

A Survey on Multilingual Mental Disorders Detection from Social Media Data

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Abstract

The increasing prevalence of mental health disorders globally highlights the urgent need for effective digital screening methods that can be used in multilingual contexts. Most existing studies, however, focus on English data, overlooking critical mental health signals that may be present in non-English texts. To address this important gap, we present the first survey on the detection of mental health disorders using multilingual social media data. We investigate the cultural nuances that influence online language patterns and self-disclosure behaviors, and how these factors can impact the performance of NLP tools. Additionally, we provide a comprehensive list of multilingual data collections that can be used for developing NLP models for mental health screening. Our findings can inform the design of effective multilingual mental health screening tools that can meet the needs of diverse populations, ultimately improving mental health outcomes on a global scale.

1 Introduction

It is estimated that nearly half of the population will develop at least one mental disorder by the age of 75 (McGrath et al., 2023). Unfortunately, many people do not seek psychiatric help for mental health issues due to stigma, which manifests itself differently between cultures and is influenced by different cultural norms, religious beliefs and social attitudes (Ahad et al., 2023). Due to the stigma associated with mental health and the limited access to professional care around the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) advocates for improved delivery of mental health services, including digital technologies to deliver remote care.¹ There is a pressing need for the integration of remote screening tools and the delivery of culturally

adapted digital interventions (Bond et al., 2023). Remote screening relies on processing language patterns associated with mental disorders, which can be identified from short essay writing (Rude et al., 2004), text messages (Nobles et al., 2018), or social media (Eichstaedt et al., 2018).

The first well-known study on the detection of mental disorders using social media was conducted by De Choudhury et al. (2013). Multiple other studies have shown that the language used on Facebook can predict future depression diagnoses found in medical records, indicating that social media data could serve as a valuable complement to depression screening (Eichstaedt et al., 2018). The current methods used for social media screening focus mainly on English data (Skaik and Inkpen, 2020; Harrigan et al., 2021). Additionally, there have been multiple workshops and shared tasks addressing NLP applications to mental health primarily on English data such as eRisk (Parapar et al., 2024), CLPsych (Chim et al., 2024) and LT-EDI (Kayalvizhi et al., 2023).

There are important limitations in current NLP models when processing multilingual mental health-related data. Various studies analyzing English data from social media have shown that there are cultural differences in online language markers of mental disorders (De Choudhury et al., 2017; Loveys et al., 2018; Aguirre and Dredze, 2021; Rai et al., 2024) and that the NLP models used for detection do not generalize on data from non-Western cultures (Aguirre et al., 2021; Abdelkadir et al., 2024). Even one of the best predictors of depression in language, the use of the first person pronoun "I" (Rude et al., 2004), for example, has different degrees of association with the severity of depression across different demographic groups (Rai et al., 2024). This suggests that markers of mental disorders in social media language are not universal. One reason for this variation is that self-disclosure rates differ between cultures; col-

¹<https://www.who.int/news/item/17-06-2022-who-highlights-urgent-need-to-transform-mental-health-and-mental-health-care>

lectivist cultures tend to have lower self-disclosure rates than individualist cultures in online settings (Tokunaga, 2009). Furthermore, non-native English speakers tend to use their native language for more intimate self-disclosures on social media, with higher rates of negative disclosure compared to posts in English (Tang et al., 2011). This could have substantial implications for English-based social media screening tools, as they can overlook important signals of mental health disorders that are present in posts that are not written in English.

Recently, there have been efforts to develop detection models that focus on languages other than English, such as Portuguese (Santos et al., 2024), German (Zanwar et al., 2023), Arabic (Almouzini et al., 2019), and Chinese (Zhu et al., 2024). There have also been shared tasks specifically designed to address these issues, such as MentalRiskES (Mármol-Romero et al., 2023), which focuses on the early detection of depression, suicide, and eating disorders in Spanish. To further contribute to these important efforts, we present the first survey on mental disorders detection from multilingual social media data. This survey aims to promote the development of multilingual NLP models that take into account cross-cultural and cross-language differences in online language.

