagger Text Sample