

PIndicQA: Physical Indic QA dataset

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Abstract

The existing physical reasoning dataset is predominantly Western-centric, relying on customs and scenarios that fail to capture global cultural nuances. This bias limits the fair and accurate evaluation of reasoning capabilities in multilingual models. To address this gap, we introduce PIndicQA, a novel, culturally-localized physical reasoning benchmark for five Indic languages: Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. We created this dataset using a new pipeline that combines LLM-based taxonomy generation, embedding-based clustering to discover semantic categories, and localized sample generation. Our core contribution is a rigorous, multi-stage human-in-the-loop (HITL) process where native-speaking authors corrected and validated every machine-generated and translated sample to ensure high linguistic and cultural accuracy. The result is a challenging new benchmark designed to test a model’s understanding of localized, non-Western physical commonsense, providing a vital resource for advancing multilingual reasoning.

1 Introduction

The original Physical Reasoning dataset (Bisk et al., 2020) contains samples which are almost always English specific datasets with samples very specific to Western customs, cultures and lifestyles. We know that because of the predominance of English specific datasets in pre-training most LLMs also have stronger Western specific knowledge (Simon et al., 2025). To that we propose that there are certain invariant meta-labels specific to each sample which is true regardless of the cultural aspects of the dataset. This method of using LLM generated meta-labels is a technique which we have found

to increase diversity in samples. For translations, first translations were almost always bad, so getting them corrected by a multilingual LLM was a strong way of improving the model results. There have been multiple corrections on each of the changes while also making sure that for repeated samples, we reject them and get new samples generated and corrected. The important part of our technique is our localization step that creates a much more diverse dataset with unique ideas. Since, most LLMs have low knowledge about local cultural techniques (Simon et al., 2025), there is a lot of nuance in the way physical reasoning happens around local items, which is bound to create confusion in LLMs especially in non-English settings. Fine level annotations were done by us researchers while we let two or three more speakers of the traditional languages review samples of the multilingual generated text so that we can get general feedback about what works and what doesn’t.

In the next few sections we will cover each part of the data creation process :

1. Open meta-label and taxonomy generation.
2. Clustering and closed classification.
3. Label sampling and in-context English sample generation.
4. Localization and translation.
5. Translation correction.

2 Data Generation and Correction

We show the full flowchart of the meta-data based synthetic data generation workflow in Figure 1. A detailed example of a single row of the dataset is given in Table 1.

