Suffix Based Automated Parts of Speech Tagging for Bangla Language

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Abstract—Natural language processing (NLP) is the technique by which we process the human language with the computer. Parts-of-Speech (POS) tagging is one of the fundamental requirements for some NLP applications. It is considered as a solved problem for some foreign languages, such as English, Chinese, due to higher accuracy (97%), where it is still an unsolved problem for Bangla because of its ambiguity. Although making a POS tagger for Bangla is not a new work, but each one of available POS taggers has different kinds of limitations. We choose to develop an unsupervised system rather than a supervised system, because a supervised system needs a huge data resource for training purpose and available resources in Bangla is really poor. Here we develop a POS tagger mainly based on Bangla grammar especially suffixes. Because Bangla is a very inflectional language, where a single word has many variants based on their suffixes. In this POS tagger, we assign 8 base POS tags, where some rules, based on Bangla grammar and suffix, are applied to identify POS tags with the cooperation of verb root dataset. To handle non-suffix words, a dataset of almost 14500 Bangla words, with having their default POS tags, is added with the system, which helps to increase the efficiency of this POS tagger. A modified version of previously used algorithm for suffix analysis is applied, which result in a satisfactory level of about 94.2%.

Keywords—Parts of Speech (POS) Tagger, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Bangla Language, Suffix Analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

Automated Parts of Speech (POS) tagging is the process of identifying a word in a sentence with an accurate parts of speech tag. Parts of Speech (POS) tagger is a pre-requisite part of many applications of Natural Language Processing (NLP). It will contribute to almost every branch of NLP, because it has a multiform utilization to translate from one language to another language [1], to verify text data, to correct the grammatical error, to annotate the named entity in large corpus, and so on. POS tagging is also used to build Natural Language Interface (NLI) [2].

Bangla is, an Indo-Aryan language, the seventh most spoken native language; mostly used in Bangladesh and some parts of India, which has many loanwords from European languages and about 30 percent-unmodified Sanskrit words. Some of those words are modified with times and changed their actual meaning that makes Bangla words more complex and more ambiguous. Ambiguous words are more difficult to tag with a specific part of speech, because there may have different tags for a single word based on their role in the sentence. POS tagging for Bangla language is more difficult and challenging than other languages because of its prefix and suffix.

The people of current decade experience the increasing number of uses of intelligent gadgets, such as amazon echo, which process human language and perform the work asked for. On the other hand, people are more active in their social media network nowadays. Sentiment can be gathered by analyzing one's status and comments. Moreover, a computer can translate from one language to another language and assist a person to find out the best route. Most of the application are available in foreign languages like English, Japanese, Chinese etc. If those applications are available in Bangla language, that will be more helpful for us. POS tagging plays a vital role to develop those applications. Other languages like, English, Chinese have their own well-developed POS tagger [3] with more than 97% accuracy. There are also some POS taggers available for Bangla language. But some of them focused on verb or Noun [4] or classifications of base tag [5]. Performance level of those POS tagger is not as good as English or Chinese language. So, we want to develop a POS tagger based on suffix analysis in order to enrich the language in the area of NLP.

The input to this system is a string of words in Bangla. The POS tagger will tag each word of the input to their particular parts of speech. In this system, we have worked on eight base parts of speech tags (shown in Table I).

TABLE I. PARTS-OF-SPEECH TAGS WITH THEIR DESCRIPTION

	Tags	Description
1	NN	NOUN
2	PRO	PRONOUN
3	ADJ	ADJECTIVE
4	VRB	VERB
5	ADV	ADVERB
6	PRE	PREPOSITION
7	CON	CONJUNCTION
8	INT	INTERJECTION

We organize rest of the paper into four section. In Section II, we discuss about related works in this field, scope of the problems, challenges etc. In Section III, we discuss about data collection procedure and implementation. Section IV is for experimental result and analysis. Conclusion and future work are discussed in Section V.