This paper makes the following **contributions**:

1. We investigate cross-cultural and cross-language differences in the manifestations of mental disorders in social media.
2. We provide a comprehensive list of multilingual mental health datasets that capture linguistic diversity and can be used for developing multilingual NLP models.²
3. We identify and describe several research gaps and future directions in the detection of multilingual mental disorders using online data.

2 Prior Surveys

In this section, we analyze past surveys on the analysis of mental disorders from social media data. Calvo et al. (2017) is considered one of the first comprehensive surveys, presenting the datasets and NLP techniques used for mental health status detection and intervention. The survey explores research on various mental health conditions and states, including depression, mood disorders, psychological

distress, and suicidal ideation, specifically in non-clinical texts such as user-generated content from social media and online forums. Similarly, recent surveys from Skaik and Inkpen (2020); Harrigian et al. (2021); Ríssola et al. (2021); Zhang et al. (2022); Garg (2023); Bucur et al. (2025) present the datasets, features, and models used to detect mental disorders from online content, focusing mainly on English language data.

In addition to these surveys, Chancellor and De Choudhury (2020) provides a critical review of the study design and methods used to predict mental health status, along with recommendations to improve research in this field. Dhelim et al. (2023) focus on studies that were published during the COVID-19 pandemic. It focuses on general mental well-being, loneliness, anxiety, stress, PTSD, depression, suicide, and other mental disorders.

Our paper fills an important gap in the literature by offering the first comprehensive survey of research on detecting mental disorders in languages other than English. The most related survey to ours is the one by Garg (2024) which focuses exclusively on low-resource languages. Our survey, however, has a broader scope as it discusses work on many languages irrespective of their resourcefulness.

3 Mental Disorders Detection Tasks Overview

To identify datasets and approaches for modeling the manifestations of mental disorders in languages other than English, we conducted a systematic search on major publication databases, including ACL Anthology, ACM Digital Library, IEEE Xplore, Springer Nature Link, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar. In this section, we discuss the most common tasks related to detecting mental health disorders that we identified through our search. When available, we include references to studies that focus on languages other than English.

The detection of mental health issues through social media is typically approached as a supervised classification task (Figure 1). The most common focus is on the **binary classification** of mental disorders. In this process, a collection of social media posts is used to train an NLP model, which then predicts a binary label that indicates the presence or absence of a mental disorder. Binary classification can be performed at the post-level, which is often used to predict conditions such as suici-

²We make the list available online at [/anonymized_address/](#), and we will continuously update it.

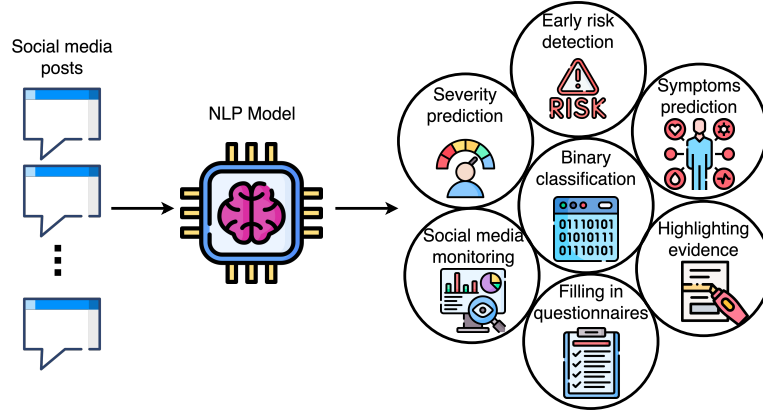


Figure 1: Overview of tasks related to detecting mental health problems from social media.

dal ideation (Huang et al., 2019) and depression (Uddin et al., 2019). However, relying solely on a single post for decision making can lead to inaccurate predictions. Therefore, predictions can be made at the user level to detect conditions like depression (Hiraga, 2017), anxiety (Zarate et al., 2023), bipolar disorder (Sekulić et al., 2018), etc. Binary classification at the user level can also be modeled as an **early risk prediction task**, which aims to accurately label users as soon as possible, allowing the model to make a prediction or wait for more data before deciding (Losada and Crestani, 2016; Parapar et al., 2021).