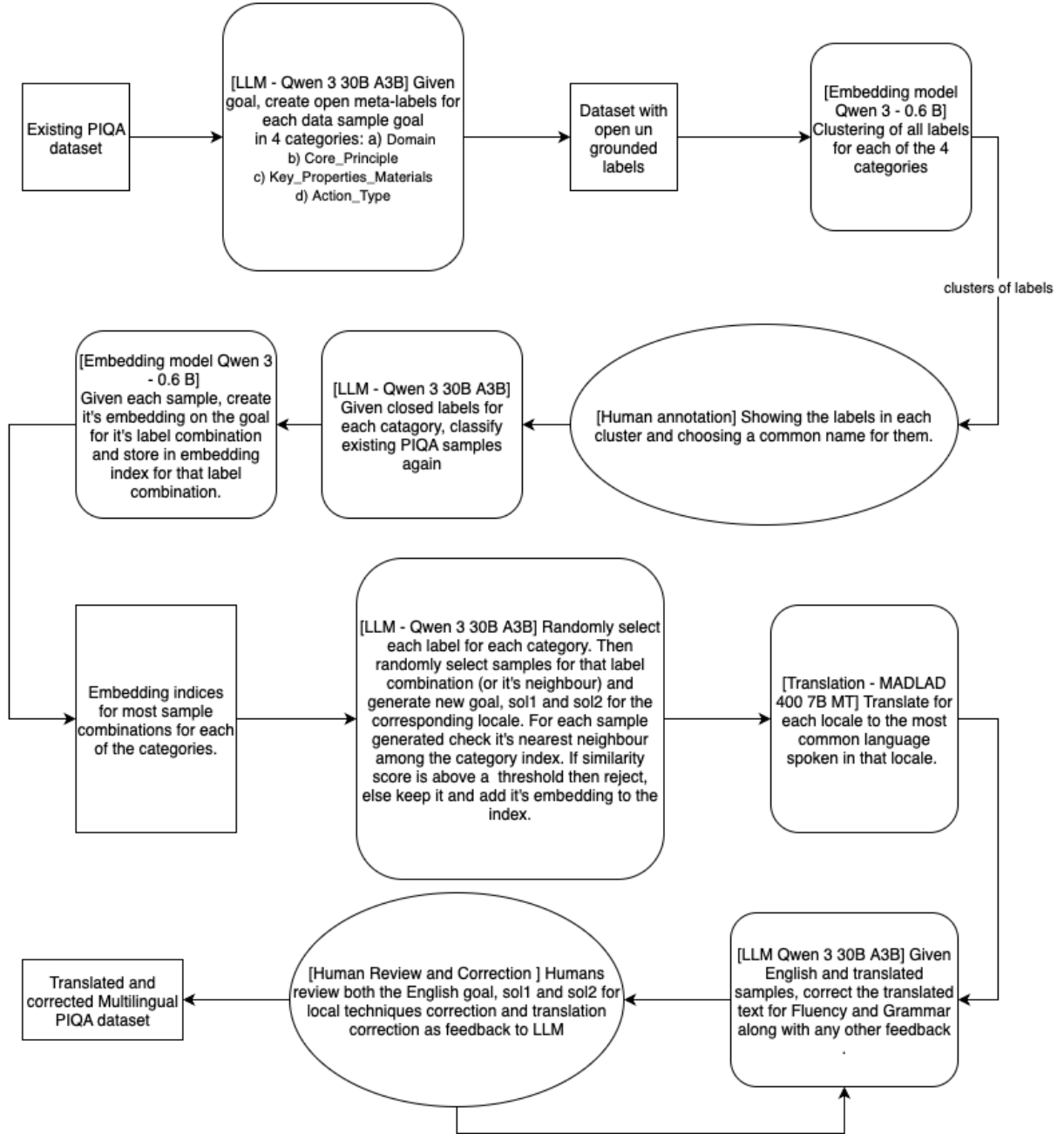


Figure 1: The data generation and translation pipeline for PIndicQA.

Table 1: A detailed example of a single data sample from the PIndicQA pipeline.

Field (Column Name)	Example Value
Nearest Neighbor Goal	How to make rice crispy treats. How to properly cook and remove husk from puffed rice (muri) for a traditional Bengali snack?
Sol1	Spread fresh puffed rice (muri) on a clean cotton cloth over a wide banana leaf. Place it under direct sunlight for 20 minutes to dry slightly, then gently rub with hands to loosen and remove any remaining husk particles.
Sol2	Spread fresh puffed rice (muri) on a steel plate and place it under direct sunlight for 20 minutes to dry slightly, then gently rub with hands to loosen and remove any remaining husk particles.
Label	0
Domain	['Culinary Activities']
Core Principle	['Culinary Heat Application']
Key Properties Materials	['Cereal-Based Products & Textural Characteristics']
Action Type	['Direct Manipulation & Extraction']
Locale	West Bengal, India
Source	synthetic searched few shot (modified)
Translated Language	Bengali
Translated Goal	কিভাবে সঠিক ভাবে রান্নাকরতে হয় এবং কিভাবে ঝোলথেকে ঝোল বের করতে হয়?
Translated Sol1	একটি পরিষ্কার কাগজের কাপড়েঝুলিয়ে একটি বড় কাঁচা কাঁচা চাল(মুরি) ছড়িয়ে দিন। এটিকে সূর্যেরআলোতে ২০ মিনিট রেখে কিছুটাশুকিয়ে নিন। তারপর হাত দিয়েহালকা ভাবে ঘষুন যাতে ময়দাটিছিঁড়ে যায় এবং বাকি ময়দাটি সরিয়েফেলুন।
Translated Sol2	স্টিলের প্লেটে তাজা ভাজা চাল (মুরি) ছড়িয়ে দিন এবং সূর্যের আলোতে ২০ মিনিট রেখে দিন যাতেকিছুটা শুকিয়ে যায়, তারপর হাত দিয়ে হালকা ভাবে ঘষুন যাতে ঝুলে থাকা ভুসির অংশগুলোবের হয়ে যায়।
Corrected Goal	ঐতিহ্যবাহী বাঙালি নাস্তার জন্য মুড়ি সঠিকভাবে ভেজে খোসা ছাড়ানোর উপায় কী?
Corrected Sol1	একটি চওড়া কলাপাতার উপর একটি পরিষ্কার সুতির কাপড় বিছিয়ে, তার উপর টাটকা মুড়ি ছড়িয়ে দিন। এগুলিকে ২০ মিনিটের জন্য সরাসরি সূর্যের আলোতে রেখে সামান্য শুকিয়ে নিন। এরপর, হাত দিয়ে আলতো করে ঘষে লেগে থাকা অবশিষ্ট তুষের কণা ঝেড়ে ফেলুন।
Corrected Sol2	একটি স্টিলের থালায় তাজা মুরি ছড়িয়ে সরাসরি সূর্যের আলোতে ২০ মিনিট রাখুন, যাতে সামান্য শুকিয়ে যায়। এরপর হাত দিয়ে আলতো করে ঘষে অবশিষ্ট তুষের কণাগুলো সরিয়ে ফেলুন।

