Bridging the Gap Between Wikipedians and Scientists with Terminology-Aware Translation: A Case Study in Turkish

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Abstract

This project addresses the gap between the escalating volume of English-to-Turkish Wikipedia translations and the insufficient number of contributors, particularly in technical domains. Leveraging expertise from academics' collaborative terminology dictionary effort, we propose a pipeline system to enhance translation quality. Our focus is on bridging academic and Wikipedia communities, creating datasets, and developing NLP models for terminology identification and linking, and terminology-aware translation. The aim is to foster sustained contributions and improve the overall quality of Turkish Wikipedia articles.

Introduction

According to the most recent dump of contenttranslation¹, (editor tool for automatic translation) 418,000 short paragraphs are translated from English to Turkish, followed by 10,000 translated from German. The volume of articles is increasing significantly, but the number of active Turkish Wikipedia contributors remains insufficient to keep pace. This poses a particular concern for articles demanding specialized domain knowledge, especially those featuring technical and

<u>scientific</u> content laden with rigorous terminology.

On the other hand, <u>Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA)</u> has been supporting a collaborative effort among 135 Turkish academics (list is still growing) that provide expert translations for scientific terms in a wide range of topics including engineering, biology and chemistry. This dictionary, <u>terimler.org</u>, has been maintained for an impressive 49 years now. We hypothesize that bridging these two communities will significantly enhance the quality of Turkish Wikipedia articles, fostering sustained contributions from academics to expand and maintain the dictionary.

Here, we aim to create a pipeline system that: i) automatically identifies scientific and technical terms, ii) consults an expert dictionary for accurate translations, and iii) suggests automated terminology-aware translation. Additionally, the system will help identify terms lacking translations, informing the expansion of the dictionary.

We aim to address three key research questions: (RQ1) <u>Community</u>: Strategies for integrating domain experts with Wikipedians, aiming to recruit domain experts as contributors and train existing/new ones to translate technical content more accurately.

(RQ2) <u>Data</u>: Development of datasets for training and evaluating NLP models targeted at i) term

https://dumps.wikimedia.org/other/contenttranslation/20230908/

identification, ii) term linking, and iii) terminology-aware translation. (RQ3) <u>Model</u>: Designing and implementing Turkish language-capable NLP models for the specified tasks.

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Related work

Entity Linking

Most similar work to term identification and linking is the task of *entity linking*, which aims to identify phrases that mention an entity, such as "*Barack Obama*", and link them to a unique entry in the target knowledge base. Majority of previous datasets/models consider broad coverage knowledge bases such as Wikipedia (referred to as wikification), YAGO, Freebase, BabelNet[1] (referred to as Babelfy[2]²); and several other works [3,4] provide benchmarks/shared tasks to bring those together.

Unfortunately, entity linking research for the science domain is rather limited. There are two main categories: linking entities in scientific text to i) Wikipedia URLs (or a similar broad-coverage KB) or ii) to domain-specific KB. In the first category, [5] introduce a technique that leverage author-citation networks to link entities in scholarly abstracts to their associated Wikipedia pages, whereas [6] leverage wikilinks to populate the references section of scientific Wikipedia pages. More similar to ours, [7] focus on scientific (i.e., STEM) entity extraction. However they consider text only from scholarly abstracts, and use Wikipedia and Wiktionary as the KB, which might lack domain expertise as shown in our preliminary analysis.

³ The 2021 ar ² http://babelfy.org/ 21 submission

In the second category, researchers [8,9,10] create a large-scale annotated corpora of domain-specific entities (biomedical, chemical) on domain-specific text such radiology reports and perform linking on domain-specific ontologies such as UMLS. Although related, our focus is on a broader definition of science, and more accessible content (e.g., Wikipedia articles) rather than domain-expert accessible text. There are also studies [11,12,13] that tackle scientific keyphrase extraction, however they focus on scholarly text and ignore the linking process. It is also worth noting that the majority of aforementioned works focus on English—with some exceptions such as BabelNet.

Terminology-aware Translation

The proposed work also aligns with the emerging field³ of terminology-aware translation, highlighted by two recent WMT shared tasks [14,15]. In the 2021 shared task, organizers focus on COVID-19 domain and annotate 5 language pairs (En->Fr, En->Chinese, En->Ru, En->Korean and Czech->German) using the TICO-19 terminology database[16]-limited to 600 terms per language. For the Czech->German pair, they automatically generate the terminology from Wikipedia, which might again be ill-defined. Final development and test data splits per language is 3,5K sentences for development and 1,1K for evaluation. The 2023 Shared Task redefine the task to better distinguish the terminology-injection ability by introducing one real "hint" for the actual terminology, and another random "hint". They also change the focus to more general domains (e.g., web novels) and scholarly abstracts, reducing the number of language pairs to three (German->English, English->Czech and Chinese->English), and dataset size to 3K sentences per language pair. Unlike 2021, they don't use predefined terminology translations;

³ The 2021 and 2023 shared tasks received 43 and 21 submissions accordingly.

id	Turkish Term	Category	Turkish Definition	German	English	French
5872	beton karışımı	Civil Eng.	"Cement, sand, gravel or crushed stone, water and additives mixed together in certain proportions to form concrete."	Betonmischung	concrete mixture	mélange du béton

Table 1: A sample terminology entry for "concrete mixture" from terimler.org. The English definition is provided for convenience only (original is Turkish).

but semi-automatically *extract* it from aligned scientific abstracts.

There are three categories of models that inject constraints to the translation process: i) post-processing ii) constrained decoding and iii) weakly supervised learning of the constraints. First set of techniques [17,18] use placeholders for named entities, numbers and markups and perform post-processing on the placeholders. Second category[19,20] mostly manipulate the beam search decoding process leveraging attention weights and specialized FSM, however, with the cost of slow inference and less fluent output. Final category[21,22] is the most straightforward. They propose ways to provide the constraints (e.g., surface, lemmatized) along with the input (e.g., by appending to the beginning/end) and further train the model; or augment the training data with the constraints[23]. Most recent techniques [24,25] follow the same approaches however also utilize LLMs for various steps e.g., to post-process the output, generate synthetic data given with constraints and to perform constrained decoding. This will be the first work to tackle terminology-aware translation together with entity-linking; and in the English->Turkish direction.

Methods

Preliminary Work

We first perform a feasibility study to answer two questions:

Q1) How important is the problem of terminology-aware translation for Wikipedia? Q2) How good are existing tools (e.g., automatic machine translation, ChatGPT etc...) in terminology-aware translation for the given problem?

How severe is the problem?

To answer this question, we use the proposed terminology database, <u>terimler.org</u>, and developed a script to query the available terms for all available metadata. One example dictionary entry is given in Table 1.

Here, one can easily access the expert-curated translations for Turkish, German and French⁴, along with additional information such as the scientific category and Turkish definition of the term. Using the developed scripts, we have successfully retrieved 53,162 entries with 47,823 being unique. We have then asked the following question: "What is the coverage rate of English and Turkish Wikipedia for the retrieved terms?"

Since this is a preliminary study, we have done several simplifying assumptions. We only considered the terms with a one-to-one English-Turkish correspondence (i.e., ignored the synonyms, terms with multiple senses, and other languages). We considered the term as covered if there is an exact match between the term and Wikipedia article title. As given in Figure 2, a striking number of terms (67,5% of all terms) do not have a dedicated English or

⁴ For a large number of terms, Latin names are also provided.

Turkish Wikipedia page. Furthermore, 20% (around 5,000) of the terms have only an English Wikipedia page. We have then analyzed the bilingual pages (12,5% of all terms), to check if the terms in translated pages match with their expert-curated counterparts, and found that 1,063 out of 2,927 do not match. Our results suggest that, i) there is a large number of potential English pages to translate, and ii) considerably large amount of translations to align with expert-curated terminology.

During our explanatory analysis, we have also performed manual checks for mismatched terms, and encountered several cases where the terminology database lacks one of the correct translations. This supports our initial hypothesis that this research has potential to provide benefit to the scientists, i.e., the database creators.

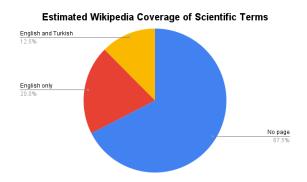


Figure 2: Percentage of Wikipedia pages that cover the retrieved terms

"How good are existing tools?"

To answer this question, we parsed the recent contenttranslation dump for English to Turkish, that contains the original English source, machine translation output, and human post-edits. We have then randomly picked around 1000 documents and manually annotated them as scientific or non-scientific for preliminary analysis purposes. We categorized them as scientific if the topic is related to any of the STEM fields (e.g., biology, physics,

chemistry, computer science etc...); and non-scientific otherwise. We filtered out the documents with empty machine translation or post-edit fields, which eliminated around half. We have then manually searched the English source content for terminological phrases and created a small parallel corpora with 217 entries. To answer the initial question, we have prompted ChatGPT to generate a translation like a Wikipedia expert. As given in Table 2, we have observed erroneous cases both in automatically generated content and the human post-edits. We additionally detected several missing terms in our database. For the sake of simplicity, we have only checked for terminological consistency, however, we have also encountered many low-quality automatic generations both from MT and ChatGPT (wrong semantics, ungrammatical etc...) even when the term was correctly translated⁵. Our preliminary results are given in Figure 3. Even though humans have the highest consistency with our terminology database, all models suffered in scientific documents more.

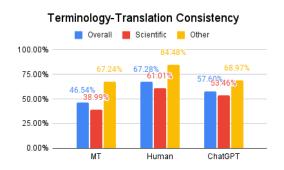


Figure 3: Preliminary investigation of terminology translation success rates

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⁵ Since the search, annotation, evaluation and corpora creation processes will be refined later, we avoid giving the details at this stage.

Source Text (Trans. ID:154396)	In the rare case of a hypernucleus , a third baryon called a hyperon , containing one or more strange quarks and/or other unusual quark(s) , can also share the wave function .
MT (Yandex)	Bu nadir durumda bir hypernucleus, bir üçüncü baryon denilen bir hyperoniçeren bir veya daha fazla garip kuarklar ve/veya diğer olağandışı kuark(s), ayrıca paylaşım dalga fonksiyonu
ChatGPT	Ender durumlarda olan bir <u>hipernükleusta</u> , bir veya daha fazla garip <u>kuarkı</u> ve/veya diğer olağandışı <u>kuark(ları)</u> içeren bir üçüncü bir <u>baryon</u> olan bir <u>hiperon</u> da <u>dalga fonksiyonu</u> nu paylaşabilir.
Post-Edit	Hiper çekirdeğin nadir durumlarında, bir ya da daha fazla tuhaf <u>kuark</u> ya da sıradışı <mark>quark</mark> içeren ve <mark>hyperon</mark> adı verilen üçüncü <u>baryon</u> da <u>dalga fonksiyonu</u> nu paylaşabilir
Terminology Database	(EN) Hypernucleus - (TR) Missing Term
	(EN) Baryon - (TR) Baryon (EN) Hyperon - (TR) Hiperon (EN) Quark - (TR) Kuark (EN) Wave Function - (TR) Dalga Fonksiyonu

Table 2: Annotated samples. Blue: Missing, Red: Wrong, Green: Correct

Proposed Research

Technical overview of our proposed research is given in the Figure (next page). We will first create a dataset that can be used for all three tasks: term identification, term linking and terminology-aware translation, then iteratively build models and seek feedback from the community as explained below.

Data Curation

We will rely on two resources: contenttranslation and abstracts of theses from the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) website. Contenttranslation is dumped bi-weekly and contains around 400,000 entries; whereas CoHE contains all abstracts of theses submitted to any Turkish university from 2006 until todaycontaining more than one million sentences. Since the translations are mostly provided as long paragraphs in both resources, we will first align the sentences with highly-accurate existing tools such as SentAlign[26], and VecAlign[27]. Then we will perform simple preprocessing, e.g., filtering URLs, special characters, short/long sentences, and content with mostly numbers. Next, following [28], we aim to generate 3,000 parallel sentences in English-Turkish containing the following: i)

English text annotated with the technical terms, ii) links to correct terminology entries in the database, and iii) edited translations using the correct terminology with Turkish terms, similar to:

```
{
    source_text: ...[EN-Term<sub>1</sub>].. [EN-Term<sub>2</sub>],
    links: [None],[TermURL<sub>2</sub>],
    target_text:...[TR-Term<sub>1</sub>]..[TR-Term<sub>2</sub>]
}
```

Tentative Annotation Protocol

To reduce the annotation costs, we plan to predetermine the scientific keyphrases in the source text with existing tools such as TagMe[29], AIDA[30], or babelfy⁶. Similarly, we plan to use a simple search code to identify the URLs for the terms, and insert hyperlinks if any. At this stage, we can estimate whether the identified terms exist in the DB, or have more than one entry. To ensure that we include enough terms with multiple senses or without URLs, we will sample sentences accordingly. Given the identified and linked terms, we will

⁶ Our preliminary investigation suggests that they provide too many candidates, however, candidates are more accurate for English text

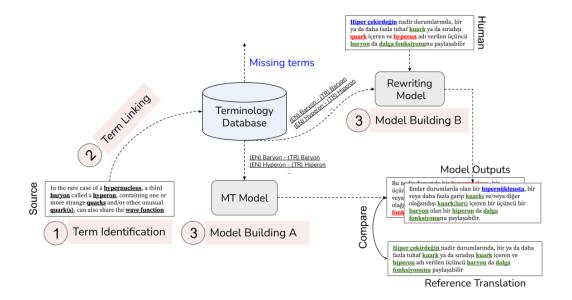
first ask the annotators to check whether links and terms are correct—correct them if not. Next, they will be asked to post-edit the human translations following the term URL. Each parallel entry will be checked by 3 annotators and final results will be aggregated by graduate students. We will calculate the inter-annotator agreement among the participants and against the experts. We will employ additional quality checks (e.g., quiz before entry, test at regular intervals, remove underperformers etc...).

We will advertise the annotation task among college students in Turkiye, who are fluent in English. Note that domain-expertise is desired but not crucial for this task, since terminology will already be provided to annotators. All participants will be compensated fairly (see the budget). The expected outcome is a high-quality

investigate building joint models for comparison.

Term Identification

To develop a flexible system, we consider this as a separate task that can later be integrated with any terminology database. We first plan to split the curated dataset into development and test; and explore the capacity of existing state-of-the-art methods[31]on evaluation split. If the performance is below desired threshold, we will use the development split to further finetune a small pretrained model for the span detection task. Since the terminology spans will also be detected for the Turkish text, we will explore building both multilingual and monolingual identification models drawing upon our previous works[32,33,34].



dataset containing 3,000 English-Turkish parallel sentences, that can be used for terminology identification, terminology linking and terminology-aware translation.

Building NLP Models

Next, we plan to build models for each of the tasks separately. If time allows, we will also

Evaluation: We will calculate the F1 score considering only the exact matches on the *lemmatized* phrases (e.g., cats-cat).

Term Linking

Using the development split of the curated dataset, we will approach the problem as a

retrieval task utilizing efficient tools like FAISS⁷ to index the dictionary and the contextualized term following our previous works[33,35]. In order to detect the missing terms to inform the domain-experts, our model will also handle the cases where the *term is not linkable*, simply by querying the DB beforehand.

Evaluation: We will use R@n (percentage of the ground-truth term being in the top n) to evaluate the performance of the models.

Terminology-aware Translation

We will explore two common approaches: i) post-processing the output, i.e., rewriting the content with lexical constraints (as given in Stage I) and ii) incorporating constraints into the training of the machine translation model. In Stage I, we only mentioned the first approach, assuming that MT engine would mostly leave the technical terms unchanged, however our preliminary analysis showed otherwise. As shown in Table 2, there were cases where the terms left unchanged (e.g., hypernucleus), however, MT-engine mostly caused mistranslations altering the term drastically. For instance, it translates "the ground-state" configuration of the atom as "zemin-devlet", which literally means "basement-government". Therefore, we realized the need for incorporating the source text into the models and designed the annotation protocol accordingly.

As for the first approach, we plan to replace technical terms with the placeholders, and translate the text with an existing MT model. Then we will build upon our previous work[34] and redesign a contextualized reinflection model. Different from our previous work, the model will need to perform reinflection with

⁷ https://github.com/facebookresearch/faiss

missing morphological tags⁸ and missing word order information (in case of multiple placeholders, it needs to figure out which term comes where). Despite being challenging, we believe word-alignment techniques based on pretrained multilingual language models such as AwesomeAlign[36] can provide acceptable alignments for the placeholders which can be used to handle both missing tags and missing order problems. As for the second approach, we plan to experiment with concatenating the terminological constraints to the input in various ways (e.g., lemmatized, surface etc...) as it provided promising results for Czech[22].

Evaluation: It is common to perform two step evaluation: i) general translation accuracy ii) terminology consistency. Although human evaluation is also necessary for NLG evaluation, commonly used metrics for MT are BLEU, chrF, BERTScore and COMET[37]. Terminology consistency evaluation is yet an active field of research[38,39], however the most common metric is the exact-match term accuracy[40]. We plan to use all possible metrics and conduct a small user study to rank the generation outputs from different models (see the next task).

Building a Communication Channel between the Communities

We will work together with two distinct communities that do not normally engage: academics, researchers and students that voluntarily contribute to terminology database⁹ and Wikimedia Community User Group Turkey¹⁰. We first plan to connect with the Wikimedia group with a particular focus on editors that generate STEM content. We will do a

⁸Source text doesn't have morphological tags, and MT output is unreliable.

⁹ https://terimler.org/katkida-bulunanlar ¹⁰https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_C ommunity_User_Group_Turkey

semi-structured interview with them to gain insights on their profiles and editing habits (e.g., Do they consider themselves domain-experts? How do they translate technical terms? Are they aware of any terminological databases? Would they contact a domain-expert for guidance/help? etc...) Similarly we will interview the academic community for their desire to contribute (e.g., would they consider reviewing a wiki article on their domain of expertise? would they answer requests for missing terms? etc...). In this initial phase, we will reach as many people as possible through maintainers' immediate networks, emailing lists, our collaborators from both communities, and student/university organizations that we have access to. Expected outcome is to identify potential new Wikipedia contributors with domain-expertise and existing contributors who are open to feedback/or have domain-expertise.

Seminar I. We will organize an online seminar within the first three months to introduce the project and present the interview results. During the seminar, we will hold a panel discussion on best strategies to bridge two communities (e.g., how to give feedback/how to use feedback from one another) to make informed decisions for our research. Expected outcome is an established communication channel (online e.g., discord, slack or offline e.g., feedback button, email etc...).

User study I. Using the previously established communication channel, we will recruit around 10 active participants from different groups (both old and newly recruited contributors) to perform a small scale user study. They will be shown a source text with highlighted and hyperlinked terms using the developed models. We will ask them to translate the content in a contrastive setting (one showing the links, other without), and evaluate the output against the gold standard(s).

User study II. We will do another user study with the same participants to gain insights on the generation models. We will show them the output of our rewriting and weakly supervised models along with modern tools (e.g., Google Translate, ChatGPT) and ask them to rank those outputs. Then we'll evaluate the rank of our proposed models against others. Expected outcome for user studies is a quantitative measure for potential usability of the developed models.

Seminar II. We will organize another online seminar to discuss the project progress and user study results. We will hold a discussion panel on how to design training materials for editors to more accurately translate the technical terms (using developed models).

Evaluation. After each user study, we will conduct a survey to measure system usability score (SUS). We will also reveal the results to the participants, and ask them whether they would incorporate any of these models into their editing process.

Expected Outcome(s) Together with the community staff, we will design training materials for editors to more accurately translate the technical terms (using developed models) drawing conclusions from the user studies. Our community staff will include them in the next editing marathons (usually conducted in universities, NGOs or high-schools).

Extensions to other languages

Terminology DB: The most specific component of our proposed research, hence the bottleneck for expansion, is the domain-curated terminology database, terimler.org. As given in Table 1, the DB already contains German and French translations; hence the proposed research can be transferred to those languages

with minimal effort. We have also searched for the availability of such a terminological dictionary and found many (A screenshot is given in Appendix). For instance IATE¹¹ contains 7 million entries for all EU languages.

Termium¹² is maintained by the Government of Canada, and contains millions of terms in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Terms for specific categories can be downloaded as a *.csv file. dict.cc is a more general dictionary, however, contains many scientific terms for many languages as well.

Parallel corpus. contenttranslation dumps are available for a wide range of language pairs. Therefore no effort would be needed.

Annotation effort. To detect only 1 BLEU point with 75% power, one needs around 2,000 evaluation sentences[28]. To increase the power, the common practice is to create 3,000 high-quality parallel sentences. The annotation effort for identifying and linking the terms, and correcting the translations require a substantial amount of resources. It should also be noted that annotation should be performed by 3 different annotators to ensure the quality. Therefore, given the limited time, budget and staff, repeating this effort for other languages is not currently feasible. However, it should be possible to add an extra annotation layer with terminology links to existing parallel corpora from WMT shared tasks using the aforementioned terminology DBs, with minimal effort. We plan to reach out to the WMT organizers to discuss this further. We also plan to attend Wikimania 2024 to discuss the roadmap for curating such a dataset for other Wikipedia editions.

NLP Models.

Since we plan to develop models based on pre-trained multilingual LMs for all NLP tasks (e.g., mGPT, mT5, mBART etc...), our models can directly be extended to other languages with a small development set—which can be created with less effort.

Expected output

Expected intermediate outcomes from each task are given separately under related sections.

<u>Public datasets and models:</u> NLP researchers can use them to train/evaluate/compare their own models.

Online Seminars & Office Hours: Bridge Turkish scientists and Wikipedians in two public seminars to introduce the developed models and gather feedback. Additionally, communicate the results of related interviews/user studies with Wikipedia communities by organizing office hours for discussion.

<u>Guidelines for Wikipedia editors:</u> Training materials for editors to more accurately translate the technical terms (using developed models).

<u>Scientific publication</u> at a top-tier NLP venue (e.g., *CL, EMNLP or CL, TACL journal)

Risks

Low participation from the scientific

community: There are currently around 150 academics listed on the website as contributors, with all of them having a large pool of alumni, advisees and undergraduate students, enlarging the pool to thousands. As previously discussed, we will reach as many people as possible in the initial phases, using maintainers' immediate networks, university and student organization emailing lists we have access to, and our

¹¹https://iate.europa.eu/home

¹²https://www.btb.termiumplus.gc.ca/tpv2alpha/alpha-eng.html?lang=eng

collaborators from both communities. To mitigate the risk further, we also budgeted for a "Human Subject Compensation" for user study participants.

Low participation for data curation: According to our prior experiences[41]¹³, with fair compensation for the work, this is a very low risk. Furthermore, the terminologies will be provided externally, so college-level education would be enough for labeling. In case of low participation, we can hire professional translators.

Turkish Wikipedia Community is an active, vibrant community with an adequate size of contributors and Wikipedia articles. The only risk is that it is hard to predict how the Turkish Wikipedia editors will <u>perceive the developed models</u>. Hence, we've budgeted for a community staff to gather continuous editor feedback to enhance future acceptance and adoption of the models.

Community impact plan

We will work closely with Başak Tosun and Zafer Batık, leaders of Wikimedia Community User Group Turkey, to conduct community related tasks outlined in section "Building a Communication Channel between the Communities", as well as Bülent Sankur, the lead of terimler.org. We will present our findings at Wiki Workshop, and Wikimania. We will maintain an up-to-date project page on MetaWiki:Research and consistently update it with the findings from each step.

Evaluation

Task specific evaluation metrics are given under each task. Other than those, we will consider the level of community engagement as another metric, which will be approximated with the number of participants in the seminars, number and frequency of messages in the communication channel, number of stars in our github repo, number of edited articles following the developed guidelines, and number of reported missing terms.

Budget

GGLAB - Conference Fund Budget Template

Response to reviewers and meta-reviewers

Thank you all for your insightful feedback on our proposal.

Regarding tool development:

We wholeheartedly agree with your perspective. We have revised our proposal to ensure that it strictly adheres to this principle. Here are the changes:

- In the "Building a Communication Channel between the Communities" section, we have redesigned the User Study to have two-stages on the developed model outputs, rather than live tool usage.
- 2. We have removed the tool from the expected outputs.
- 3. We have removed the engineering cost.

Regarding expanding the scope to other languages & generalizability:

Please see the Section "Extensions to other languages".

Regarding risk planning:

Please read our detailed plan in "Building a Communication Channel between the Communities" regarding our effort to **minimize**

¹³ https://turkishpropbank.github.io/

the risks associated with **low** community participation. Please also see the Risks section for the contingency plans.

Regarding quantitative comparison with current translation models and LLMs:

Thanks for this suggestion. We have conducted a comprehensive preliminary study to answer this question, given in Section "Preliminary Work". In short, we find that terminology-aware translation is a challenging task for all automated tools. We also find that, even though human performance surpasses tools by a large margin, editors also suffer translating the STEM terms. In addition, we find that both English and Turkish Wikipedia have a large room for improvement for STEM content. All our findings suggest that this project is indeed necessary.

<u>Specific Response to reviewer uKXk:</u> Thank you so much for the suggested papers, the proposal benefited a lot from them to position the topic better. We have also added them to the "Related Work" section.

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Appendix