Another important task is **severity prediction**, which can be modeled either as an ordinal regression / classification task or as a multiclass classification task. It is used primarily to predict the severity of depression (Naseem et al., 2022; Kabir et al., 2023; Sampath and Durairaj, 2022) or the risk of suicide attempts (Benjachairat et al., 2024). Social media posts can be modeled longitudinally to detect **moments of change** in the mental health status of individuals. These shifts or escalations in mood can be used as a warning signal for potential suicidal behavior (Tsakalidis et al., 2022b).

There are tasks designed to improve the explainability of the field, such as **symptom prediction** for mental disorders (Liu et al., 2023; Yadav et al., 2020). Another step toward improving the explainability of model predictions is **highlighting evidence** for mental disorders (Chim et al., 2024; Varadarajan et al., 2024). Mental health indicators from the social media timeline of an individual can be used to **fill in validated questionnaires**, with the goal of estimating symptoms of mental disorders that are usually assessed through survey-based methods such as the Beck’s Depression Inventory-

II (BDI-II)³ for depression assessment (Parapar et al., 2021) or the Eating Disorder Examination Questionnaire (EDE-Q)⁴ for eating disorders (Parapar et al., 2024).

Finally, **mental health monitoring** systems can analyze social media posts to identify various mental health issues. The aggregated results can be used to estimate the prevalence of mental disorders within a population. This approach was used during the COVID-19 pandemic to assess mental health burden with results comparable to traditional survey-based methods (Cohrdes et al., 2021).

4 Shared Tasks

Shared tasks have encouraged interdisciplinary collaborations between psychologists and computer scientists, leading to the development of systems that help detect mental disorders through the analysis of social media. Additionally, these shared tasks have provided benchmark data resources that the research community continues to use, even beyond the official competitions.

The Early Detection of Mental Disorders Risk in Spanish (**MentalRiskES**) is the only shared task focused on detecting mental disorders in languages other than English. MentalRiskES includes tasks such as the detection of depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and suicidal risk in the Spanish language (Mármol-Romero et al., 2023).

Other shared tasks are focused only on social media data in English. The Early Risk Prediction on the Internet Lab (**eRisk**) is an annual competition focusing mainly on the early detection of

³<https://naviauxlab.ucsd.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/BDI21.pdf>

⁴https://www.corc.uk.net/media/1273/ede-q_questionnaire.pdf

mental disorders, including depression, self-harm, pathological gambling, and eating disorders (Parapar et al., 2024). The Workshop on Computational Linguistics and Clinical Psychology (CLPsych) includes various tasks, such as detecting depression and PTSD (Coppersmith et al., 2015), labeling crisis posts (Milne et al., 2016), identifying moments of change (Tsakalidis et al., 2022a), and highlighting evidence for suicide risk (Chim et al., 2024). The Workshop on Language Technology for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (LT-EDI) organized tasks aimed at predicting the severity of depression (Kayalvizhi et al., 2023).

5 Datasets

In this section, we present the data collections we found through the systematic search presented in Section 3. Figure 2 presents an overview of these languages along with the ranking of the publications in which they appeared. The rankings for conferences are categorized as A*, A, B, and C, following the CORE Rankings Portal.⁵ For journals, the rankings are classified as Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4, based on the Journal Citation Reports⁶. There are also datasets published in unranked conferences or journals. The languages most frequently represented in the data collections are three high-resource languages: Chinese, Arabic, and Spanish. Although approximately half of the datasets were published in unranked venues, leading to low visibility for the research, the other half were published in high-ranking journals and conferences.