2.1 Open Meta-label and Taxonomy Generation

In this section, we use meta-labels as contextual guidance for the generation of new data. We did this using a mix of human design and LLM generated labelling. We initially used an LLM (Gemini 2.5 Pro) (Comanici et al., 2025) for figuring out the classification taxonomy to be generated. We started by creating a prompt such that the LLM is given English samples of PIQA and that there are two classification categories ‘Domain’ and ‘Core Principle’. The LLM should create further hierarchical classification categories. Of the many classification categories suggested, we selected the ‘Key Properties Materials’ and ‘Action Type’ as the two final categories.

Now that the classification categories are created, we use an LLM for open meta-label

generation. We use Qwen3-30B-A3B (Yang et al., 2025) non-thinking for the meta-label generation. We use the A.1.1 prompt to classify the existing PIQA datasets to generate open meta-labels. As is the nature of non-deterministic LLMs, it generates meta-labels without any grounding. So it generates many hundreds of labels, many of which are similar.

2.2 Clustering and Closed Classification

Once all the labels are generated, for each category we use Qwen-3-Embedding-0.6B (Zhang et al., 2025) to generate embeddings for these labels, and then apply k-means clustering with the ELBO method to obtain clusters.

We cluster the labels for each of the four categories and present the resulting clusters to human annotators. By creating at most 2030 clusters, we obtain meaningful seman-

tic groupings of labels. For each cluster, an LLM generates suggestions for a common name, from which the annotator either selects one or provides a new label (see Appendix A.1.2). Once all clusters are labeled, we annotate the existing samples accordingly and construct embedding indices for each unique label combination. This process defines our classification taxonomy, consisting of 19 classes for ‘Domain’, 32 for ‘Core_Principle’, 39 for ‘Key_Properties_Materials’, and 32 for ‘Action_Type’ (see Appendix A.1.3).

Using this taxonomy, we perform closed classification of the English PIQA dataset (Bisk et al., 2020) with the prompt shown in Appendix A.1.4 and the Qwen-3-30B-A3B non-thinking model. After classification, we enumerate all category combinations and observe that most combinations are empty, due to the four-category structure, resulting in a sparse set of embedding indices. We build indices for each non-empty label combination, which are then used both for in-context example retrieval and for similarity search in generated samples.

2.3 Label Sampling and In-Context English Sample Generation

Now that we have our label taxonomy of four categories along with the embedding indices for label combinations of the existing datasets, we perform our English specific data generation which is to be translated into the local language later.

The main idea behind creating those samples is that we sample labels from each of the categories and then check if there exists an index for that label combination. Then we generate new samples for that label combination of the 4 categories using the prompt for generation (see Appendix A.1.5). This prompt helps in creating new samples for each locale. Thus the samples created are geared for each locale with 5 locales for Indic category Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam for each of respective states where it is spoken by the majority. (P.S. These languages were chosen since these languages are the ones known to the authors of this paper.) For Hindi, which is spoken across multiple Indian states, we chose Delhi as the localization example for it.

