

# Understanding Translationese Effects in Multilingual Machine Translation

Anonymous ACL submission

## Abstract

This study explores the impact of translationese on multilingual machine translation (MT). Using a newly curated directed "one-way" parallel corpora from Global Voices (MSGV), featuring original texts in diverse languages and explicit notation of actual translation directions, we evaluated the NLLB and TOWER models on MT tasks between English and five other languages. Our results reveal that translationese inputs are easier to translate into English but not out of English. Additionally, machine translations of translationese are lexically richer than those of original texts when translating into English. These findings suggest that multilingual MT systems experience different translationese effects compared to dedicated bilingual systems, underscoring the need for diverse test beds in MT evaluations. We contribute our dataset to enhance future research.

## 1 Introduction

Multilingual machine translation (MT) models and large language models (LLMs) have displayed great potential in enhancing global communication across language barriers by scaling MT to many language pairs through transfer learning (Johnson et al., 2017; Arivazhagan et al., 2019; Team et al., 2022) and leveraging multilingual models pre-trained on vast amounts of monolingual data (Alves et al., 2024). For example, mT5 (Xue et al., 2021) is a multilingual variant of T5 model pre-trained on a Common Crawl-based dataset covering 101 languages. Llama 3 (Meta AI, 2024) is an open source LLM with enhanced performance, energy efficiency, and robust safety measures for versatile NLP applications.

However, massively multilingual systems are typically evaluated on the FLORES test bed, created by translation from English into 101 other languages (Goyal et al., 2021). While this enables valuable controlled evaluations across many language pairs, MT from any source language other

than English is evaluated on so called "translationese" – inputs that are translations – which is easier to translate by dedicated bilingual MT systems (Toral et al., 2018; Graham et al., 2020).

At the same time, properties of the output text might not be captured by quality ratings alone. For instance, English grammatical structures have been found to influence the fluency of multilingual models in lower resource languages (Papadimitriou et al., 2023). Furthermore, translated language presents distinct features than original texts whether they are written by humans (Volansky et al., 2015) or bilingual machine translation (Vanmassenhove et al., 2021), and that distinguishing original from translated text benefits multilingual MT (Riley et al., 2020).

In this paper, we ask how multilingual MT systems are affected by translationese effects, both in terms of evaluation results and the nature of their outputs. We construct a directed translation evaluation corpus<sup>1</sup> from the Global Voices<sup>2</sup> website, featuring original texts in diverse languages and explicit labeling of translation direction. For example, the Spanish → English corpus in the corpora includes original texts written in Spanish and their corresponding English translations. Unlike FLORES, our test sets are directed "one-way" datasets. For instance, "Spanish → English" and "English → Spanish" are two distinct datasets with distinct contents. We use the corpus to test two hypotheses with the NLLB (Team et al., 2022) and TOWER (Alves et al., 2024) MT systems, on translation between English and five other languages:

- H1 Translationese inputs are easier to translate by multilingual MT systems.
- H2 The lexical diversity of MT translationese is impacted by translationese inputs.

<sup>1</sup>The dataset will be released upon publication.  
<sup>2</sup><https://globalvoices.org/>

079 Our findings suggest that translationese impacts 129  
080 massively multilingual MT and LLMs differently 130  
081 than dedicated bilingual systems. 131

## 082 2 Background 132

083 Translated text has been shown to have distinct lin- 133  
084 guistic features from texts originally written in the 134  
085 same language (Tourey, 1979; Baker, 2019). Com- 135  
086 putational analysis has identified the translationese 136  
087 patterns found in parallel corpora (Volansky et al., 137  
088 2015) and has made it possible to detect translation 138  
089 direction in parallel text with high accuracy (Ba- 139  
090 roni and Bernardini, 2006; Kurokawa et al., 2009; 140  
091 Lembersky et al., 2011; Koppel and Ordan, 2011). 141

092 The differences between original (O) and trans- 142  
093 lationese (T) texts impact the evaluation of ma- 143  
094 chine translation systems. Suppose a MT system 144  
095 is given a translation task  $X \rightarrow Y$ . If the paral- 145  
096 lel test set has original texts in language  $X$  and 146  
097 translated texts from  $X$  to  $Y$ , we say the trans- 147  
098 lation is in *actual direction* ( $O$  (original)  $\rightarrow T$  148  
099 (translated)). By contrast, if the parallel test set has 149  
100 original texts in language  $Y$  and translated texts 150  
101 from  $Y$  to  $X$ , we say the translation is in *reverse* 151  
102 *direction* ( $T$  (translated)  $\rightarrow O$  (original)). Stud- 152  
103 ies comparing the translation quality obtained with 153  
104 the same system on test sets created in the actual 154  
105 vs. reverse direction have found that MT systems 155  
106 produce better translations in the reverse direction, 156  
107 suggesting that translationese is easier to translate 157  
108 (Toral et al., 2018; Zhang and Toral, 2019; Graham 158  
109 et al., 2020; Läubli et al., 2020). Toral et al. (2018) 159  
110 observed this effect on MT between Chinese and 160  
111 English. Zhang and Toral (2019) revealed that the 161  
112 use of translationese in test sets can result in in- 162  
113 flated scores for MT systems through experiments 163  
114 on 17 translation directions, while Graham et al. 164  
115 (2020) studied WMT systems on news translation 165  
116 tasks between English and 9 other languages. 166