5.1 Data Sources

Most of the datasets in English are sourced from Twitter⁷ and Reddit (Harrigian et al., 2021). Most non-English datasets in this section were also primarily collected from Twitter. However, Reddit was not as widely used for these data collections in non-English contexts. The data collected come from various populations and regions, and some of the sources are platforms that are exclusive to specific countries, such as Sina Weibo⁸ used in China, VKontakte⁹ used in Russia, Pantip¹⁰ in Thailand, or Everytime¹¹ in Korea.

⁵<https://www.core.edu.au/conference-portal>

⁶<https://jcr.clarivate.com/>

⁷All the datasets were collected before Twitter changed its name to X, so we refer to it as ‘Twitter’ in this paper.

⁸<https://weibo.com>

⁹<https://vk.com/>

¹⁰<https://pantip.com/>

¹¹<https://everytime.kr/>

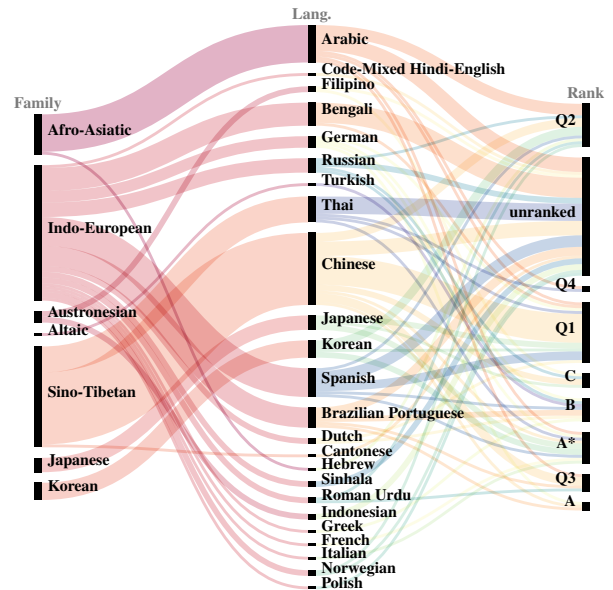


Figure 2: Overview of the languages in the datasets, their language families, and the ranking of their publication venues.

5.2 Languages

Table 1 presents all the datasets with multilingual data. A more detailed version of the table can be found in Appendix A, Table 2. For classifying resource types, we used the framework proposed by Joshi et al. (2020). Figure 2 illustrates that most of the languages used in the data collections belong to some of the largest language families by number of speakers, specifically the Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan and Afro-Asiatic language families. The languages most frequently represented in the data collections are high-resource languages: Chinese appears in 25 data collections, Arabic is found in 11 datasets, and Spanish is included in 10 datasets. Even if most of the languages covered in the data are from high-, mid to high- and mid-resourced languages, we also have some languages with fewer resources, such as Cantonese and Norwegian. The Cantonese data collection was gathered by Gao et al. (2019) from Youtube comments and annotated for the risk of suicide. The Norwegian datasets related to depression were collected from a public online forum in Norway (Uddin et al., 2022; Uddin, 2022). Sinhala language, which was classified as rare by Joshi et al. (2020) is represented in three research papers. One of the papers contains Facebook data annotated for suicide ideation (Herath and Wijayasiriwardhane, 2024), while another contains depression-related data from Twitter and Facebook (Rathnayake and