If an index exists for a given label combi-

nation, we sample directly from it to provide in-context examples. Otherwise, we use the closest available label combination with existing indices. After generating new samples, we create embeddings for the “goal” field only and add them back to the category index. This process is repeated until 100 samples are created for each locale.

During this process, we observed that some generated goals were repetitive. To address this, each set of 100 samples per locale underwent human review to filter out repetitions, and additional samples were generated as needed. Another common error was that the generated solutions were either identical or both incorrect. In such cases, human reviewers curated one correct and one incorrect solution for each sample. Each sample was reviewed by two annotators to check for mistakes.

2.4 Localization and Translation

Localization is done in the data generation step itself so that the translations are more culturally and geographically relevant to the region where it is spoken. It also helps in making the translation more natural and more unique since most samples in the original PIQA dataset is very Western in focus. By putting the focus on Indic locales, we generate unique samples with very specific cultural knowledge known only to Indic local people.

Once these localized generated texts are validated, we now perform translation in two steps: translation by a translation model and translation correction by a relatively strong multilingual model. We first use Google’s MADLAD-400-7B model (Kudugunta et al., 2023) as the translation model, as it was found to be more accurate for Indic translations than Meta’s NLLB model (Team et al., 2022). This observation was confirmed by our human reviewers, particularly for Bengali and Kannada, and the results were found to be comparable for the other languages as well.

2.5 Translation Correction

The initial machine translations were often flawed, exhibiting artifacts such as garbage tokens, repetitive phrases, and grammatical errors. To mitigate this, we employed a second multilingual LLM either Qwen-3-30B-A3B or Gemma-3-27B-it (Team et al., 2025) providing

it with both the original English source and the flawed translation as context to generate a corrected version.

While this automated pass corrected many obvious flaws, a significant number of errors remained. This necessitated a human-in-the-loop approach where our fluent human reviewers prompted the correction LLM with specific lexical choices and grammatical fixes. To refine this process further, we sampled approximately 30 common errors per language and used these human-corrected examples as few-shot exemplars. These were added back into the correction prompt, along with explicit instructions detailing common error types to avoid and specific stylistic guidelines. This exemplar-guided approach significantly reduced the error rate in the remaining samples. Finally, the remaining 20 samples per language that still contained minor mistakes were either corrected manually by our annotators or finalized by prompting the LLM for one last correction.

3 Limitations and Strengths

The data generation process using meta-data as context turned out to be very useful in generating diverse samples along with localization to create unique scenarios which only local people will have unique knowledge of. One way to create more diverse samples would be to create some more meta-categories like, say, scenarios like Onam in Kerala or Poila Boishakh (Bengali New Year, 1st of Baisakh month) to create unique scenarios. We did not have time to explore them.

One reason this approach worked well is that humans extensively checked the meta-categories to ensure that the LLM-generated labels, as well as the common names for clusters of labels, were properly identified. With appropriate meta-data labeling, the need for human supervision of individual samples particularly for detecting repetition was significantly reduced. Another challenge was that the LLM sometimes produced incorrect answers due to its lack of knowledge about local customs or materials. In such cases, the human annotator’s familiarity with local practices was crucial. However, there were instances where even the annotators themselves

were unsure, which required them to search online to find the correct answer.

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A Appendix

A.1 Prompts

A.1.1 Open Meta-Labeling Prompt

Your task is to analyze a given text and generate a structured JSON object containing meta-labels that describe it.

The JSON object must have the following four keys: "Domain", "Core_Principle", "Key_Properties_Materials", "Action_Type"

For each key, provide an array of relevant string labels.

Do not provide more than three labels for any given key.

The output must be a single, valid JSON object.

Label Definitions:

Domain: The general field or area the text belongs to (e.g., "Cooking", "Social Media").

Core_Principle: The fundamental concepts, theories, or ideas involved (e.g., "Heat Transfer", "Digital Navigation").

Key_Properties_Materials: The primary

objects, substances, or components and their key characteristics (e.g., "Water (Liquid)", "Software Application").

Action_Type: The main actions or verbs described in the text (e.g., "Boiling", "Scrolling").