II. RELATED WORKS

At the early stage, Ekbal et al. [6] proposed a Bengali POS tagger using SVM, where they used a corpus of 72,341 wordforms tagged, i.e. 15K wordforms as development set and 57,341 wordforms as training set. It came out with an

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accuracy of 86.84%, which was much better than the existing system based on HMM [7] and ME [8]. Mukherjee et al. [9] compared a Global Linear Model (GLM) based POS tagger with CRF, SVM, HMM and ME based Bengali POS tagger, where GLM won by giving 93.12% accuracy. They used a training dataset containing manually annotated 44K words and two test sets containing 14,784 and 10273 words respectably. Dandapat et al. [10] developed a Bangla POS tagger using supervised and semi-supervised bi-gram HMM and a ME based model with morphological analysis. For their work, they took almost 40000 words as training data and 5000 words as test data. Although the result was at satisfactory level, but there has a lot of scope of improvement. All of these work mainly based on training data, indicates supervised tagger. Ali [11] tried to make some difference. He did some experimental job of making an unsupervised POS tagger for Bangla language using Baum-Welch algorithm, although the experiment did not get success. Parikh [12] developed a Parts-of-speech tagging system based on neural network. The tagger was tested as single-neuro tagger and multi-neuro tagger differently. Multi-neuro tagger performed better with accuracy level of testing data 92.19% than single-neuro tagger. Ismail et al. [13] developed an algorithm for making an automated Bangla POS tagged dictionary. The algorithm was dedicated to tag words in Noun, Verb and Adjective using suffix list. Hoque et al. [14] developed a POS tagger system by applying Bangla stemmer and rule based analyzer. Some rules were generated from suffix and some were from observations. They got the accuracy level of 93.7%, but still they have many drawbacks.

A supervised tagging system with HMM, ME, CRF, SVM performs satisfactorily for tagging Bangla words. But due to the huge dataset requirement, it will be very laborious to develop. Its performance level depends on the size of training data. Moreover, the neural network has done this job pretty well, but still hard to develop. Now it is the term for an unsupervised system. A limited work has done in this section for tagging purposes, which performs fairly well. But all of them have a number of limitations, those make a scope for improvement. So, we develop an unsupervised tagging system, powered by an modified version of previously used algorithm [14]. In this system, each word is inspected for appropriate POS tag based on suffix analysis. There are also some rules that help to make decisions to get an appropriate tag. We are considering 8 tags (shown in Table I) for this system.

III. Data Collection And Implementation

Our collection of data divided into two parts, one part (almost 14500 words) is used as a dictionary where each word has its manually given tag [17] and another part (almost 12000 words) is used as a testing dataset. There is another collection of data, which contains verb roots. Collection of data went through a lengthy process. Dictionary data are collected from different kind of magazines, short stories and novels, and testing data are from different popular online daily newspaper and blogs. After collecting dictionary data, each word has given a POS tag manually based on the grammatical rules [15][16] and Bengali to English dictionary [17]. On the other hand, Verb roots are gathered from Bangla grammar books [15] [16] and different online sources.

Bangla is very inflectional language, where each word may have more than one meaning based on inflection. Suffix or postfix is an inflection. It sits at the end of a word or a bunch of characters to make a meaningful word. Bangla language has rich grammatical support. The grammar defines how suffixes stand with the word to make different meaning, also different parts of speech. We generate some rules according to Bangla grammar and sentence pattern to analyze the data. Those rules are mentioned below.