Language	Resource	Datasets
Arabic	High	Almouzini et al. (2019); Alghamdi et al. (2020); Alabdulkreem (2021); Musleh et al. (2022), CairoDep (El-Ramly et al., 2021), Almars (2022); Maghraby and Ali (2022); Baghdadi et al. (2022), Arabic Dep 10,000 (Helmy et al., 2024), Al-Haider et al. (2024); Abdulsalam et al. (2024); Al-Musallam and Al-Abdullatif (2022)
Chinese	High	Zhang et al. (2014); Huang et al. (2015); Cheng et al. (2017); Shen et al. (2018); Wu et al. (2018); Cao et al. (2019); Wang et al. (2019); Peng et al. (2019); Huang et al. (2019); Li et al. (2020), WU3D (Wang et al., 2020), Yao et al. (2020); Yang et al. (2021); Chiu et al. (2021); Sun et al. (2022); Cai et al. (2023); Li et al. (2023); Guo et al. (2023); Wu et al. (2023); Lyu et al. (2023); Yu et al. (2023); Zhu et al. (2024)
French	High	Tabak and Purver (2020)
German	High	Cohrdes et al. (2021); Baskal et al. (2022); Tabak and Purver (2020), SMHD-GER (Zanwar et al., 2023)
Japanese	High	Tsugawa et al. (2015); Hiraga (2017); Niimi (2021); Cha et al. (2022); Wang et al. (2023)
Spanish	High	Leis et al. (2019), SAD (López-Úbeda et al., 2019), Valeriano et al. (2020); Ramírez-Cifuentes et al. (2020, 2021); Villa-Pérez et al. (2023), MentalRiskES (Romero et al., 2024), Cremades et al. (2017); Coello-Guilarte et al. (2019)
Brazilian Portuguese	Mid to High	von Sperling and Ladeira (2019); Mann et al. (2020); Santos et al. (2020); de Carvalho et al. (2020), SetembroBR (Santos et al., 2024), Mendes and Caseli (2024); Oliveira et al. (2024)
Dutch	Mid to High	Desmet and Hoste (2014, 2018)
Code-Mixed Hindi-English	Mid to High	Agarwal and Dhingra (2021)
Italian	Mid to High	Tabak and Purver (2020)
Korean	Mid to High	Lee et al. (2020); Park et al. (2020); Kim et al. (2022b,a); Cha et al. (2022)
Polish	Mid to High	Wolk et al. (2021)
Russian	Mid to High	Stankevich et al. (2019); Baskal et al. (2022); Narynov et al. (2020); Stankevich et al. (2020); Ignatiev et al. (2022)
Turkish	Mid to High	Baskal et al. (2022)
Bengali	Mid	Uddin et al. (2019); Victor et al. (2020); Kabir et al. (2022); Tasnim et al. (2022), BanglaSPD (Islam et al., 2022), Ghosh et al. (2023); Hoque and Salma (2023), BSMDD (Chowdhury et al., 2024)
Indonesian	Mid	Oyong et al. (2018); Yoshua and Maharani (2024)
Filipino	Mid	Tumaliuan et al. (2024); Astoveza et al. (2018)
Greek	Mid	Stamou et al. (2024)
Hebrew	Mid	Hacohen-Kerner et al. (2022)
Roman Urdu	Mid	Rehmani et al. (2024); Mohmand et al. (2024)
Thai	Mid	Katchapakirin et al. (2018); Hemtanon and Kittiphattanabawon (2019); Kumnunt and Sornil (2020); Hemtanon et al. (2020); Wongaptikaseree et al. (2020); Hämäläinen et al. (2021); Mahasiriakalayot et al. (2022); Boonyarat et al. (2024); Benjachairat et al. (2024)
Cantonese	Low	Gao et al. (2019)
Norwegian	Low	Uddin et al. (2022); Uddin (2022)
Sinhala	Rare	Rathnayake and Arachchige (2021), EmoMent (Atapattu et al., 2022), Herath and Wijayasiriwardhane (2024)

Table 1: Available non-English datasets for detecting mental disorders.

Arachchige, 2021). The third dataset contains data from Facebook, with more fine-grained labeled data on the presence of mental illness, anxiety, suicidal ideation, emotions, psychosomatic symptoms, and other manifestations (Atapattu et al., 2022).