Example 1:

text: "How to boil eggs"

Meta-labels:

```
{{
  "Domain": ["Kitchen", "Cooking"],
  "Core_Principle": ["Heat Transfer",
    "Thermodynamics"],
  "Key_Properties_Materials": ["Water
    (Liquid)", "Egg (Fragile)"],
  "Action_Type": ["Heating", "Boiling"]
}}
```

Example 2:

text: "How to check your Facebook feed"

Meta-labels:

```
{{
  "Domain": ["Digital", "Social Media"],
  "Core_Principle": ["Digital Navigation",
    "UI Design"],
  "Key_Properties_Materials": ["Software
    Application", "Interface"],
  "Action_Type": ["Clicking", "Scrolling",
    "Browsing"]
}}
```

Now, generate the meta-labels for the following text:

text: {input}

Meta-labels:

A.1.2 Cluster Labelling

This is an example of cluster labelling

Category: Domain

Cluster labels :

['herbs', 'dressing', 'hospital', 'dressing']

For these cluster labels printed, user prompts the LLM to suggest some common names. In this case, the user wrote “health_care” but the suggestions were similar like ‘Healing’ and ‘Health’.

A.1.3 Final Closed Taxonomy

```
{
  "Domain": [
    "health_care",
    "Industrial Processes & Engineering",
    "Culinary Activities",
    "Animal & Character Management",
    "Lifestyle & Social Systems",
    "Home Gastronomy & Food Science",
    "Digital Media & Interaction",
    "Human Biological Sciences",
    "Office & Productivity Tools",
    "Holistic Personal Development",
    "Home Ambiance & Design",
    "Domestic Upkeep & Maintenance",
    "art and design",
    "Outdoor Life & Safety",
    "Textile activities",
    "Earth & Environmental Sciences",
    "DIY & Home Crafting",
    "Aesthetics & Identity",
    "Food Production & Technology"
  ],
  "Core_Principle": [
    "Somatic Maintenance & Presentation.",
    "Hydration Regulation",
    "Structural Transformation & Design",
    "Targeted State Control",
    "Protective Measures & Hazard Control",
    "Engineering for Performance & Safety",
    "Material Integrity & Surface Interaction",
    "Gas Dynamics & Airflow Management",
    "Molecular Composition & Transformation",
    "Ecological Stewardship & Restoration",
    "Biochemical Sensory Analysis",
    "Interface-Driven Manipulation",
    "Clarity-Driven Optimization",
    "Foundational Stability & Validation",
    "Strategic State Management",
    "Sanitation & Resource Stewardship",
    "Transactional System Enablement",
    "Sensory Composition & Synthesis",
    "Knowledge Encoding & Application",
    "Systematic Resource Optimization",
    "High-Resolution Material Modification",
    "Systematic Navigation & Routing",
    "Human-Centered System Design",
    "Therapeutic Comfort & Symptom Alleviation",
    "Structural Assembly & Material Transformation",
    "Dynamic Interaction & Kinematics",
    "Sensorimotor Control & Adaptation",
    "Fluid Mechanics & Mass Transfer",
    "Adaptive Reconfiguration",
    "Nutritional Energetics & Metabolism",
    "Thermodynamics & Heat Management",
    "Applied Optics & Illumination"
  ],
  "Key_Properties_Materials": [
    "Adhesive & Sealing Properties",
    "Entity & Defining Attribute",
    "Botanical Products & Sensory Attributes",
    "Structural & Surface Characteristics",
    "Textile & Functional Properties",
    "Viscous & Oleaginous Substances",
    "Culinary Components & Sensory Profiles",
    "Cereal-Based Products & Textural Characteristics",
    "Tools & Defining Functional Attributes",
    "Interactive Surfaces & Environments",
    "Manufactured Goods & Defining Properties",
    "Aqueous & Solvent Properties",
    "Anatomical Components & Wearable Properties",
    "Information Carriers & Paper-Based Goods",
    "Food Products & Compositional States",
    "Metallic Materials & Physical Properties",
    "Confectionery & Phase Properties",
    "Gaseous & Reactive Properties",
    "Navigational Cues & Indicators",
    "Biological & Fibrous Structures",
    "Structural Rigidity & Flexibility",
    "Colorants & Pigmented Substances",
    "Animate Beings & Related Consumables",
    "Aromatic & Structural Ingredients",
    "Storage Units & Defining Features",
    "Liquids, Containers, & Chemical Properties",
    "Mechanical Systems & Functional
```

```

    Components",
    "Optical & Mechanical Properties",
    "User Interface & Control Points",
    "Engineered Materials & Functional Design",
    "Biological Sensors & Perceptual States",
    "Particulate & Suspended Matter",
    "Social & Community Entities",
    "Textual Information & Representations",
    "Hardware Components & Functional Attributes",
    "Digital Records & Systems",
    "Environmental & Foundational States",
    "Environmental Alerts & Nuisances",
    "Applied Materials & Physical States"
],
"Action_Type": [
    "Joining & Fastening",
    "Data & System Refinement",
    "Direct Manipulation & Extraction",
    "Pathfinding & Boundary Manipulation",
    "Resource Management & Organization",
    "Physical State Manipulation",
    "Observation & Analysis",
    "Composting & Recycling",
    "Energy Application & Physical Transformation",
    "Influence & Counteraction",
    "Acquisition & Processing",
    "Safeguarding & Preservation",
    "Material Handling & Preparation",
    "Excavation & Displacement",
    "Active State Control & Manipulation",
    "Systematic Analysis & Organization",
    "Thermal State Transition",
    "Surface Purification & Removal",
    "Scholarly & Formal Communication",
    "Culinary Heat Application",
    "Modification & Adaptation",
    "Logistics & Transfer",
    "Precision Shaping & Grooming",
    "Data Entry & Sensory Testing",
    "Mechanical Compression & Deformation",
    "Surface Care & Maintenance",

```

```

    "Kinetic Activity & Locomotion",
    "Structural Adjustment & Configuration",
    "Tactile Control & Handling",
    "Visual Creation & Representation",
    "Placement & Installation",
    "Aesthetic Design & Fabrication"
]
}

```

A.1.4 Classification Prompt

Your task is to classify the given text into a single, most appropriate label for each of the following categories. You MUST choose exactly one label from the provided list for each category. The output must be a single, valid JSON object.

Categories and Approved Labels:
{taxonomy_json}

Now, classify the following text:
text: {input}
Classification:

A.1.5 Localization Generation Prompt Function

```

def build_prompt(metadata: Dict,
                 exemplars: List[Dict], locale:
                 str, num_to_generate: int = 5)
-> str:
    """Constructs the prompt for LLM
    generation, requesting multiple
    localized examples."""
    prompt = (
        "You are generating data for a
        physical reasoning dataset (PIQA).
        \n"
        f"*Crucially, the goal, sol1,
        and sol2 MUST be adapted to the
        context of the following locale:
        {locale}.*"
        "Use regional items, scenarios,
        places, and cultural nuances where
        appropriate.\n\n"
        "The examples must also strictly
        adhere to the following abstract
        classification:\n"
        f"Domain: {metadata.get('Domain')}
        \n"
        f"Core Principle:

```



```

        {metadata.get('Core_Principle')}}
        \n"
        f"Key Properties/Materials:
        {metadata.get
        ('Key_Properties_Materials')}
        }\n"
        f"Action Type:
        {metadata.get('Action_Type')}}\n
        \n"
        "Here are some examples of the
        structure, but do NOT copy their
        content. Your goal is to create
        NEW, localized versions:\n"
    )

    for ex in exemplars:
        prompt += json.dumps({k: ex[k]
        for k in ('goal', 'sol1', 'sol2',
        'label')}}) + "\n"

    prompt += (
        f"\nGenerate {num_to_generate} new,
        diverse, and localized examples for
        **{locale}**. "
        "Do NOT repeat the examples above.
        \n"
        'Output MUST be a JSON list containing
        objects with "goal", "sol1", "sol2",
        and "label" (0 or 1).\n'

        "Do not output any text or markdown
        formatting before or after the JSON
        list.\n"
        "Example Output Format: [{\"goal\":
        ..., \"sol1\": ..., \"sol2\": ...,
        \"label\": ...}, ...]"
    )
    return prompt

```

A.1.6 Translation Correction Prompt

```

f"You are a language expert fluent in
English and {language}. "
f"The following text was machine-
translated from English to {language}."
"Review the translation and rewrite it
only if it is necessary to be more
natural, fluent, and grammatically
correct, "
"while preserving the original meaning
in English. Output only the corrected
text and nothing else.\n\n"
f"Original English:\n\n"

```