117 Hence, it is generally recommended to evaluate 166  
118 MT tasks on the actual translation direction ( $O \rightarrow$  167  
119  $T$ ). However, recent results suggest that actual and 168  
120 reverse test sets capture complementary aspects 169  
121 of translation quality (Freitag et al., 2019), and a 170  
122 causal analysis on Europarl data (Ni et al., 2022) 171  
123 suggests that the inflation of MT scores on the 172  
124 reverse translation direction at test time depends on 173  
125 whether the training and test data directions match. 174

126 However, these studies are all based on dedicated 174  
127 statistical or neural systems, often trained for a spe- 175  
128 cific language pair and translation direction. This

paper asks whether massively multilingual MT sys- 129  
tems and LLM-based MT are impacted by transla- 130  
tionese effects. To address this question, we present 131  
a "directed" multilingual parallel corpus, including 132  
diverse source languages and explicit labeling of 133  
actual translation direction, and use it to evaluate 134  
recent multilingual MT systems on  $O \rightarrow T$  and 135  
 $T \rightarrow O$  directions. 136

## 137 3 A Directed Parallel Corpora for MT 138 139 Evaluation 140

141 We present Multilingual Source Global Voices 142  
143 (MSGV), a directed parallel corpora for MT Eval- 144  
145 uation featuring diverse source languages and ex- 146  
147 plicit labeling of actual translation direction. 148

149 **Data collection.** We draw original texts and their 149  
150 translations from Global Voices, a multilingual plat- 150  
151 form that features voices from diverse communi- 151  
152 ties and translates these stories into multiple lan- 152  
153 guages. Global Voices provides local perspectives 153  
154 to a global audience, ensuring that the translation 154  
155 direction and MT task align with the intention of 155  
156 writers, who want their articles shared in other lan- 156  
157 guages. Articles are translated by volunteers from 157  
158 the Lingua community<sup>3</sup> through a process ensuring 158  
159 quality control. We initially collected articles from 159  
160 2016 across all languages before curating a directed 160  
161 parallel corpus for all language pairs between En- 161  
162 glish and one of the following five languages: ES, 162  
163 PT, FR, AR and BN, in both directions. 163

164 **Sentence alignment and filtering.** After crawl- 164  
165 ing document-level aligned original texts and their 165  
166 translations, we segment documents into sentences 166  
167 using NLTK (Bird and Loper, 2004), and run the 167  
168 Vecalign (Thompson and Koehn, 2019, 2020) sen- 168  
169 tence aligner using LASER embeddings (Artetxe 169  
170 and Schwenk, 2019) to align sentences between the 170  
171 original and translated documents. We further filter 171  
172 out the resulting sentence pairs using a set of rules 172  
173 based on language identification tools, LASER sim- 173  
174 ilarity scores, and regular expressions. 174

175 **Test Sets** We constructed 10 test sets by sampling 175  
176  $n = 500$  of data points from the most recently 176  
177 published articles from each of the 10 following 177  
178 parallel corpus: English v.s. (Spanish, Portuguese, 178  
179 French, Arabic, Bengali) in both directions. We se- 179  
180 lect these languages as they are among the highest 180  
181 resource languages with translations on the Global 181

<sup>3</sup><https://globalvoices.org/lingua/>

Voices website, while being spoken by large populations across the globe, and presenting diverse typological properties. For instance, Bengali follows a subject-object-verb order, while English, French, Portuguese and Spanish follow a subject-verb-object order, and Arabic exhibits both.

Details of the entire data selection and preparation process can be found in Appendix A.

## 4 Experimental Setup

**MT Models.** We consider two models in our experiment: (1) NLLB 3.3B (Team et al., 2022), a dedicated MT model trained to translate between any pair of more than 200 languages, including low-resource ones, and (2) TowerInstruct-7B (Alves et al., 2024), a multilingual LLM instruction-tuned for translation related tasks. It was fine-tuned on a wide range of languages. For example, high-quality samples for all language pairs were sampled from OPUS (Tiedemann, 2012), where 744 languages are available in total, and included in the fine-tuning set for TowerInstruct-7B.

**Metrics.** We evaluate translation quality using (1) COMET (Rei et al., 2020), a state-of-the-art reference-based metric trained to mimic direct assessment scores from human judges, and (2) the NLTK implementation of the chrF metric (Popović, 2015; Bird and Loper, 2004), a character n-gram F-score which has proven to robustly correlate with human judgments in many languages.

## 5 Results

Each system translates from  $X \rightarrow Y$  (where one of  $X$  and  $Y$  is English, and the other is selected from ES, PT, FR, AR, and BN) in actual ( $O \rightarrow T$ ) and reverse ( $T \rightarrow O$ ) directions. We first discuss the impact of translationese data on evaluation (Section 5.1), before analyzing the properties of MT translationese in multilingual systems (Section 5.2)

### 5.1 Impact of Translating Translationese

The COMET and chrF for all models and evaluation settings are plotted in Figure 1.<sup>4</sup> We reported both metrics as they follow similar trends.

When translating into English, both models exhibit a statistically significant advantage in the reverse  $T \rightarrow O$  direction compared to the  $O \rightarrow T$  direction. The paired t-test was used to evaluate the significance of these differences, with p-values

<sup>4</sup>Raw scores can be found in Appendix Table 3.

less than 0.05 indicating strong evidence against the null hypothesis. For NLLB, the  $T \rightarrow O$  direction significantly outperforms the  $O \rightarrow T$  direction across both evaluation metrics in all 5 comparisons ( $p < 0.05$ ). Similarly, for TOWER, the  $T \rightarrow O$  direction significantly outperforms the  $O \rightarrow T$  direction in 4 out of 5 comparisons ( $p < 0.05$ ). This is consistent with translationese effects observed in prior work with older MT models.

However, this trend surprisingly does not hold when translating out of English. For NLLB, " $O \rightarrow T$ " beats " $T \rightarrow O$ " on both metrics for 4 out of 5 times ( $p < 0.05$ ), while it is 3 out of 5 times for TOWER ( $p < 0.05$ ), suggesting that translating original English text is easier than translating English translationese. We hypothesize that the make-up of the training data of these multilingual systems eliminates the expected translationese effect for English, in line with Ni et al. (2022)'s finding that the inflation of scores in the reverse direction is influenced by the direction of the training data with bilingual Transformer models. While the complete make-up of their (pre-)training data is unknown, Tower/LLaMA-2 have been exposed to vast amounts of original monolingual English text, while NLLB training data included a seed corpus curated by translating English sources into other languages (Team et al., 2022), and the majority of the parallel text can be assumed to have one English side.

In summary, our results suggest that hypothesis H1 holds true only for translation into English, but not for translation out of English when utilizing multilingual MT or LLM systems.

### 5.2 Linguistic Diversity of Translationese

We turn to assessing the linguistic diversity of machine translationese, compared to that of our various human-written test sets. Following Vanmassenhove et al. (2021), to measure the repetitiveness of vocabulary, we use Yule's I (Yule, 1944)

$$I = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N i^2 \cdot V_i - N}{N^2}$$

where  $N$  is the total number of words in the text.  $V_i$  is the number of vocabulary items (types) that occur exactly  $i$  times in the text. Figure 2 summarizes the Yule's I scores.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>We also measured the Shannon Entropy (Shannon, 2001) of word surface forms given lemma to measure grammatical diversity as manifested in morphology, but did not find any patterns of grammatical diversity with the languages and trans-

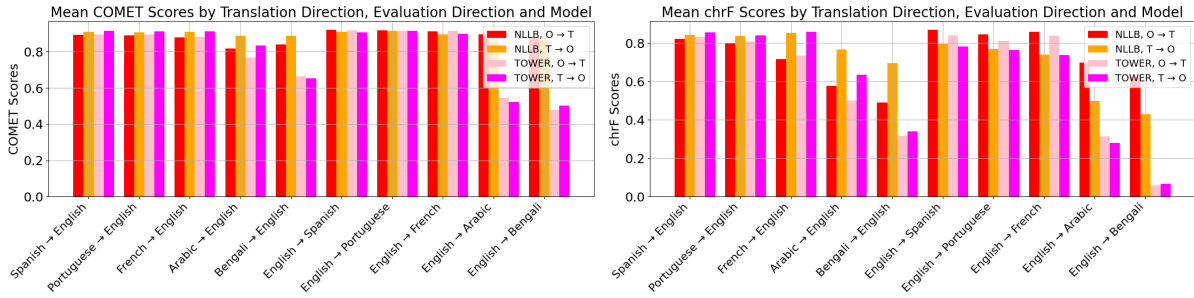


Figure 1: MT evaluation results for NLLB-3.3B and TowerInstruct-7B on 10 translation directions in both  $O \rightarrow T$  and  $T \rightarrow O$  settings.

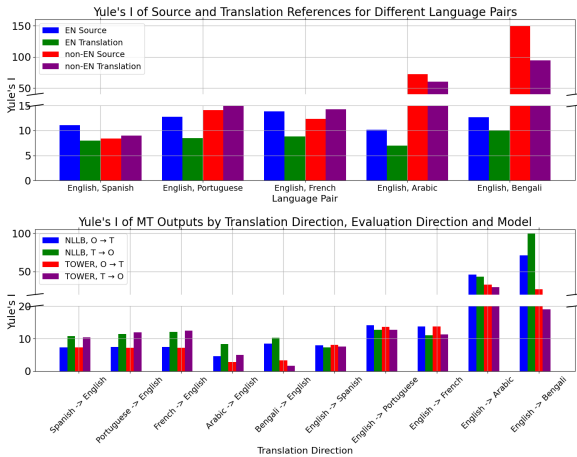


Figure 2: Yule's I score of source and translation references for difference language pairs and Yule's I score of MT outputs on 10 translation directions in both  $O \rightarrow T$  and  $T \rightarrow O$  settings for NLLB-3.3B and TowerInstruct-7B.

For English, original texts always have a higher Yule's I score than translated text, which indicates that original texts are lexically richer than translations, as expected. However, this may not hold true for non-English languages. Similar to MT evaluation, linguistic diversity of MT outputs displays different trends when translating into and out of English. When translating into English, the  $T \rightarrow O$  outputs yield a higher Yule's I score than the corresponding  $O \rightarrow T$  evaluation 5 out of 5 times for NLLB, and 4 out of 5 times for TOWER, suggesting that machine translations of human translationese are more lexically diverse than machine translations of original text. When translating out of English, it is quite the opposite, with  $O \rightarrow T$  outputs yielding a higher Yule's I score than the corresponding  $T \rightarrow O$  evaluation 4 out of 5 times

lation directions studied. All scores for the human-written data and MT outputs can be found in Appendix Tables 4 and 5 respectively.

for NLLB, and 5 out of 5 times for TOWER.

In sum, these results suggest that H2 holds: the lexical diversity of MT translationese is impacted by translationese inputs.

## 6 Conclusion

We curated a multilingual parallel corpora from Global Voices, which explicitly labels the translation direction. Using test sets extracted from the corpora, we evaluated NLLB-3.3B and TowerInstruct-7B on 10 translation directions in both actual  $O \rightarrow T$  and reverse  $T \rightarrow O$  settings. We found that  $T \rightarrow O$  evaluation inflates MT performance when translating into English, while opposite trend can be observed when translating out of English. Additionally, we measured the linguistic diversity of source, target references and the MT outputs. We found that English original texts are lexically richer than translationese, and that evaluation in the reverse  $T \rightarrow O$  inflates the lexical diversity of MT outputs compared to the actual direction when translating into English.

These results show that massively multilingual MT and LLMs do not suffer from the exact same translationese effects as dedicated bilingual systems. Translationese is easier to translate for these systems when it is in non-English languages, suggesting that the FLORES test bed artificially amplifies MT quality for translation out of non-English languages. Lexical diversity analysis suggests that machine translating translationese gives artificially more diverse outputs when translating into English.

These findings motivate the use of more diverse test beds when evaluating multilingual machine translation, including text originally written in non-English languages. To that end, we release the test sets used in this paper along with all the parallel data extracted from Global Voices with translation direction annotation.

## 7 Limitations

Despite the findings, this study has several limitations that should be considered.

First, the number of languages involved in the experiment is limited. Besides English, only five languages are included: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Arabic and Bengali. This restriction may affect the generalizability of the results to a broader range of languages present in global translation.

Second, the translation direction in this study always involves English. It is unknown whether the trends observed in this study still hold for translation between non-English languages. The limitations mentioned above are largely due to the lack of non-English data, particularly original texts. For example, Malagasy is a linguistically distinct, low-resource language that we were interested in including in our experiment at first due to its high availability on the Global Voices website. However, we ultimately had to drop it because nearly all the Malagasy texts available are translations, not original texts. The discrepancy in data availability among different languages is still significant, even on a multilingual citizen media website like Global Voices.

Third, the number of models evaluated in this study is relatively small, as only two models, NLLB and TOWER, were included. This limitation can impact the comprehensiveness of the findings. Future research may explore whether these trends are applicable to a broader range of models.

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## A Corpus construction

### A.1 Data Collection

Using Scrapy<sup>6</sup>, we crawled the HTML files of over 100k source articles and their corresponding translations from Global Voices<sup>7</sup>, spanning the years from 2004 to 2024. We then parsed the HTML files and extracted the main content into plain text. We discarded articles published before 2016, keeping only those from 2016 onwards for the following reasons: (1) Recent articles are preferred over older ones. (2) Articles from 2016 onwards display reduced English-dominance. (3) Articles from 2016 onwards includes more diverse languages. Table 1 gives an overview of data statistics before 2016 and from 2016 onwards to illustrate these points. Figure 3 shows the language distribution in source articles from 2016 to 2024. Figure 4 shows the language distribution in all (source and translation) articles from 2016 to 2024. While a significant percentage of translation articles are written in non-English, non-English source articles still remain relatively low-resource compared to the vast number of English source articles.

	Before 2016	2016 and later
% of non-English articles (source)	0.28%	11.92%
% of non-English articles (source+translation)	10.77%	81.17%
# of languages in articles (source)	11	15
# of languages in articles (source+translation)	44	50
% of articles in top 5 high-resource languages (source)	99.98%	99.17%
% of articles in top 5 high-resource languages (source+translation)	96.80%	62.46%

Table 1: Statistics of data before 2016 and from 2016 onwards, respectively.

### A.2 Sentence Alignment.

After initial data collection, we first tokenized each article into individual sentences using the NLTK (Bird and Loper, 2004) package. Then, we used LASER embedding (Artetxe and Schwenk, 2019),

<sup>6</sup><https://scrapy.org/>

<sup>7</sup>Unless otherwise stated, all content created by Global Voices is published under a Creative Commons Attribution-Only license. This means that anyone, anywhere has the right to share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format.

Language Distribution (Source, 2016~2024)

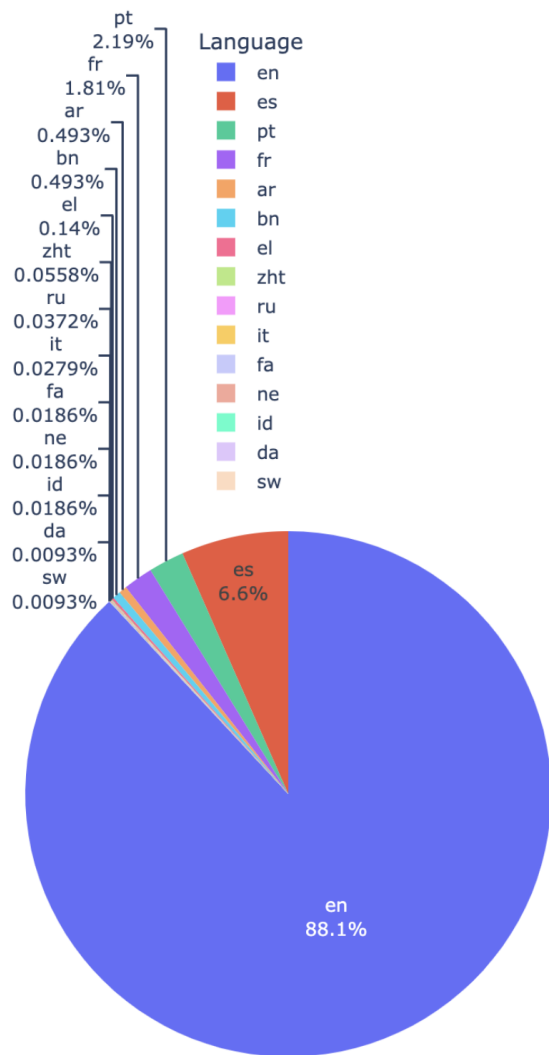


Figure 3: Language Distribution of Source Articles from 2016 to 2024.

a language-agnostic embedding framework, to encode multilingual sentences into shared-space vectors. After this, we proceeded to apply Vecalign (Thompson and Koehn, 2019, 2020) to evaluate the similarity among multilingual sentence embeddings. Sentences with analogous meanings are aligned together due to their closeness in the vector space. In the end, we curated a directed parallel corpus for all language pairs between English and one of the following five languages: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Arabic and Bengali, in both direction. We explicitly retained the temporal information by associating the publishing date of each article with each of its constituent sentences after segmenting the article.

Language Distribution (Source+Translation, 2016~2024)

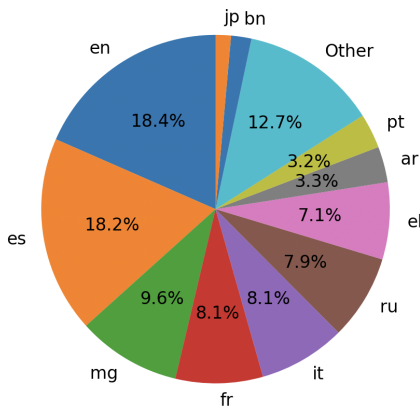


Figure 4: Language Distribution of All Articles (Source+Translation) from 2016 to 2024.

### A.3 Data Filtering and Quality Assurance.

We filtered out noisy samples to ensure high data quality. First, for each Source  $\rightarrow$  Translation parallel corpus, we used the langdetect<sup>8</sup> package to detect and filter out language-text mismatches. Second, we used python regex<sup>9</sup> to filter out texts containing unwanted patterns, including emojis, certain special symbols, etc. Third, we applied LASER embedding (Artetxe and Schwenk, 2019) to encode each pair of aligned sentences and compute the cosine similarity between them. Data points with low cosine similarities are filtered out. Empirically we found out that 0.85 is a good threshold to ensure both enough amount of data and good data quality. Fourth, if needed, other heuristics like texts length, or manual processing may be involved. After data filtering, Table 2 presents the amount of data in the parallel corpus between English and each of the next five high-resource languages ('Spanish', 'Portuguese', 'French', 'Arabic', 'Bengali') in source texts in both translation directions when the threshold of LASER cosine similarity is set to 0.85, i.e. all samples with LASER cosine similarity below 0.85 are not included (the threshold was set to 0.63 for Bengali  $\rightarrow$  English, due to limited data and a lower cosine similarity distribution; extensive manual processing was involved to ensure data quality).

<sup>8</sup><https://github.com/Mimino666/langdetect?tab=readme-ov-file>

<sup>9</sup><https://docs.python.org/3/library/re.html>, <https://github.com/mrabarnett/mrab-regex>

Source $\rightarrow$ Translation	# of Sentences
English $\rightarrow$ Spanish	239,709
Spanish $\rightarrow$ English	8,438
English $\rightarrow$ Portuguese	37,733
Portuguese $\rightarrow$ English	3,344
English $\rightarrow$ French	92,583
French $\rightarrow$ English	2,047
English $\rightarrow$ Arabic	25,314
Arabic $\rightarrow$ English	773
English $\rightarrow$ Bengali	4,615
Bengali $\rightarrow$ English	500

Table 2: Number of sentences in the refined parallel corpus between English and each of the next five high-resource languages in both translation directions when the threshold of LASER cosine similarity is set to 0.85 (for Bengali  $\rightarrow$  English, the threshold was set to 0.63; extensive manual processing was involved to ensure data quality).

### A.4 Test Sets Sampling

For better data quality, we mostly sample data points from a subset of the parallel corpus where a LASER cosine similarity threshold must be met. The thresholds are 0.98, 0.95, 0.97, 0.95, 0.98, 0.94, 0.95, 0.85 and 0.86 for EN  $\rightarrow$  ES, ES  $\rightarrow$  EN, EN  $\rightarrow$  PT, PT  $\rightarrow$  EN, EN  $\rightarrow$  FR, FR  $\rightarrow$  EN, EN  $\rightarrow$  AR, AR  $\rightarrow$  EN and EN  $\rightarrow$  BN, respectively. We want the threshold to be as high as possible for better quality, but ensure that there is enough amount of data points left. Due to a preference of more recent data, we select the most recent 500 samples from all the X  $\rightarrow$  English. We recorded the time range of selected samples from X  $\rightarrow$  English and randomly selected 500 samples in with corresponding English  $\rightarrow$  X corpus within the same time range. This had never been a problem, as English  $\rightarrow$  X always has a much larger size than X  $\rightarrow$  English given the same language X. Hence, when passing in a time frame where X  $\rightarrow$  English contains 500 samples, the corresponding English  $\rightarrow$  X always has a pool containing more than 500 data points to sample from under this time frame.



## B MT Evaluation Results

NLLB-3.3B						
Translation Direction	COMET ( $\uparrow$ )			chrF ( $\uparrow$ )		
	O $\rightarrow$ T	T $\rightarrow$ O	p_value	O $\rightarrow$ T	T $\rightarrow$ O	p_value
English $\rightarrow$ Spanish	<b>0.921</b> $\pm$ 0.041	0.91 $\pm$ 0.042	7.305e-05	<b>0.869</b> $\pm$ 0.083	0.795 $\pm$ 0.106	2.974e-32
Spanish $\rightarrow$ English	0.892 $\pm$ 0.053	<b>0.91</b> $\pm$ 0.042	3.307e-09	0.821 $\pm$ 0.107	<b>0.843</b> $\pm$ 0.109	1.388e-03
English $\rightarrow$ Portuguese	<b>0.918</b> $\pm$ 0.047	0.914 $\pm$ 0.045	1.126e-01	<b>0.845</b> $\pm$ 0.099	0.769 $\pm$ 0.119	1.323e-26
Portuguese $\rightarrow$ English	0.89 $\pm$ 0.049	<b>0.908</b> $\pm$ 0.042	2.211e-10	0.798 $\pm$ 0.113	<b>0.836</b> $\pm$ 0.099	1.834e-08
English $\rightarrow$ French	<b>0.912</b> $\pm$ 0.059	0.896 $\pm$ 0.052	1.314e-05	<b>0.859</b> $\pm$ 0.123	0.74 $\pm$ 0.114	3.271e-50
French $\rightarrow$ English	0.88 $\pm$ 0.054	<b>0.909</b> $\pm$ 0.051	4.438e-17	0.717 $\pm$ 0.118	<b>0.852</b> $\pm$ 0.105	3.264e-69
English $\rightarrow$ Arabic	<b>0.895</b> $\pm$ 0.066	0.857 $\pm$ 0.059	2.607e-21	<b>0.698</b> $\pm$ 0.145	0.497 $\pm$ 0.132	2.651e-93
Arabic $\rightarrow$ English	0.818 $\pm$ 0.071	<b>0.888</b> $\pm$ 0.047	4.690e-66	0.576 $\pm$ 0.144	<b>0.767</b> $\pm$ 0.109	6.413e-99
English $\rightarrow$ Bengali	<b>0.882</b> $\pm$ 0.046	0.865 $\pm$ 0.072	1.143e-05	<b>0.624</b> $\pm$ 0.116	0.431 $\pm$ 0.157	9.395e-89
Bengali $\rightarrow$ English	0.84 $\pm$ 0.074	<b>0.886</b> $\pm$ 0.041	3.982e-32	0.489 $\pm$ 0.169	<b>0.696</b> $\pm$ 0.107	1.584e-95

TowerInstruct-7B						
Translation Direction	COMET ( $\uparrow$ )			chrF ( $\uparrow$ )		
	O $\rightarrow$ T	T $\rightarrow$ O	p_value	O $\rightarrow$ T	T $\rightarrow$ O	p_value
English $\rightarrow$ Spanish	<b>0.918</b> $\pm$ 0.041	0.908 $\pm$ 0.046	1.887e-04	<b>0.841</b> $\pm$ 0.099	0.781 $\pm$ 0.11	1.259e-18
Spanish $\rightarrow$ English	0.896 $\pm$ 0.047	<b>0.914</b> $\pm$ 0.04	4.570e-10	0.832 $\pm$ 0.097	<b>0.856</b> $\pm$ 0.095	7.627e-05
English $\rightarrow$ Portuguese	0.915 $\pm$ 0.04	<b>0.916</b> $\pm$ 0.037	7.319e-01	<b>0.81</b> $\pm$ 0.099	0.763 $\pm$ 0.11	1.993e-12
Portuguese $\rightarrow$ English	0.896 $\pm$ 0.043	<b>0.912</b> $\pm$ 0.037	3.614e-10	0.809 $\pm$ 0.102	<b>0.84</b> $\pm$ 0.095	8.012e-07
English $\rightarrow$ French	<b>0.914</b> $\pm$ 0.052	0.898 $\pm$ 0.052	8.452e-07	<b>0.838</b> $\pm$ 0.11	0.736 $\pm$ 0.112	1.041e-43
French $\rightarrow$ English	0.883 $\pm$ 0.054	<b>0.912</b> $\pm$ 0.053	7.294e-18	0.735 $\pm$ 0.11	<b>0.859</b> $\pm$ 0.114	1.563e-59
English $\rightarrow$ Arabic	<b>0.545</b> $\pm$ 0.147	0.521 $\pm$ 0.113	3.956e-03	<b>0.315</b> $\pm$ 0.129	0.279 $\pm$ 0.1	8.347e-07
Arabic $\rightarrow$ English	0.768 $\pm$ 0.082	<b>0.834</b> $\pm$ 0.068	9.003e-41	0.5 $\pm$ 0.125	<b>0.636</b> $\pm$ 0.124	9.245e-59
English $\rightarrow$ Bengali	0.477 $\pm$ 0.117	<b>0.503</b> $\pm$ 0.125	7.921e-04	0.06 $\pm$ 0.085	<b>0.066</b> $\pm$ 0.1	3.363e-01
Bengali $\rightarrow$ English	<b>0.664</b> $\pm$ 0.116	0.652 $\pm$ 0.122	1.243e-01	0.316 $\pm$ 0.117	<b>0.341</b> $\pm$ 0.1	3.232e-04

Table 3: COMET Score and chrF Score of NLLB-3.3B and TowerInstruct-7B evaluated on 10 translation directions in both  $O \rightarrow T$  and  $T \rightarrow O$  settings. Both scores are reported in  $0 \sim 1$  scale.

## C Linguistic Diversity

Language Pair		Yule’s I ( $\uparrow$ )		Shannon Entropy ( $\uparrow$ )	
		Source	Translation	Source	Translation
English, Spanish	English	<b>11.107</b>	7.955	0.09	<b>0.101</b>
	Spanish	8.444	<b>9.023</b>	<b>0.142</b>	0.128
English, Portuguese	English	<b>12.755</b>	8.522	0.096	<b>0.101</b>
	Portuguese	14.071	<b>15.651</b>	0.131	<b>0.138</b>
English, French	English	<b>13.862</b>	8.83	<b>0.081</b>	0.077
	French	12.357	<b>14.299</b>	0.118	0.118
English, Arabic	English	<b>10.198</b>	6.966	0.111	<b>0.127</b>
	Arabic	<b>72.282</b>	60.095	<b>0.367</b>	0.332
English, Bengali	English	<b>12.701</b>	10.094	0.09	<b>0.1</b>
	Bengali	<b>149.768</b>	94.325	0.234	<b>0.254</b>

Table 4: . Linguistic diversity of source references and target references for each language pair. Within block language pair  $(X, Y)$  or  $(Y, X)$ , grid  $(X, \text{Source})$  denotes the linguistic diversity of the source side of test set  $X \rightarrow Y$ , while  $(X, \text{Translation})$  denotes the linguistic diversity of the target side of test set  $Y \rightarrow X$ . Yule’s I scores by 10,000 for ease of readability. Shannon Entropy is reported in  $0 \sim 1$  scale.

Translation Direction	Yule’s I ( $\uparrow$ )				Shannon Entropy ( $\uparrow$ )			
	NLLB		TOWER		NLLB		TOWER	
	$O \rightarrow T$	$T \rightarrow O$	$O \rightarrow T$	$T \rightarrow O$	$O \rightarrow T$	$T \rightarrow O$	$O \rightarrow T$	$T \rightarrow O$
English $\rightarrow$ Spanish	<b>7.92</b>	7.314	<b>8.105</b>	7.533	0.13	<b>0.145</b>	0.129	<b>0.148</b>
Spanish $\rightarrow$ English	7.243	<b>10.716</b>	7.294	<b>10.416</b>	<b>0.099</b>	0.088	<b>0.103</b>	0.093
English $\rightarrow$ Portuguese	<b>14.071</b>	12.711	<b>13.634</b>	12.667	<b>0.135</b>	0.128	<b>0.134</b>	0.132
Portuguese $\rightarrow$ English	7.455	<b>11.381</b>	7.214	<b>11.988</b>	<b>0.097</b>	0.096	<b>0.098</b>	0.095
English $\rightarrow$ French	<b>13.735</b>	11.066	<b>13.769</b>	11.344	0.12	0.12	0.12	<b>0.121</b>
French $\rightarrow$ English	7.388	<b>12.046</b>	7.192	<b>12.491</b>	0.075	<b>0.081</b>	0.077	<b>0.08</b>
English $\rightarrow$ Arabic	<b>46.284</b>	43.1	<b>32.854</b>	29.717	0.331	<b>0.352</b>	0.29	<b>0.35</b>
Arabic $\rightarrow$ English	4.537	<b>8.345</b>	2.824	<b>4.95</b>	<b>0.126</b>	0.115	<b>0.12</b>	0.11
English $\rightarrow$ Bengali	71.073	<b>99.916</b>	<b>27.181</b>	19.07	<b>0.23</b>	0.214	0.123	<b>0.124</b>
Bengali $\rightarrow$ English	8.46	<b>10.214</b>	<b>3.297</b>	1.655	<b>0.095</b>	0.09	<b>0.059</b>	0.053

Table 5: Yule’s I Score and Shannon Entropy of the MT outputs of NLLB-3.3B and TowerInstruct-7B evaluated on 10 translation directions in both  $O \rightarrow T$  and  $T \rightarrow O$  settings. For ease of readability and comparison, we multiplied Yule’s I scores by 10,000. Shannon Entropy is reported in  $0 \sim 1$  scale. (For English  $\rightarrow$  Bengali translation, TowerInstruct-7B output texts that are not in Bengali frequently. Therefore, the diversity of English  $\rightarrow$  Bengali MT outputs by TowerInstruct-7B was calculated only based on outputs in Bengali, i.e. after all the non-Bengali MT outputs were removed.)