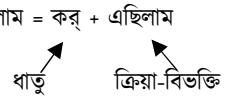
TABLE II. List of verb suffix or ক্রিয়া-বিভক্তি

Description	List
ক্রিয়া-বিভক্তি or Verb suffix	ছেন, েছে, েছেন, িয়াছ, েছ, িয়াছিস, এছিলাম, েছিস, িয়াছি, েছি, ুন, িলেন, লাম, িতেছিলেন, েছিলাম, াচ্ছে, াইতেছিস, াচ্ছিস, িয়েছেন, াক, লো, াইলেন, াইত, িয়ে, িয়েছি, িয়েছিলাম, াইবেন, াবেন

TABLE III. List of কৃৎ-প্রত্যয়

Parts of Speech	List
Noun	ওন, ানো, ওনা, ুনি, ানি, ারি, ারী, ুরি, না, ানোর
Adjective	ন্ত, ুন্তি, ুক, ুকা, কো, োয়া, িষ্ণু, বর, মান

Rule 1: According to Bangla grammar, a Verb word is a combination of a verb root called ধাতু and an inflection known as ক্রিয়া-বিভক্তি (some of them shown in Table II), which only appears after Verb root. Suppose, current word i.e. $word_i$ (i = 0, 1, 2,…, length of sentence - 1) is examined and found with ক্রিয়া-বিভক্তি at the end. After chopping ক্রিয়া-বিভক্তি, if the remaining is found as a Verb root, then $word_i$ will be considered as a Verb. Example –



Rule 2: There are two types of suffixes in Bangla grammar, one called কৃৎ-প্রত্যয় and another called তদ্ধিত-প্রত্যয়. Between two of them, কৃৎ-প্রত্যয় only appears at the end of Verb root and তদ্ধিত-প্রত্যয় appears at the end of a meaningful word. Example –

চলন = চল্ (ধাতু) + অন (কৃৎ-প্রত্যয়)

বাড়িওয়ালা = বাড়ি (শব্দ) + ওয়ালা (তদ্ধিত-প্রত্যয়)

Here "চল্" is a verb root and "বাড়ি" is a word. Now, the interesting thing is, কৃৎ-প্রত্যয় only appear at the end of verb root and generate only Noun and Adjective [16]. Some of them only generate Noun word and some generate only the Adjective. So, we categorize them into Noun suffix group and Adjective suffix group (shown in Table III). If a Noun suffix appears at the end of Verb root, then the word will be tagged as a Noun. The same thing happens for Adjective suffix.

চলন = চল্ (ধাতু) + ন (কৃৎ-প্রত্যয়) = NOUN

চলন্ত = চল্ (ধাতু) + ন্ত (কৃৎ-প্রত্যয়) = ADJECTIVE

Rule 3: Consider every number is expressed in digits, not in words. According to the dictionary [17] and Bangla grammar [16], a number can be Noun or Adjective. Suppose, current word i.e. $word_i$ is a number, if immediate next word

i.e. $word_{i+1}$ is a quantifier marker (from the list Table IV), then $word_i$ is considered as an Adjective and $word_{i+1}$ is considered as a Noun. Otherwise, $word_i$ is considered as a Noun.

Sentence 1: "সে ১০ মাইল পথ পারি দিয়েছে।"

Sentence 2: "ধারা ১০ অনুসারে সে সাজা পেলো।"

In sentence 1, when "১০" is examined, the $word_{i+1}$ "মাইল" is found as a quantifier marker (from Table IV). So, "১০" will be considered as Adjective and "মাইল" is considered as Noun. But in sentence 2, "১০" will be considered as a Noun because next word is not a quantifier marker.

TABLE IV. QUANTIFIER MARKER LIST

Parts of Speech	Quantifier Marker
Noun	কেজি, লিটার, গজ, ফুট, ইঞ্চি, মিলিমিটার, সেন্টিমিটার, মিটার, কিলোমিটার, মাস, দিন, সপ্তাহ, সাল, বছর, যুগ, শত, হাজার, লাখ, লক্ষ, কোটি, মিলিয়ন, বিলিয়ন, টাকা, ডলার, রুপি, দিনার, ইউরো, শতাংশ, অংশ, বার, জন

TABLE V. SUFFIXES FOR NUMBER

Parts of Speech	List
Noun	লা, রা, ঠা, ই, শে
Adjective	টা, টি, খানা, খানি, টে, ম, য়, র্থ, ষ্ঠ, শ, তম, %

Rule 4: There are some suffixes, which stands with a number. We can divide them into two categories (Shown in Table V). One category expresses the number as Noun and another one express as Adjective. If the first category raised in $word_i$ then immediate next word $word_{i+1}$ considered as Noun. Because these Noun suffix categories actually used for indicates a date of a month. So, immediate next word must be a month's name.

Sentence 1: "সে ক্লাসে ১ম স্থান অধিকার করেছে।"

Sentence 2: "আজ ১লা বৈশাখ।"

In sentence 1, "১ম" indicates a position, so will be considered as Adjective. But in sentence 2, "১লা" indicates a fixed day of a month, so will be considered as Noun and $word_{i+1}$ also as Noun.

Rule 5: As mention before, তদ্ধিত-প্রত্যয় appears after meaningful words, but some of them can be categorized uniquely to identify a word as Noun or Adjective or Adverb. So, when $word_i$ is examined, if it ends with any of these suffixes (some of them shown in Table VI), then it will be considered as Noun/Adjective/Adverb respectively. For example, "বিপদজনক" ends with "জনক", which listed (in Table VI) as Adjective suffix. So, this word will be considered as an Adjective.

Rule 6: After stemming "ে" or "এ" from $word_i$, if it is found as Noun or Adjective, then $word_i$ will be considered as Adverb [15]. For example – if "চরমে" is stemmed with "ে" and remaining "চরম" is found as Adjective, then "চরমে" will be considered as Adverb.

TABLE VI. LIST OF তদ্ধিত-প্রত্যয় FOR NOUN, ADJECTIVE AND ADVERB

Parts of Speech	List
Noun	ওয়ালা, খানা, গিরি, দান, দানি, ুরিয়া, শীল, বাজি
Adjective	পানা, ভর, ভরা, মন্ত, বন্ত, খোর, জনক, মূলক, ব্যাপী, যোগ্য, কেন্দ্রিক, ঘটিত
Adverb	পূর্বক, রূপে, ভাবে, ভাবেই

Rule 7: This rule is generated to handle words, which have more than one meaning. For example – "ও" sometimes used for addressing someone and sometimes used for connecting two sentences or words. For these kinds of word, we follow the maximizing rule. We search the word in the dictionary and gather unique tags for that word with their frequency. Finally, get the maximum frequency tag for that word.

Rule 8: Consider, "সুখ-দুঃখ", "তা-ও". Here, one indicates two different words connected with '-', and another indicates one word. We assume '-' containing word as two different words and apply other rules. After applying all rules mentioned above, if the word doesn't have any tag then combine those two words with '-', considered as one word and find into the dictionary. If it is not found in the dictionary then considered as a Noun.

Rule 9: If no above mention rule is applicable for the word, then it will be considered as Noun.

We have modified an algorithm for tagging Bangla word based on above mentioned rules. This algorithm needs four parameters, testing dataset as corpus, tagged dictionary dataset as dic, verb root dataset as vrot and quantifier marker list as quantifier_list. The algorithm is given below –

```
banglaPosTaggarAlgo(corpus, dic, vrot, quantifier_list)
1. for each sentence from corpus
2.    for each word from sentenc
3.       take current word as word and next word as
         next_word
4.       if (isVerb(word, vrot))
5.          tag = Verb and continue
6.       else
7.          tag = isNounOrAdjectiveFromKritSuffix(word,
            vrot)
8.          if (tag != false)
9.             tag and continue
10.         end if
11.         if (isNumber(word))
12.            tag = tagForNumber(word, next_word,
               quantifier_list)
13.            if next word is also tagger
14.               increase one step for loop
15.               continue
16.            else
17.               continue
18.            end if
19.         end if
20.         if (isQuantifierMarker(word, quantifier_list))
21.            continue
22.         end if
23.         tag = getTagFromToddhitSuffix(word)
24.         if (tag != false)
25.            continue
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26.         end if
27.         if(isInDictionary(word, dic))
28.           continue
29.         clse
30.           if 'ে' present at the end
31.             remove 'ে' and check again in dictionary
32.             if get tag as Noun or Adjective
33.               continue
34.             end if
35.           end if
36.           roots = stemmer(word)
37.           if (count(roots) != 0)
38.             for each root from roots
39.               if match found
40.                 continue
41.               end if
42.             end for
43.           else
44.             tag = Noun
45.             continue
46.           end if
47.         end if
48.       end if
49.     end for
50. end for
```