5.3 Mental Disorders

Figure 3 shows the distribution of mental disorders in different languages within the datasets. Depression is the most common mental disorder and is well-represented in the data. The languages that lack data on depression are Cantonese, Dutch, Hebrew, Hindi, and Turkish. Suicide is another mental disorder that frequently appears in collections. In contrast, the mental health problems that are least represented include eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), anxiety, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia.

5.4 Annotation Procedure

Most data collections were manually annotated (Figure 3). Manual annotation was carried out by mental health experts or psychologists (Narynov et al., 2020; de Oliveira et al., 2022), graduate students who are native speakers of the language of interest (Boonyarat et al., 2024; Uddin et al., 2019), or nonexpert individuals. However, some datasets do not specify who the annotators were or what guidelines they followed during the annotation process. Most datasets that collect user-level data from online platforms rely on the self-disclosure of mental health statuses. For example, they rely on explicit mentions of diagnoses (e.g. “I was diagnosed with depression”) (Tabak and Purver, 2020; Villa-Pérez et al., 2023). The third most common annotation method involves asking social media users to complete validated questionnaires to diagnose mental disorders. The most frequently used survey-based methods include the CES-D (Tsugawa et al., 2015; Lyu et al., 2023), BDI-II (Sun et al., 2022; Stankevich et al., 2019; Ignatiev et al., 2022) or

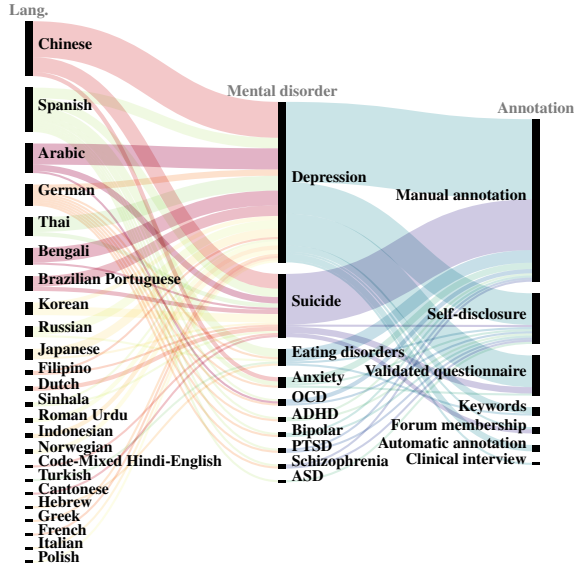


Figure 3: Overview of the mental disorders addressed in each dataset, along with the annotation procedures.

tools specifically designed for certain populations, such as the TMHQ¹² (Katchapakirin et al., 2018). Another reliable annotation approach is conducting clinical interviews to assess mental health problems (Wołk et al., 2021). Less common and noisier annotation methods include identifying posts based on the presence of specific keywords (López-Úbeda et al., 2019), by forum membership (Agarwal and Dhingra, 2021), or automatic annotation through another model trained on mental health data (Cohrdes et al., 2021).

5.5 Availability of Data Collections

Of the 108 datasets listed in Table 1, only 23 are publicly available for download without any restrictions. These datasets focus on the detection of depression, suicide, and anorexia and are in various languages, including Arabic, Bengali, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Hebrew, Hindi, Spanish, Russian, Roman Urdu, and Thai. For 15 of the datasets, access can be obtained by contacting the authors of the respective research papers, while four datasets require users to complete a data agreement to gain access. Additionally, four datasets are unavailable due to the sensitive nature of the data. For the remaining datasets, the research papers do not provide any information on data availability. Details about the availability of data collections can be found in Appendix A, Table 2.

¹²Thai Mental Health Questionnaire

6 Mental Disorders Detection Approaches

In this section, we present the NLP methods proposed for the detection of mental disorders in the datasets in Section 5. Most approaches are monolingual and specifically target only one non-English language.

Classical approaches Most approaches use Bag-of-Words, TF-IDF, or Word2Vec for text representation, which are then used as input for classical machine learning models (Almouzini et al., 2019; Alghamdi et al., 2020; Helmy et al., 2024) or deep learning models (Mann et al., 2020; Tasnim et al., 2022; Ghosh et al., 2023).

Pre-trained transformer-based models While multilingual models like XLM-Roberta and Multilingual BERT demonstrate strong performance in downstream tasks, only two studies focus exclusively on these models (Kabir et al., 2022; Hoque and Salma, 2023). In contrast, twelve of the papers in Section 5 rely on pre-trained monolingual models specific to the target language, such as Chinese BERT (Yao, 2024), AraBERT (Abdulsalam et al., 2024), German BERT (Zanwar et al., 2023), Bangla BERT (Chowdhury et al., 2024) and others. In addition, seven research papers evaluate both language-adapted and multilingual models (Hacohen-Kerner et al., 2022; Oliveira et al., 2024).

Translation Zahran et al. (2025) presented a comprehensive evaluation of LLMs on Arabic data related to depression, suicidal ideation, anxiety, and others. The authors found that LLMs performed better on original Arabic datasets compared to data that had been translated into English. Other works also rely on the detection using data translated from the target language to English (Vajrobol et al., 2023). However, Schoene et al. (2025) has shown that automatically translating suicide dictionaries from English to low-resource languages often leads to spelling errors and fails to capture the cultural nuances of the speakers of the target language. When developing mental health models in other languages, some studies rely on translation from English to the target language, such as Greek (Skianis et al., 2024) or various Indian languages (Rajderkar and Bhat, 2024).

Multilingual approaches Methods developed for multiple languages simultaneously utilize cross-lingual embeddings and make use of information from languages with more mental health-related

resources, such as English, to make predictions on Spanish data (Coello-Guilarte et al., 2019). Lee et al. (2020) developed a cross-lingual model for suicidal ideation by translating data from Korean to English and Chinese. They used existing dictionaries related to suicidal ideation in these languages to inform predictions on the Korean language.

7 Cross-cultural and Cross-language Differences in Mental Health Expression

Culture influences the sources of distress, how it is expressed, how it is interpreted, the process of seeking help, and the responses of others (Kirmayer et al., 2001). In addition, the way people perceive themselves influences their mental health. In Western cultures, there is a strong emphasis on personal narratives, and people tend to express their emotions more openly, a trend that is reflected in online posts (Tokunaga, 2009). In contrast, in Asian societies, individuals often internalize their emotional struggles or express them indirectly, influenced by their collectivist values (Broczek et al., 2024). Although negative self-thoughts are a common characteristic of depression, in East Asian contexts, self-criticism is often viewed as a sign of healthy functioning (Gotlib and Hammen, 2008).

Symptoms of mental disorders Cultural differences in the interpretation of mental health symptoms can lead individuals of certain backgrounds to minimize the psychological effects of mental distress. Instead, they may report more socially acceptable somatic symptoms (Kirmayer et al., 2001). Somatic symptoms are common across various cultures, but the ways in which they are reported or understood can differ. In addition, there are culturally specific idioms of distress associated with mental disorders. One such example is the term “nervios” (translated as “nerves” in English), which is a syndrome of distress primarily studied in Latin American communities. This syndrome manifests with psychological and somatic symptoms and has a high comorbidity with anxiety and mood disorders (De Snyder et al., 2000). The DSM-V (American Psychiatric Association, 2013), which is used for the assessment of mental disorders, includes cultural concepts of distress to help clinicians recognize how individuals from various cultures express psychological issues.

Mental health expressions in online language

Online expression varies between cultures and has been extensively studied among English-speaking individuals from different regions (De Choudhury et al., 2017; Loveys et al., 2018; Pendse et al., 2019; Aguirre and Dredze, 2021; Rai et al., 2024). When analyzing data from a peer-support mental health community, