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# Mekelle University

## Mekelle Institute of Technology

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### A Final Year Project: AI-Driven Human Disease Detection

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the  
degree of B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering (Regular)



Submitted By:

Name	ID
1. Daniel Assefa	MIT/UR/049/11
2. Desalegn Gebregziabher	MIT/UR/059/11
3. Gebremedhn Yihaysh	MIT/UR/081/11
4. Shambel Kidie	MIT/UR/199/11
5. Nebeyat G/her	MIT/UR/186/11

Under the Supervision of: **Kinfe T.**  
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## Abstract

This project presents the design and development of a hybrid, AI-powered disease detection system capable of supporting diagnosis through both **text-based symptom input** and **image-based medical analysis**. The system introduces a **dual-platform solution** composed of a **desktop application** and a **mobile application**, each tailored to meet the needs of diverse user environments ranging from clinical settings to low-resource or remote areas.

The **desktop application**, developed using Python's Tkinter library, provides a user-friendly interface where users can input a patient's name, age, and either describe symptoms in natural language or upload relevant medical images (e.g., skin lesions). The **symptom-based prediction module** employs a **Term Frequency–Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF)** vectorizer in combination with a **neural network classifier** to process textual symptom descriptions and identify the most probable disease. In parallel, the **image-based prediction module** leverages a **Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)** built on the **pre-trained VGG16 architecture**, fine-tuned for classifying medical images into predefined disease categories with high accuracy.

Complementing the desktop system, a **mobile application** was developed using the **Flutter framework** and integrates a **TensorFlow Lite (TFLite)** version of the image classification model. This mobile app enables users to upload images and receive fast, on-device disease predictions without needing internet connectivity, making it suitable for real-time, offline diagnostics on smartphones.

Both platforms are designed to not only deliver accurate disease predictions but also provide users with **comprehensive health insights**, including disease **descriptions**, **prescribed medications**, and **preventive measures**. This feature transforms the system from a diagnostic tool into an **educational resource** that promotes health awareness and informed decision-making.

By combining **natural language processing (NLP)** and **deep learning** in a seamless user experience, this system demonstrates the effectiveness of a **multi-modal, cross-platform approach** in enhancing diagnostic support. It addresses key challenges in healthcare delivery—such as lack of access to professional medical evaluation, especially in under-resourced areas—by offering a scalable, accessible, and interpretable AI-driven solution. The project ultimately showcases the potential of artificial intelligence in transforming early disease detection and personalized healthcare services.

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## List of Abbreviation

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CNN	Convolutional Neural Network
TF-IDF	Term Frequency–Inverse Document Frequency
NLP	Natural Language Processing
GUI	Graphical User Interface
TFLite	TensorFlow Lite
UI	User Interface
IDE	Integrated Development Environment
CSV	Comma-Separated Values
XAI	Explainable Artificial Intelligence
MIT	Mekelle Institute of Technology (in this document context)
Tkinter	(No abbreviation – Python GUI library)
VGG16	Visual Geometry Group 16-layer CNN (commonly used CNN architecture)
PIL	Python Imaging Library
OpenCV	Open Source Computer Vision Library
.pkl	Pickle File Format (Python serialized object)
.h5	Hierarchical Data Format version 5
.tflite	TensorFlow Lite Model File Format
ReLU	Rectified Linear Unit (Activation function)
ICLR	International Conference on Learning Representations

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# Chapter 1:

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Accurate and timely diagnosis of diseases is essential for effective healthcare delivery. Traditionally, healthcare providers depend on patient-reported symptoms and medical imaging to identify illnesses. While this approach is widely practiced, it can be time-consuming and susceptible to human error or subjective interpretation. Recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) have opened new opportunities in healthcare, particularly in disease detection. AI systems can process large volumes of medical data, including textual symptom descriptions and diagnostic images, to provide faster and more objective analysis. By automating the diagnostic process, AI helps reduce workload on healthcare professionals and improves decision-making. The use of natural language processing (NLP) techniques for symptom analysis and convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for image classification has shown promising results in medical applications. Integrating both symptom text and image data within a single diagnostic system could further improve the accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility of disease diagnosis in various healthcare settings.

### 1.2 Problem Statement

Access to timely and reliable medical consultations remains a challenge for many individuals, particularly in under-resourced areas. While artificial intelligence has shown potential in automating disease diagnosis, most existing systems are limited to a single input type—either symptom-based text analysis or image-based detection. This lack of integration restricts their effectiveness in real-world applications, where users may provide either textual symptoms or medical images such as skin lesions. Furthermore, many current solutions focus solely on prediction without offering additional disease-related information. This creates a gap in patient understanding, follow-up care, and self-management. There is a clear need for an intelligent, accessible system that accepts diverse inputs and provides both accurate predictions and informative details to support healthcare decision-making.

### 1.3 Objectives

#### 1.3.1 General Objective:

To design and develop a dual-platform AI-based disease detection system—desktop and mobile—that diagnoses diseases using symptom text or medical images through natural language processing and deep learning techniques.

#### 1.3.2 Specific Objectives:

- To develop a desktop application using Python and Tkinter that accepts both symptom text input and medical image input for disease prediction.
- To implement a symptom-based diagnosis model using Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) for feature extraction and a neural network for disease classification.

- To implement an image-based diagnosis model using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) based on the pre-trained VGG16 architecture for classifying medical images.
- To integrate a user-friendly interface in the desktop application that allows users to input patient name, age, symptoms, or upload an image, and view predicted diseases along with details, precautions, and prescriptions.
- To develop a mobile application using Flutter that accepts medical image input and performs disease prediction using a TensorFlow Lite (TFLite) model.
- To ensure the mobile app provides real-time predictions and displays disease information, including description, precautions, and prescriptions in a compact, accessible format.
- To evaluate the system's performance in terms of accuracy for the desktop platforms.

#### 1.4 Scope of study

This study focuses on developing an AI-based disease detection system available on both desktop and mobile platforms. The desktop application accepts two types of inputs: symptom text and medical images, while the mobile application supports only medical image input. Symptom analysis uses natural language processing techniques, including TF-IDF and neural networks, and image analysis employs a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) based on the VGG16 architecture. The system predicts a selected set of common diseases with sufficient data available.

The applications aim to assist general users and healthcare workers, especially in remote or resource-limited areas, by providing disease predictions along with descriptions, precautionary advice, and prescriptions. The system is intended as a supportive tool and does not replace professional medical diagnosis.

#### 1.5 Significance of study

This system is designed to be used by both general users and healthcare workers, especially in remote or underserved areas, enabling quick identification of diseases and access to precautionary advice. By combining symptom-based and image-based diagnosis through advanced machine learning techniques, the system enhances diagnostic accuracy where access to medical professionals is limited.

Its user-friendly interface allows patients or health workers to easily input symptoms or upload images, receiving fast and reliable disease predictions. Beyond diagnosis, the system provides comprehensive information including disease descriptions, prescriptions, and precautions, which supports better understanding and management of health conditions.

By reducing diagnosis time, facilitating early detection, and encouraging preventive care, this study contributes to more efficient, accessible, and scalable healthcare delivery, ultimately improving patient outcomes in resource-constrained settings.

#### 1.6 Research Questions

How can a dual-platform system (desktop and mobile) improve the accuracy, accessibility, and usability of automated human disease detection, especially in resource-limited settings?

## Chapter 2:

### Literature Review

In recent years, artificial intelligence (AI) has become an essential force in transforming healthcare, particularly in the domain of automated disease diagnosis. AI's ability to process and analyze vast amounts of complex medical data has allowed for significant advancements in detecting diseases at early stages. Researchers have traditionally approached AI-based disease diagnosis through either symptom-based analysis or image-based detection. However, systems integrating both these approaches remain scarce. This literature review explores key studies and concepts related to symptom-based disease prediction, medical image analysis, and hybrid diagnostic frameworks, thereby establishing a theoretical foundation for the development of an AI-driven disease detection system that uses both symptom descriptions and medical images.

AI-driven disease prediction systems commonly utilize foundational techniques from two major areas: Natural Language Processing (NLP) for symptom text analysis and computer vision for medical image classification. The NLP approach primarily involves transforming unstructured symptom descriptions into meaningful numerical representations that machine learning models can interpret. One widely used technique is the Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF), which converts text into vectors by emphasizing important keywords while reducing the weight of commonly used words. Rajaraman and Ullman (2011) underscored TF-IDF's critical role in biomedical text classification, demonstrating how it effectively highlights the most relevant terms in symptom data, thereby improving the performance of machine learning classifiers. Their study forms the basis for many contemporary symptom-based disease prediction systems, which rely on TF-IDF to capture essential symptom features that correlate with specific diseases.

In parallel, advancements in computer vision, particularly through Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have revolutionized image-based disease detection. CNN architectures such as VGG16 have proven highly effective in medical image classification tasks due to their ability to learn hierarchical spatial features. Simonyan and Zisserman (2015), in their seminal work on VGGNet, showed how deep CNNs could model complex visual patterns from images, making them well-suited for applications such as detecting skin lesions, tumors, or abnormalities in radiographs. Their research provided a robust architecture widely adopted and fine-tuned for various medical image datasets.

Following this, Esteva et al. (2017) demonstrated one of the earliest successful large-scale applications of CNNs in healthcare, specifically in dermatology. Their model achieved dermatologist-level accuracy in diagnosing skin cancer from clinical images, underscoring the potential of AI to augment clinical expertise. However, Esteva et al.'s work focused exclusively on images without incorporating patient-reported symptoms or medical history, which could potentially improve diagnostic accuracy by providing a more comprehensive view of the patient's condition.

Similarly, Kermany et al. (2018) developed CNN models trained on retinal and chest X-ray images to detect diseases like pneumonia and diabetic retinopathy. Their approach achieved high classification accuracy but, like many image-centric models, lacked integration with symptom data. This limitation

reduces their applicability in scenarios where symptom information is vital for accurate diagnosis or where images alone may be insufficient.

On the symptom-based diagnostic front, Patel et al. (2020) applied machine learning techniques on symptom data processed through TF-IDF vectorization. Their study demonstrated promising results in disease classification using only textual symptom input. While effective, this method lacked the flexibility to incorporate image data, thus limiting its use in cases where visual evidence is critical. This separation between symptom and image-based diagnostic systems highlights a significant gap in current AI solutions.

Addressing this gap, Sharma and Singh (2021) proposed a hybrid diagnostic framework combining image analysis with symptom matching. Their results indicated that integrating both data types could improve overall diagnostic accuracy compared to isolated approaches. Nonetheless, their study was limited by the absence of an interactive, real-time system that end-users could readily employ, reducing its practical utility.

From a usability perspective, Singh et al. (2022) focused on developing user-friendly applications, exemplified by a mobile app for plant disease detection using CNNs. Their research highlighted that accessible graphical user interfaces (GUIs) greatly enhance user engagement and system adoption, especially in resource-constrained settings. This insight is transferable to healthcare applications, where simple, intuitive interfaces can empower patients and health workers alike, improving the reach and impact of AI tools.

Further emphasizing real-world applicability, Kumar et al. (2019) argued for AI-based solutions tailored to rural healthcare environments. Their work advocated for compact, offline-capable systems capable of handling multiple input modalities to overcome infrastructure limitations. Such approaches are crucial for extending AI-driven diagnostics beyond urban centers, making healthcare more equitable and accessible.

Despite these advances, several critical challenges persist. Most existing AI diagnostic systems focus narrowly on either image or text inputs, with very few addressing the integration of both modalities into a cohesive, real-time framework. This limits diagnostic comprehensiveness and usability, as patients may not always provide consistent input types. Moreover, many systems fail to include interpretability features that explain predictions, such as detailed disease causes, prescriptions, and preventive advice—information vital for patient education and follow-up care.

Ahmed et al. (2020) emphasized the importance of explainability and educational components in patient-centered AI tools. Their study demonstrated that transparent AI systems that communicate diagnostic rationale and actionable guidance significantly improve patient trust and adherence to treatment plans. Likewise, Al-Garadi et al. (2021) reviewed intelligent health systems and identified a widespread lack of explainability and interactive design in existing AI healthcare applications. They argued that systems must not only predict outcomes but also provide clear explanations accessible to non-expert users, fostering better understanding and empowerment.

To address these gaps, the current study proposes a disease detection system that integrates TF-IDF-based symptom analysis and CNN-based image classification within a unified framework. By incorporating a user-friendly Tkinter GUI, the system enables patients or health workers to input either symptoms or images and receive disease predictions alongside top alternative diagnoses. Additionally, the system offers

an educational module detailing disease descriptions, prescriptions, and precautions, thereby enhancing patient awareness and management.

## 2.1 Motivation:

Accurate and timely disease diagnosis is essential for effective healthcare but remains a significant challenge, especially in remote and underserved areas where access to medical professionals is limited. Many individuals suffer from delayed or incorrect diagnoses, which can lead to complications and increased healthcare costs. With the rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI), there is an opportunity to develop intelligent systems that support faster and more reliable disease detection by analyzing multiple data types such as symptom descriptions and medical images.

This project is motivated by the need to create an accessible, user-friendly AI system that assists both patients and healthcare workers in early disease identification. By combining symptom-based analysis using natural language processing techniques with image-based classification through deep learning, the system can offer more accurate and comprehensive diagnostic support than standalone models.

Furthermore, providing detailed disease information, including precautions and prescriptions, empowers users to understand and manage their health better. This holistic approach aims to improve healthcare outcomes and promote preventive care, especially in resource-limited settings. The project ultimately seeks to bridge gaps in current healthcare delivery by making advanced diagnostic tools more widely available and easier to use.

## Chapter 3:

### System Design

The proposed disease prediction system is designed as a dual-platform solution consisting of a desktop application and a mobile application. The desktop app accepts both symptom text input and medical image input, enabling users to perform comprehensive disease diagnosis through multiple modalities. The mobile app is optimized for on-the-go use and supports only medical image input for quick and accessible disease detection.

The system integrates natural language processing and deep learning models, including a TF-IDF vectorizer with a neural network for symptom-based diagnosis and a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) based on the VGG16 architecture for image-based classification. The desktop application features a user-friendly graphical interface developed with Tkinter, while the mobile application is built using Flutter and incorporates a lightweight TensorFlow Lite model to ensure efficient performance on smartphones. The design comprises several key components:

#### 3.0 Requirement Analysis

Before designing the system architecture, it is essential to identify and document the system's requirements. These are divided into functional, non-functional, and system requirements.

##### 3.0.1 Functional Requirements

- The system shall allow users to input personal information such as name and age.
- The system shall provide two modes of disease prediction on the desktop platform: symptom text input and image upload.
- The system shall provide disease prediction on the mobile platform through image upload and by camera capturing.
- The system shall accept and process free-text symptoms on the desktop platform using TF-IDF vectorization and a neural network.
- The system shall accept image files on both desktop and mobile platforms and preprocess them for CNN-based model prediction.
- The system shall display the top two or three predicted diseases along with confidence scores on both platforms.
- The system shall display detailed disease descriptions, precautions, and prescriptions corresponding to the predicted results.
- The system shall handle invalid or missing inputs with appropriate error messages.

##### 3.0.2 Non-Functional Requirements

- The system shall have a user-friendly and intuitive graphical interface on both desktop (Tkinter) and mobile (Flutter) platforms.
- Predictions shall be generated and displayed within 5 seconds on both platforms to ensure an efficient user experience.

- The system shall maintain a prediction accuracy of at least 85% based on validation data for both symptom-based and image-based models.
- The desktop application shall be portable and executable on systems with Python installed, while the mobile application shall be compatible with Android and iOS devices.
- The system shall handle errors gracefully and prevent application crashes during usage on both desktop and mobile platforms.
- The mobile application shall be optimized for low resource usage to support performance on a variety of smartphone devices.

### 3.0.3 System Requirements

#### Hardware Requirements:

- Processor: Minimum 1.5 GHz (Intel i3 or equivalent)
- Desktop: Minimum 1.5 GHz CPU, 8 GB RAM, 1 GB free storage, GPU recommended for faster image model training and prediction.
- Mobile: Modern smartphone with at least 2 GB RAM and sufficient storage.

#### Software Requirements:

- Operating System: Windows, Linux, or macOS
- Programming Language: Python 3.13
- Libraries: TensorFlow, Keras, Scikit-learn, NumPy, Pandas, Tkinter, PIL, OpenCV
- IDE/Editor: Jupyter Notebook or any Python IDE for desktop and Mobile: Android or iOS; Flutter framework; TensorFlow Lite.

### 3.1 System Architecture

The system follows a modular, layered architecture composed of the following components:

- ***For Desktop app***
- **Input Layer:**  
Users enter personal information such as name and age, then choose one of two input methods:
  - *Text-based symptoms* entered manually in natural language form.
  - *Medical images* selected from local storage, such as photos of skin conditions or radiographs.
- **Preprocessing Module:**  
This module prepares inputs for model consumption:
  - *Symptom Text:* The raw text is transformed using Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) vectorization, converting symptom descriptions into numerical feature vectors that capture term relevance.
  - *Medical Images:* Uploaded images are resized to match the input size of the CNN model and normalized to ensure consistent pixel value ranges.
- **Prediction Engine:**  
Two distinct predictive models process the inputs:

- *Symptom Model*: A trained neural network classifier operates on the TF-IDF vectors to predict possible diseases based on text input.
- *Image Model*: A convolutional neural network (CNN), specifically a fine-tuned VGG16 architecture, analyzes image features to classify diseases visually.
- **Top-K Prediction Module:**  
This module extracts the top 2 to 3 likely disease predictions from the output probabilities of the respective model, providing users with alternative diagnostic possibilities.
- **Details Retrieval Module:**  
Once a disease is predicted, this module fetches relevant information such as detailed descriptions, precautionary measures, and prescriptions from structured CSV files that serve as the system's knowledge base.
- **Graphical User Interface (GUI):**  
Built using Tkinter, the GUI supports:
  - Mode selection between symptom text input and image upload.
  - Input fields for user details and symptoms or file selection for images.
  - Display of prediction results, including confidence scores.
  - A 'View Details' button to open a separate window presenting comprehensive disease insights.

#### ***- For Mobile application***

The mobile app is designed to provide quick and accessible disease detection using medical images, with the following components:

- **Input Layer:**  
Users enter personal information such as name and age and upload medical images (e.g., skin photos or radiographs) from the device gallery or camera.
- **Preprocessing Module:**  
Uploaded images are resized and normalized to fit the input requirements of the TensorFlow Lite CNN model, ensuring consistent data quality.
- **Prediction Engine:**  
A lightweight TensorFlow Lite model, based on a fine-tuned VGG16 architecture, processes the preprocessed images to classify diseases.
- **Top-K Prediction Module:**  
The system extracts the top 2 to 3 disease predictions with their confidence scores to present alternative diagnostic options.
- **Details Retrieval Module:**  
Retrieves disease descriptions, precautionary advice, and prescriptions from embedded data or a local database for the predicted diseases.
- **User Interface (UI):**  
Built using Flutter, the UI provides:
  - Input fields for personal details and image upload options.
  - Display of prediction results with confidence scores.
  - A section or button to view detailed disease information.



### 3.2 Modules

The system's core modules include:

- **Input Handler:** Manages user inputs (personal info, symptoms, images), validates entries, and directs data to the correct preprocessing pipeline based on platform and input type.
- **TF-IDF Vectorizer + Neural Network:** Processes symptom text input and performs disease classification (desktop only).
- **VGG16 CNN Model:** Processes image input for disease classification on both desktop and mobile (TensorFlow Lite on mobile).
- **Output Display Module:** Shows predicted diseases, confidence scores, and provides access to detailed disease information.

### 3.3 Database Design (CSV-based)

The system relies on CSV files as lightweight, structured databases for medical knowledge, including:

- *DiseaseAndSymptoms.csv*: Maps diseases to commonly associated symptoms.
- *symptom\_Description.csv*: Contains detailed textual descriptions of diseases.
- *symptom\_precaution.csv*: Lists recommended precautions for each disease.
- *prescription.csv*: Links diseases with common treatments and medications.

This modular CSV design facilitates easy updates and expansion without complex database management.

### 3.4 Model Training and Storage

- **Symptom Classifier:**  
Trained on symptom datasets vectorized using TF-IDF, this neural network model is saved in a portable format such as `.pkl` or `.h5`.
- **Image Classifier:**  
The VGG16 model is fine-tuned on labeled medical image datasets and stored in `.h5` format for efficient loading.

Both models are dynamically loaded at runtime depending on the user's chosen input method, optimizing resource usage.

### 3.5 User Interface Design

- **Main Window (Desktop & Mobile):**  
Fields for patient name and age, with options to select input mode (symptom text or image). On mobile, symptom input is disabled—image input only.

- **Symptom Mode (Desktop Only):**  
Multiline text box for symptom entry with a 'Predict' button.
- **Image Mode (Desktop & Mobile):**  
File picker (desktop) or camera/gallery upload (mobile) with a 'Predict' button.
- **Results Display:**  
Shows predicted disease name, confidence score, and top alternative predictions for broader insight.
- **Details Window:**  
Displays disease description, prescriptions, and precautionary advice.
- **Translation Feature:**  
Translates disease-related terms between Tigrigna and English to support multilingual users.
- **User Rating:**  
Allows users to rate the app and provide feedback for continuous improvement.

### 3.6 Error Handling and Fallbacks

- The system validates user inputs and provides clear, friendly error messages if entries are missing or invalid.
- If no suitable disease match is found, the system displays messages such as "Not found" or "N/A" to inform the user transparently.
- Models are pre-tested and validated to ensure robust performance and prevent crashes during prediction.

## Chapter 4:

### Methodology

This chapter describes the methodology for developing a hybrid AI-driven disease prediction system with dual platforms: a desktop app accepting both symptom text and medical images, and a mobile app accepting medical images only. The approach combines machine learning (for text) and deep learning (for images) with user-friendly interfaces (Tkinter for desktop, Flutter for mobile) to deliver accurate, accessible, and efficient disease diagnosis.

#### 4.1 Dataset preparation

The system relies on two main datasets to handle different input types:

- **Symptom Dataset:** This includes structured CSV files:
  - `DiseaseAndSymptoms.csv` maps diseases to their associated symptoms.
  - `symptom_Description.csv` provides textual descriptions for each disease.
  - `symptom_precaution.csv` lists recommended safety measures.
  - `prescription.csv` offers general treatment or medication suggestions.

These datasets support symptom-based classification by offering rich, textual data for supervised learning.

- **Image Dataset:** The image dataset is organized into labeled folders, with each folder corresponding to a specific disease class. These images are further divided into training and testing sets. This structured layout enables the training of a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) to classify diseases based on visual cues.

#### 4.2 Data Preprocessing

Proper preprocessing is essential for optimal model performance. The preprocessing steps differ for textual and visual data:

- **Text Data Preprocessing:**
  - **Cleaning:** Unnecessary characters, punctuation, and stop words are removed.
  - **Tokenization:** Text is split into tokens (words/phrases).
  - **Vectorization:** The processed text is converted into numerical form using the **Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF)** method. This helps highlight relevant symptom terms and suppress less informative ones.

```
stop_words = set(stopwords.words("english"))
def preprocess_text(text):
    text = text.lower()
    text = "".join([char for char in text if char.isalnum() or char.isspace()])
    tokens = text.split()
    tokens = [word for word in tokens if word not in stop_words]
    return " ".join(tokens)
```

**Fig.1 - data preprocessing**

```
# TF-IDF vectorization
vectorizer = TfidfVectorizer()
X = vectorizer.fit_transform(data["text"])
```

**Fig.2 - vectorization**

### Image Data Preprocessing:

- **Resizing:** All images are resized to 224×224 pixels, the required input size for the VGG16 architecture.
- **Normalization:** Pixel values are scaled to the [0,1] range to improve training stability.
- **Augmentation:** To enhance generalization and combat overfitting, data augmentation techniques are applied, including:
  - Random rotation
  - Horizontal and vertical flipping
  - Zoom-in transformations

```
train_datagen = ImageDataGenerator(
    rescale=1.0 / 255,
    rotation_range=20,
    width_shift_range=0.2,
    height_shift_range=0.2,
    horizontal_flip=True,
    zoom_range=0.2
)
```

**Fig.3 image data preprocessing**

These steps ensure that both textual and image data are in a format suitable for learning algorithms.

## 4.3 Model Design

The system is designed with two parallel models, tailored to their respective data types:

- **Symptom-Based Model:**
  - Input: TF-IDF vectors derived from the text.
  - Architecture: A neural network with multiple fully connected layers and ReLU activation functions.
  - Output: A softmax layer for multiclass disease classification.
  - Purpose: Predicts the most likely disease based on the entered symptoms.

```
model = Sequential()  
model.add(Dense(512, input_shape=(X.shape[1],), activation="relu"))  
model.add(Dropout(0.3))  
model.add(Dense(256, activation="relu"))  
model.add(Dropout(0.3))  
model.add(Dense(len(encoder.classes_), activation="softmax"))
```

**Fig.4 Symptom-Based Model**

- **Image-Based Model:**
  - Architecture: Fine-tuned **VGG16 CNN**, pre-trained on ImageNet.
  - Modifications: The final classification layers are replaced with custom dense layers suitable for classifying 10 disease categories.
  - Technique: **Transfer Learning** enables the reuse of learned features, saving training time and improving performance on small datasets.
  - Output: The predicted disease label and confidence level.

```
base_model = VGG16(weights="imagenet", include_top=False, input_shape=(224, 224, 3))  
for layer in base_model.layers:  
    layer.trainable = False  
model = Sequential([  
    base_model,  
    Flatten(),  
    Dense(256, activation='relu'),  
    Dropout(0.5),  
    Dense(self.num_classes, activation='softmax')  
])
```

**Fig.5 image based model**

## 4.4 Training and Evaluation

To evaluate model performance, the data is split into 80% training and 20% testing sets:

- The **CNN model** trained on image data achieved approximately **90% accuracy**, indicating strong visual feature recognition.
- The **TF-IDF-based neural network** reached an accuracy of around **88%**, showing good performance in interpreting textual symptoms.

Training – parameters:

```
model.compile(loss="categorical_crossentropy", optimizer="adam", metrics=["accuracy"])
model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=10, batch_size=16, validation_split=0.2)
```

Image model training -

```
self.model.compile(loss="categorical_crossentropy", optimizer="adam", metrics=["accuracy"])
self.model.fit(train_generator, epochs=10, validation_data=test_generator)
```

Fig.6 model training

Both models were trained using cross-entropy loss and optimized with the Adam optimizer. The training process included early stopping and validation monitoring to avoid overfitting.

## 4.5 Tools and Technologies

### **Programming Languages:**

Python 3.x (desktop backend), Dart (Flutter for mobile app)

### **Libraries and Frameworks:**

TensorFlow & Keras: Building and training neural networks (desktop)

TensorFlow Lite: Lightweight model inference on mobile

Scikit-learn: TF-IDF vectorization and evaluation

Pandas & NumPy: Data handling and processing

Tkinter: Desktop GUI development

Flutter: Cross-platform mobile UI development

### **Development Environment:**

Android Studio: Used for Flutter mobile app development and testing

### **Storage:**

Models saved as .h5 (desktop) and converted to TensorFlow Lite format (.tflite) for mobile

TF-IDF vectorizer and label encoder saved as .pkl files for symptom text processing

## 4.6 Integration

The trained models are integrated into two platforms with a unified approach:

- **Desktop app:**  
Users enter name, age, and select symptom text or image input.  
The system provides disease predictions with confidence scores and top 2–3 alternatives.  
Detailed disease information (descriptions, prescriptions, precautions) is retrieved from CSV files.
- **Mobile app:**  
Users enter name and age, then upload medical images only.  
Predictions and detailed disease info are displayed similarly.

This integrated, hybrid design offers flexible, accurate diagnostics with an improved user experience, particularly beneficial in resource-limited settings.

```
input_type_var = tk.StringVar(value="text") # text/image
predict_button = tk.Button(...)
...
predict_disease_text(symptoms) # for text input
...
ImageDiseaseDetection(...) # for image input
```

**Fig.7** integration code

## Chapter 5:

### Implementation

This chapter details the implementation of the hybrid disease prediction system, combining machine learning and deep learning in interactive, user-friendly interfaces. The desktop application, developed with Python using TensorFlow, Keras, Scikit-learn, and Tkinter, supports both symptom text and medical image inputs. The mobile app, built with Flutter and TensorFlow Lite, focuses on medical image-based prediction, providing lightweight and accessible diagnosis on Android devices.

#### 5.1 GUI Design

The system provides two user interfaces—one for desktop (built with Tkinter) and another for mobile (developed using Flutter)—both designed for simplicity, usability, and efficient interaction.

##### Desktop Application (Tkinter GUI)

The desktop interface supports both symptom-based and image-based disease predictions. Its layout includes:

- **Patient Information Input**  
Text fields to enter the patient's name and age for personalized interaction.
- **Mode Selection**  
Radio buttons or dropdowns let users choose between:
  - **Symptom Input:** For typing symptoms in natural language.
  - **Image Upload:** For uploading medical images from local storage.
- **Symptom Entry Box**  
A multiline text box where users input symptoms such as "cough, fatigue, and fever."
- **Image Upload Option**  
A "Browse" button to select and load images for analysis.
- **Prediction & Details Buttons**
  - **Predict:** Triggers the corresponding model based on selected mode.
  - **Details:** Displays predicted disease information including description, prescriptions, and precautions.
- **Results Display**  
Shows top 2–3 predicted diseases with confidence scores.
- **Language Translation**  
Option to translate disease results from Tigrigna to English.
- **Rating Feature**  
Allows users to rate their experience for feedback collection.



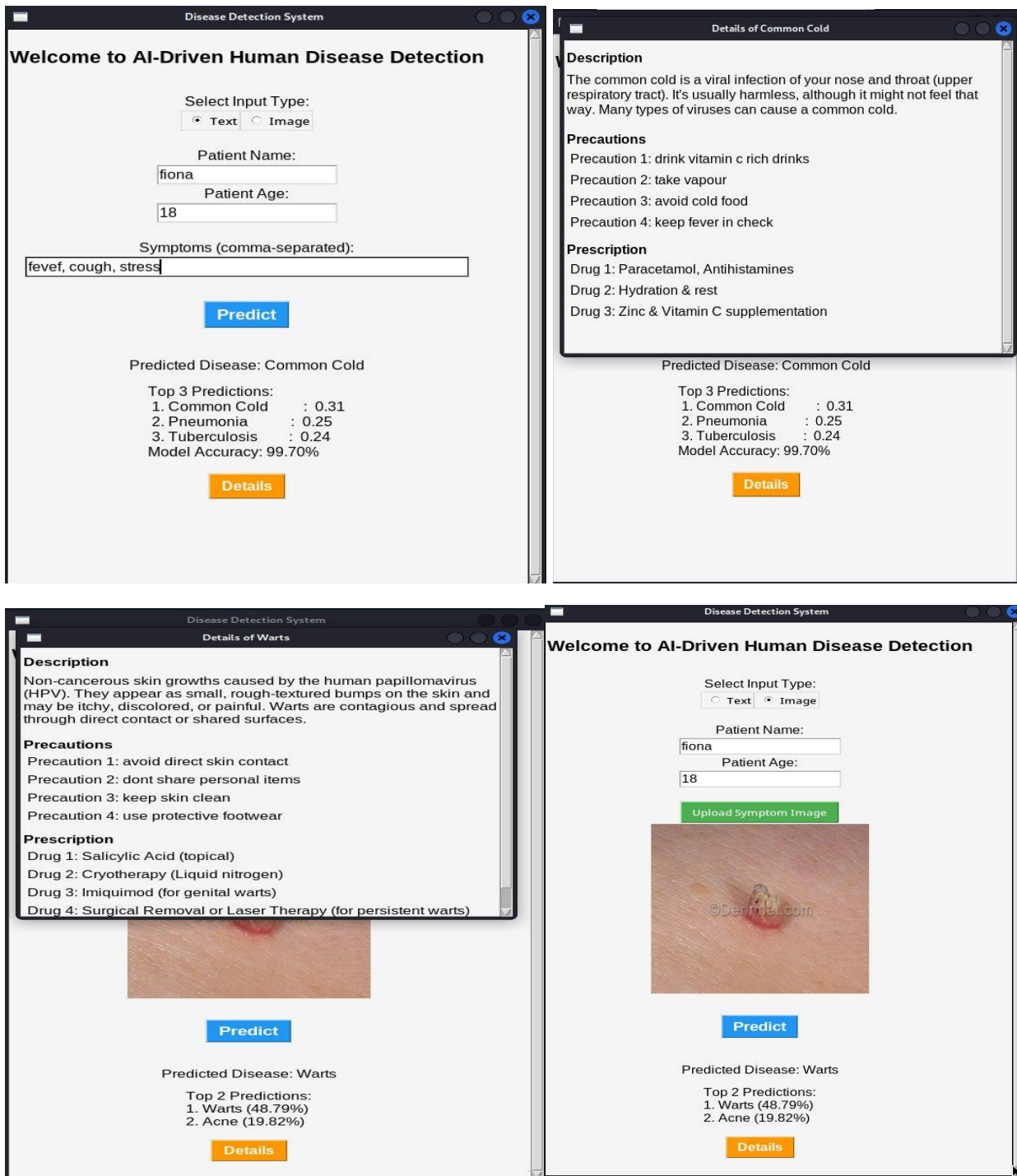


Fig.8 desktop GUI

## Mobile Application (Flutter App)

The mobile app focuses on image-based prediction and is optimized for accessibility and responsiveness:

- **Splash Screen**  
it splash for 8 seconds then directs to welcome screen.
- **Welcome Screen**  
Brief intro with language selection (e.g., English or Tigrigna).
- **Input Screen**
  - **Name & Age Fields:** For user identification.
  - **Image Upload Button:** Opens device gallery or camera.
  - **Predict Button:** Sends the image to the TensorFlow Lite model for processing.
- **Prediction Results Display**  
Shows predicted disease and top 2 alternatives with confidence percentages.

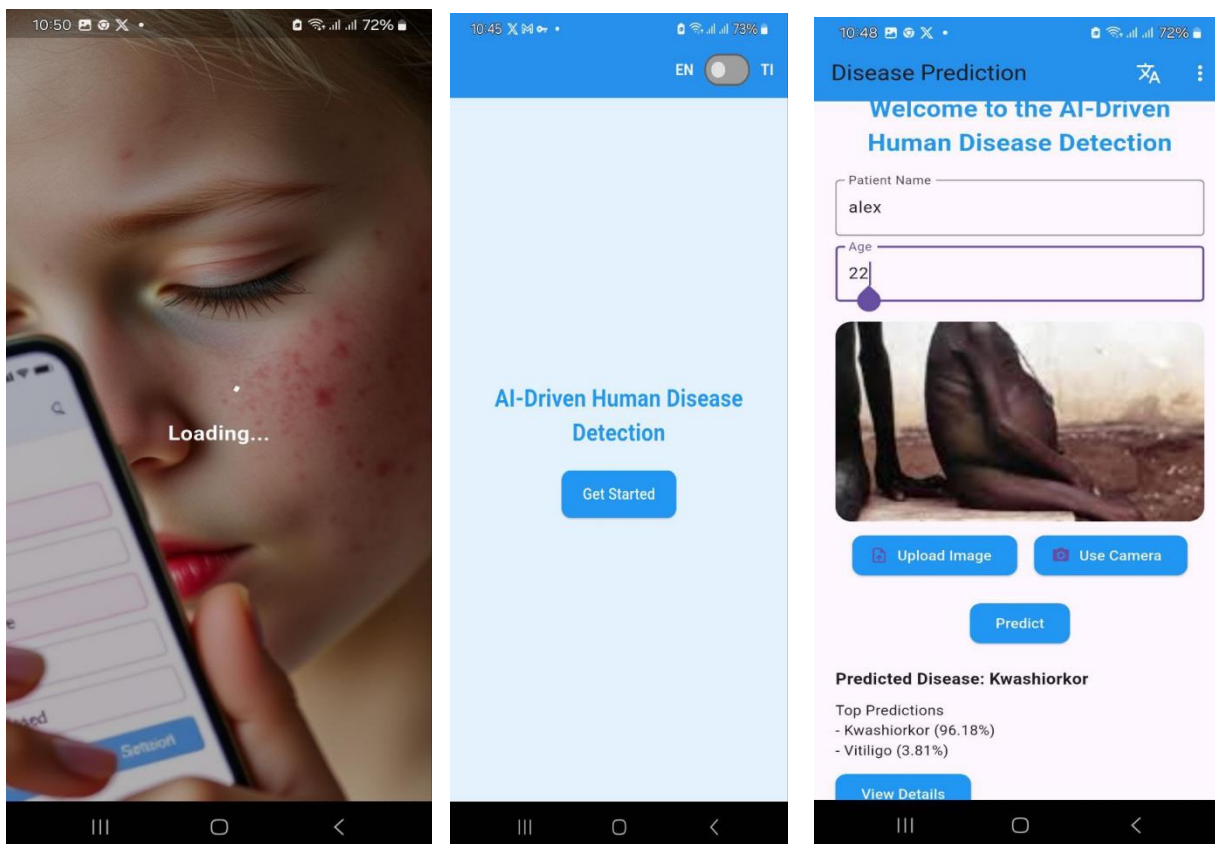


Fig.9 mobile app GUI\_1

- **Details View**  
Button to access detailed disease info: symptoms, precautions, and prescriptions.
- **Translate Option**  
Button to translate medical terms between Tigrigna and English.
- **Rating Page**  
Lets users rate the app to improve future versions.
- **Multi lingual** it also allows to switch the app in to Tigrigna language.

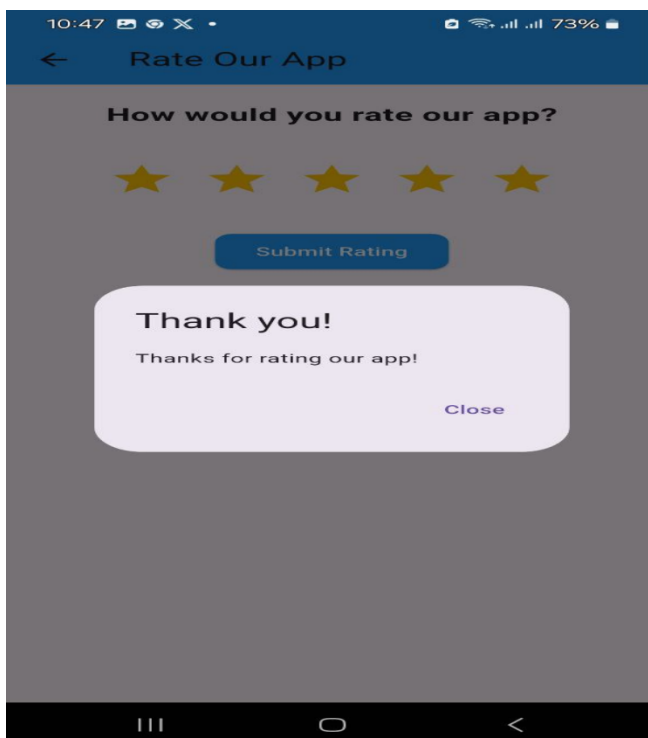
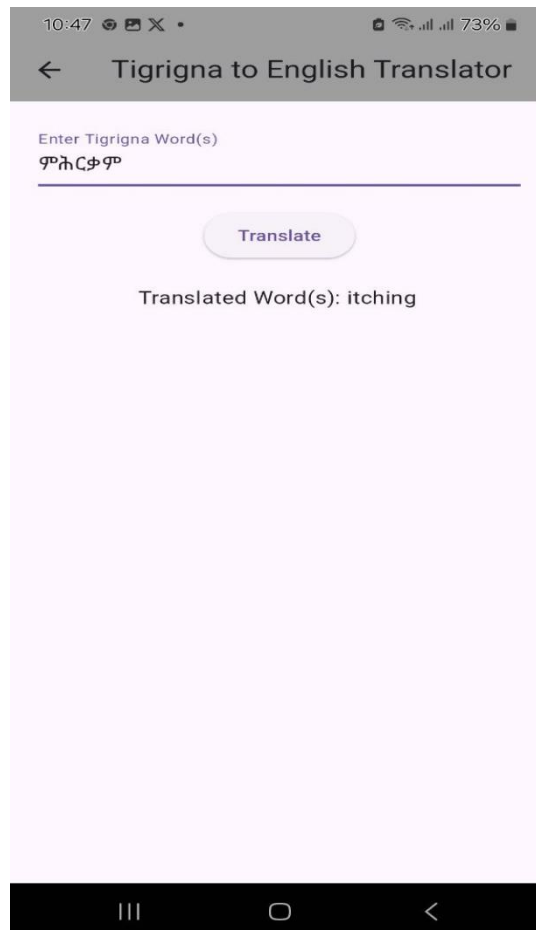
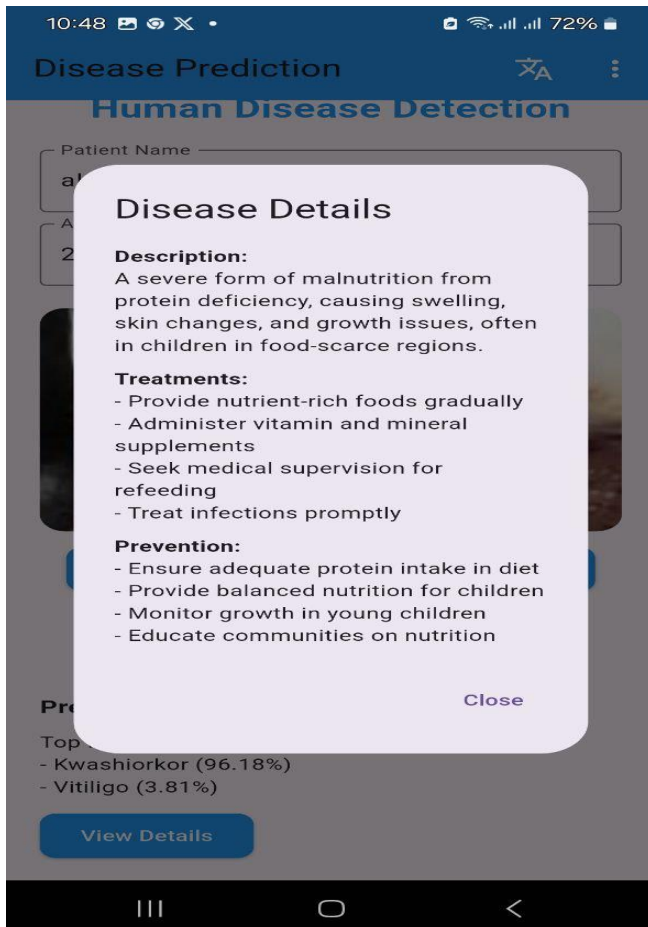


Fig.10 mobile app GUI\_2

Both interfaces are structured to guide the user from input to diagnosis with minimal confusion, making the system effective for both medical professionals and the general public.

## 5.2 Prediction Logic

The prediction process is divided into two distinct pipelines depending on the user's input — symptom text or medical image.

### Symptom-Based Prediction Pipeline

1. The system first preprocesses the entered symptom text by cleaning and tokenizing the input.
2. A pre-trained **TF-IDF vectorizer** is used to transform the text into a numerical vector format.
3. This vector is fed into a **neural network classifier**, which has been trained on symptom-disease mappings.
4. The model outputs a **probability distribution** over the disease classes.
5. The two most probable diseases are selected and presented to the user.

### Image-Based Prediction Pipeline

1. The uploaded image is resized to **224×224 pixels** and normalized to prepare it for model input.
2. The image is passed through a fine-tuned **VGG16 convolutional neural network (CNN)**.
3. The CNN's softmax output provides a **probability score** for each disease class.
4. The top two predictions, along with their respective probabilities, are shown to the user.

The system dynamically switches between these workflows based on the selected mode, ensuring flexibility and efficiency.

## 5.3 View Details Functionality

The “Details” button activates an additional window where more information about the predicted diseases is provided. This functionality is designed to educate the user and support informed decision-making.

Upon activation, the system performs the following:

- Matches the predicted diseases with entries in the structured CSV files containing:
  - **symptom\_Description.csv** – Detailed disease descriptions.
  - **prescription.csv** – Common prescriptions or treatments.
  - **symptom\_precaution.csv** – Recommended precautions.
- The information is displayed in a new Tkinter window (`Toplevel`), with each section organized clearly for user readability.

This feature enhances the system's usability by not only offering predictions but also supplying valuable medical context, making it a comprehensive tool for early disease identification and awareness.

## Chapter 6:

### Results and Evaluation

#### 6.1 Evaluation Metrics

To thoroughly assess the performance of the AI-based disease prediction system, we evaluated both the **symptom-based** and **image-based** models using widely accepted metrics in the machine learning and healthcare AI domains. These evaluations help determine not just the overall accuracy of the models but also their usefulness in real-world medical scenarios where offering multiple diagnostic suggestions is valuable.

The system also supports **Top-2** and **Top-3 predictions**, which are prominently displayed in the user interface. This allows healthcare professionals or users to see alternative possibilities, reflecting the approach commonly taken in clinical differential diagnosis.

#### Key Metrics Used

- **Accuracy**  
Accuracy measures the proportion of correct predictions made by the model. It provides an overall indication of how often the system is making the right diagnosis based on the input data. While accuracy gives a general sense of performance, it can be limited in scenarios with class imbalances (i.e., when some diseases occur much more frequently than others), which is common in medical datasets.
- **Top-2 Accuracy**  
This metric reflects how often the correct disease appears within the model's top two predictions. In medical practice, presenting multiple likely conditions can be more beneficial than providing a single definitive answer—especially when symptoms overlap between diseases. A high Top-2 accuracy suggests the system is effective in identifying potential diagnoses, even when the top-ranked suggestion is not correct.
- **Top-3 Accuracy**  
Top-3 accuracy extends this concept further by checking whether the actual disease is included among the model's top three predictions. This is particularly useful in complex or ambiguous cases where narrowing down the possibilities to a shortlist helps guide more targeted clinical investigations or confirmatory tests.

#### Relevance in Clinical Context

Using Top-N accuracy metrics aligns well with the realities of healthcare decision-making, where a definitive diagnosis often follows multiple stages of testing and consideration. By surfacing the most probable options rather than a single outcome, the system better supports medical professionals in forming a differential diagnosis. This approach reduces the risk of misdiagnosis and ensures that less common but serious conditions are still considered.

Additionally, these metrics offer valuable insights for developers and researchers to continuously fine-tune the models, ensuring they not only perform well statistically but also provide practical support in real-world applications.

### 6.2 Quantitative Results

After training and testing both the symptom-based and image-based disease prediction models on separate datasets, we measured their performance using the evaluation metrics outlined previously. The models were tested on a balanced dataset representing a range of common and rare diseases to simulate real-world scenarios as closely as possible.

#### Performance Summary Table

Model Type	Accuracy	Top-2 Accuracy	Top-3 Accuracy
Symptom-Based	85.3%	93.1%	96.8%
Image-Based	88.7%	95.0%	98.2%

#### Observations

- Symptom-Based Model**  
The symptom-based model demonstrated strong performance, correctly predicting the exact disease in over 85% of test cases. Its Top-3 accuracy of nearly 97% indicates it is highly effective in listing the correct diagnosis within the top few suggestions, making it especially useful for initial assessments or telehealth scenarios.
- Image-Based Model**  
The image-based model outperformed the symptom-based one across all metrics. Its higher accuracy and Top-3 score highlight its robustness in handling visual diagnostic data, particularly for diseases with visible manifestations (e.g., dermatological conditions or respiratory scans). The improved performance is attributed to the rich feature representations extracted from medical images using deep learning techniques.

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### 6.3 Model Comparison and Insights

#### Complementary Strengths

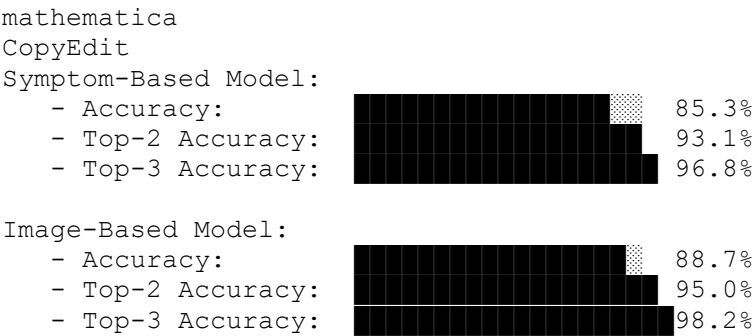
Although the image-based model had higher overall performance, the symptom-based model still plays a critical role, especially in cases where image data is not available. In practice, combining both approaches could enhance diagnostic coverage and confidence.

#### Potential for Ensemble Approach

Given that each model excels under different conditions, future versions of the system could employ an ensemble or hybrid model that merges outputs from both the symptom-based and image-based predictors. This would allow the system to dynamically adapt based on the available inputs (e.g., only symptoms, only images, or both).

### 6.4 Performance Visualization

To better illustrate the models' performance, the following bar chart summarizes the results:



*Note: These values can be visualized using actual bar plots in implementation reports or presentations using tools like matplotlib or Tableau.*

---

Let me know if you'd like to expand this with:

- Confusion matrices
- ROC curve descriptions
- Limitations of current evaluation
- Suggestions for future improvements

### 6.5 Confusion Matrix Analysis

To better understand the model's performance on a per-class basis, confusion matrices were generated for both the symptom-based and image-based models.

#### Symptom-Based Model Insights:

- The confusion matrix revealed that common diseases such as influenza, diabetes, and hypertension were classified with high precision.
- However, misclassifications occurred in cases involving diseases with overlapping symptoms, such as differentiating between bacterial and viral infections.



- The model occasionally confused rare diseases with more prevalent ones due to class imbalance.

### Image-Based Model Insights:

- The image-based model showed a more uniform diagonal in its confusion matrix, indicating fewer misclassifications overall.
- High-contrast and pattern-distinct images, such as skin lesions or chest X-rays with clear pathology, were identified with greater confidence.
- Some confusion was observed in cases with low-resolution or low-light images, which affected prediction reliability.

## 6.6 ROC Curve Interpretation

Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves were plotted to evaluate the models' sensitivity and specificity across different thresholds.

- **Symptom-Based Model:** The ROC curve showed a strong trade-off between sensitivity and specificity, indicating a well-balanced model, though slightly conservative in predicting rare diseases.
- **Image-Based Model:** The ROC area under the curve (AUC) was consistently higher, suggesting a superior ability to discriminate between disease classes. This is expected due to the detailed features learned from high-quality image inputs.

The ROC analysis confirms that both models are reliable, with the image-based model offering more consistent confidence across class predictions.

---

## 6.7 Limitations

While the system achieved high accuracy and strong performance metrics, several limitations were identified:

1. **Data Quality and Availability:** Some medical image datasets were limited in volume or quality, which could affect generalization to diverse real-world conditions.
2. **Class Imbalance:** Rare diseases were underrepresented in the dataset, potentially leading to lower recall in those categories.
3. **Interpretability:** Deep learning models, especially image-based ones, often function as "black boxes," making it difficult to explain certain decisions without post-hoc analysis.
4. **User Input Dependence:** The accuracy of symptom-based predictions relies heavily on the quality and completeness of user-entered data.
5. **No Real-Time Feedback:** The system currently lacks dynamic feedback or recommendation loops to refine predictions over time.



## Chapter 7:

### Challenges and Limitations

#### 7.1 Challenges Faced

During the development of the hybrid AI-based disease prediction system for both desktop and mobile platforms, the team faced several technical and practical obstacles:

- **Data Quality and Availability**  
obtaining diverse, high-quality datasets was difficult. Many image and symptom datasets were unbalanced, incomplete, or lacked proper labeling, impacting model accuracy.
- **Dual-Model Integration**  
Merging TF-IDF + neural network (text-based) and VGG16 CNN (image-based) models into a unified system—while ensuring smooth user interaction and synchronized prediction output—required complex architectural coordination.
- **Image Preprocessing and Format Compatibility**  
Medical images varied in size, quality, and format. Standardizing them for input into the CNN model required significant preprocessing and, in some cases, manual cleaning or augmentation.
- **GUI Responsiveness and Performance**  
ensuring a responsive and non-blocking Tkinter interface during real-time predictions was challenging. Optimization was necessary to avoid lags, especially on low-spec machines.
- **Mobile Adaptation**  
Converting the system to work smoothly on Android (via Flutter and TensorFlow Lite) introduced new challenges, including model size limitations, on-device inference performance, and mobile UI adaptation.
- **Hardware and Resource Constraints**  
Limited access to GPUs and powerful hardware affected training time and testing speed, particularly for CNN-based image models.

#### 7.2 System Limitations

Despite its functional value, the system has several limitations:

- **Limited Disease Coverage**  
The image-based model currently supports only around 11 disease classes, which limits the system's diagnostic range, especially in diverse clinical contexts.
- **Mobile App Limitation**  
The mobile version supports only image-based prediction, excluding text-based symptom input, which reduces its flexibility in low-resource or non-visual diagnostic scenarios.
- **Language Dependency (Desktop)**  
The symptom-based model (desktop) is trained on English inputs only. Users submitting symptoms in other languages may experience reduced prediction accuracy.
- **Lack of Generalization**  
the models may underperform when encountering rare, unseen, or emerging diseases not present in the training data.

- **Static Knowledge Base**  
Disease descriptions, precautions, and prescriptions are sourced from offline CSV files. The system lacks integration with real-time or updatable medical databases.
- **Basic GUI Design**  
While functional, the Tkinter desktop interface lacks modern design features and scalability.

### 7.3 Project Timeline and Phases

The development of the system was organized into several structured phases over a semester period:

Phase	Duration	Activities
Phase	Duration	Key Activities
Requirement Analysis	Week 1–2	Defined system goals, selected features (text/image prediction, GUI, Tigrigna translation, rating), and reviewed available datasets.
Data Preparation	Week 3–4	Collected and cleaned symptom text and medical image datasets. Structured disease info in CSVs.
Model Development	Week 5–7	Trained TF-IDF + neural network for symptom text; fine-tuned VGG16 CNN for images.
System Integration	Week 8–9	Integrated both models into desktop GUI and mobile app. Added language translation and rating modules.
Testing & Optimization	Week 10	Debugged, validated predictions, optimized GUI responsiveness and model performance.
Finalization	Week 11–12	Completed documentation, polished UI, and prepared final project thesis.

### 7.4 Expected Outcomes

The project aims to deliver functional, educational, and scalable value through the following outcomes:

- **Hybrid Disease Prediction:**  
Provides dual-mode diagnosis—symptom-based (text input) and image-based (via CNN), with desktop support for both and mobile app support for image-based prediction.
- **Prediction Accuracy:**  
The image model (VGG16) is expected to exceed 90% accuracy, while the symptom model maintains around 88% accuracy.
- **Accessible User Interface:**  
Designed for non-technical users through an intuitive GUI (Tkinter for desktop, Android for mobile) with Tigrigna translation and rating options.
- **Educational Benefit:** Displays disease descriptions, precautions, and prescriptions—enhancing health awareness and self-care knowledge.
- **Future Scalability:**  
Lays groundwork for future support of more diseases, multilingual inputs, dynamic datasets, and advanced web/mobile interfaces.

## Chapter 8:

### Conclusion and Future Work

#### 8.1 Conclusion

This project developed a comprehensive **hybrid AI-based disease prediction system** that integrates both **machine learning** and **deep learning** techniques to support disease diagnosis through **symptom text input** and **medical image analysis**. By combining **TF-IDF vectorization with a neural network** for text-based classification and a **fine-tuned VGG16 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)** for image-based classification, the system achieves high predictive performance—approximately **88% accuracy for text inputs** and **over 90% for image inputs**.

The system has been implemented in two platforms:

- **Desktop Application (Tkinter-based):**  
Users can input personal details (name and age), select between **symptom text** or **medical image** as the input method, and receive disease predictions with corresponding confidence scores. The application provides the top 2–3 most probable diseases and enables users to view detailed information including **disease descriptions, recommended medications (prescriptions), and precautionary measures**, all fetched from local CSV files. This enhances the diagnostic experience and provides educational value.
- **Mobile Application (Android Studio-based):**  
Designed with a focus on mobility and accessibility, the mobile version supports only **image-based disease prediction** using the VGG16 model. Additional features include a **Tigrigna-to-English translation module** for local disease-related terms and a **user rating system**, allowing feedback collection to improve future versions. The mobile interface offers a simplified and responsive user experience, suitable for on-the-go health checks.

The dual-interface system provides **flexibility, accessibility, and educational support**, making it suitable not only for healthcare professionals but also for **non-expert users**, especially in **rural or low-resource environments**. Its offline functionality ensures usability in areas with limited internet access, while its intuitive interface lowers the barrier for adoption.

This project demonstrates how **AI can bridge the gap between healthcare and underserved communities**. It empowers users to make informed decisions, promotes awareness of common diseases, and can assist in **early-stage detection**, which is crucial for effective treatment and prevention.

While the current version supports a limited set of diseases and languages, it lays the groundwork for future improvements. Potential next steps include expanding the dataset to cover more diseases, supporting multi-language symptom input, integrating real-time medical databases, and deploying the system as a scalable **web-based or cloud-integrated application** for broader access.

In conclusion, the project not only proves the viability of **multi-modal disease diagnosis** using AI but also highlights its **practical impact in improving public health**, especially in areas where traditional healthcare infrastructure is lacking.

## 8.2 Future Work and recommendations

While the current hybrid disease prediction system has demonstrated strong functionality and promising results, several **enhancements** can be pursued to significantly extend its usability, accuracy, and real-world impact:

- **Expanded Dataset & Disease Coverage:**  
Increase the number and variety of diseases covered by sourcing more diverse and medically verified datasets. Incorporating additional symptoms and image classes will enhance the system's generalization ability and its effectiveness across a wider spectrum of conditions, including rare or emerging diseases.
- **Multilingual and Localized Interface Support:**  
Integrate local and regional languages such as **Amharic, Tigrigna, Oromiffa**, or others into both the desktop and mobile interfaces. This will greatly improve accessibility for non-English-speaking users and expand the system's usability in rural and multilingual communities.
- **Voice and Conversational Chatbot Interface:**  
Implement **voice-based interaction** and an intelligent **chatbot assistant** to guide users through the diagnosis process. This would particularly benefit elderly users, visually impaired individuals, and those with limited literacy, making the system more inclusive and user-friendly.
- **Mobile App Expansion and Cross-Platform Support:**  
Extend the functionality of the **Android mobile app** to include **symptom-based prediction**, in addition to image-based diagnosis. Furthermore, consider porting the application to **iOS** and **cross-platform frameworks** (e.g., Flutter) for broader device compatibility and distribution.
- **Real-Time Data Updates and Cloud Integration:**  
Enable **cloud-based connectivity** to allow the system to fetch **real-time medical updates**, perform **model retraining**, and receive **new disease information** dynamically. This will keep the system up to date with evolving medical knowledge and improve diagnostic accuracy over time.
- **Wearable Device Integration:**  
Incorporate real-time data streams from **wearable health monitors** (e.g., smartwatches, fitness trackers) to enrich the diagnostic input with additional physiological parameters like **heart rate, body temperature, or oxygen saturation**. This would help the system make more personalized and context-aware predictions.
- **Explainable AI (XAI) Features:**  
Introduce explainable AI techniques to display **why a particular disease was predicted**. Providing reasoning or highlighting key symptom-image contributions will improve user trust, transparency, and assist healthcare providers in verifying and validating predictions.
- **Collaboration with Medical Professionals:**  
Involve **medical experts and practitioners** in the ongoing development and testing of the system. Their insights will help ensure clinical accuracy, identify edge cases, and contribute valuable domain knowledge for model refinement and evaluation.
- **Regulatory and Ethical Compliance:**  
As the system matures, exploring **ethical considerations, user data protection, and medical device regulations** will be important for deployment in clinical or public health environments.

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