Let's discuss the algorithm banglaPosTaggarAlgo (corpus, dic, vrot, quantifier_list) step by step. First, we take each sentence from the corpus in line 1 and explode it with space ' ' in a word array. Then take each word from this word array in line 2 and check if it contains hyphen '-' or not, for a purpose of getting current word and next word in line 3. If yes then explode it and take 1st part as current word and 2nd part as next word. If not, then take $word_i$ as current word and $word_{i+1}$ as next word.

Now, $word_i$ is going for verb checking in line 4, where current word is cropped with the list of ক্রিয়া-বিভক্তি (Table II) whenever a match found, and take all cropped roots into an array. If this array has any root that matches with verb root, then $word_i$ considered as a verb in line 5. If $word_i$ is not a Verb, then $word_i$ go for Noun/Adjective checking in line 7, 8, 9. Here, $word_i$ is cropped with Noun /Adjective কৃৎ suffix list (Table III) and takes roots to match with verb root. If match found, then gets corresponding tag according to suffix category.

From line 11-19, algorithm works for numerical words. If $word_i$ is a number containing word and it contains only digit, then check $word_{i+1}$ is a quantifier marker or not. If $word_{i+1}$ is a quantifier marker (Table IV), then tag $word_i$ as Adjective and $word_{i+1}$ as Noun. If $word_{i+1}$ contains quantifier marker as substring, then tag $word_i$ as Adjective. If $word_{i+1}$ does not fulfill any of these two conditions, then tag $word_i$ as Noun. But if $word_i$ does not only contain digits then match the ending suffix with listed Noun/Adjective suffix for numbers (Table V). If match found, then get corresponding tag.

Now, If $word_i$ is a quantifier marker then tag $word_i$ as Noun, but if $word_i$ contains quantifier marker as substring, then also $word_i$ is considered as Noun in line 20, 21, 22. If $word_i$ does not get tag yet, then check whether the $word_i$ ends with Noun/Adjective/Adverb তদ্ধিত suffix list (Table VI) in line 23. If a match found, then get the corresponding tag.

Finally, the word goes for dictionary search from line 27-47. Algorithm search for $word_i$ in the full dictionary. An array contains unique tags found for $word_i$ with their frequency. And then calculate the maximum frequency tag for $word_i$.

But if $word_i$ is not present in the dictionary, then check whether it is end with "ে" or not. If yes, then chop the "ে" from $word_i$ and check the remainder into dictionary. If it results in Noun or adjective then $word_i$ is considered as Adverb. If "ে" is not present then it is cropped with other তদ্ধিত suffix and the search process in the dictionary is repeated. This time cropped one is search into the dictionary. If still not found into the dictionary then tag the $word_i$ as Noun.

Consider these following sentences as input for the system collected from corpus –

"কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার ২৫শে অক্টোবর জারি করে এই নির্দেশিকা। বিশ্বের ৭৪টি দেশের ৪৫০টি শহরের মানুষ বর্তমানে উবারের সেবা পাচ্ছে।"

After applying this algorithm -

কেন্দ্রীয় (ADJ) সরকার (NN) ২৫শে (NN) অক্টোবর (NN) জারি (NN) করে (VRB) এই (PRO) নির্দেশিকা (NN)

বিশ্বের (NN) ৭৪টি (ADJ) দেশের (NN) ৪৫০টি (ADJ) শহরের (NN) মানুষ (NN) বর্তমানে (ADV) উবারের (NN) সেবা (NN) পাচ্ছে (VRB)

IV. Experimenta Result And Discussion

The efficiency of a system can be measured from its accuracy level. Our proposed algorithm is applied to the testing dataset, which is collected from different popular online newspaper and blogs. There are almost 12,000 words available in the testing dataset. Accuracy is measured from the ratio of the number of correctly tagged word and the total number of words. Our system can detect 11,304 words with correct tags. It means, our system obtains 94.2% accuracy, which is not a bad figure. Our system detects Verb, Noun, Adjective, and Adverb more efficiently. In this paper, we experiment on the words in three different environments and get different accuracy level in different environments. The result is shown in Table VII.

TABLE VII. Experiment Result

Total word	Experiment Type	Correctly Tagged Word	Accuracy %
12000	Without dictionary and verb-root dataset	7240	60.3%
	Without dictionary and with verb-root dataset	9831	81.3%
	Dictionary + Verb-root + Rules	11304	94.2%

By analyzing the result, we identify some constraints. Those are mentioned below-

Firstly, some words wrongly tagged as a Verb. For example – "তাকে", which is a pronoun. But if we divide the word, we get "তাক্", which is a Verb root and "ে", which is a ক্রিয়া-বিভক্তি. According to grammatical rule, it is correct to tag as a verb. But we know, this is Pronoun.

Secondly, there are some foreign words, like "ড্র", "সিরিজজয়ী", which counted as a Noun. There are no specific rules can be applied to them.

Thirdly, some English words conflict with some Bangla words. For example – "কার" can be used as to mean Car or to mean Whose. As a result, the word is tagged with the wrong tag.

Fourthly, some non-suffix words, which are not in the dictionary, are automatically counted as a Noun. For example – an Adjective word "চেনা", which is tagged as a Noun.

Fifthly, some words have different parts-of-speech according to the meaning in the sentence. In this case, maximum occurred tag is applied to them. For example – "ও" is used as Pronoun and Conjunction. Suppose, "ও" is a pronoun in a sentence. But the frequency of Conjunction is high in the dictionary, so "ও" tagged as Conjunction.

Sixthly, word that ends with "ে" and root word is a Noun/Adjective, which is not an Adverb, but still tagged as Adverb. For Example – a word "ফুটবলে", that ends with "ে", is tagged as Adverb. But it is a Noun.

Finally, Bangla is a very mysterious language, where each word has multiple forms. So, identify each word with an appropriate tag is not possible. Moreover, Bangla language is influenced by various foreign language. So, many grammatical rules are not applicable to them.

TABLE VIII. ACCURACY OF DIFFERENT POS TAGGERS

POS Tagger	Ekbal [6]	Mukherjee [9]	Parikh [12]	Hoque [14]	Our Proposed System
Accuracy %	86.8%	93.1%	92.1%	93.7%	94.2%

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

We successfully develop our proposed Bangla POS tagger system with a satisfying accuracy level (94.2%), using Bangla grammar suffix rules. This POS tagger is performs slightly better than other available POS tagger (Shown in Table VIII). Here dictionary dataset and Verb root dataset helps to increase efficiency level. It can be more efficient. But we don't apply any rule for Pronoun, Conjunction, and Interjection. Because these are the non-suffix words and cannot be recognized without knowing their roles in the sentence. Moreover, Bangla has a huge range of vocabulary, which is influenced by various languages. It is not possible to give an accurate tag to every word. But we can increase the accuracy, if it is possible to find the role of a word in a sentence.

In this system, we identify tag according to Bangla grammar, especially using suffix analysis. This system mainly focuses on word-level tag accuracy. In the future, we will go for sentence-level accuracy. We will analyze the sentence pattern to identify the role of the word. Here we assign only eight POS tags, but we will try to cover all sub-categories of each base POS tag.

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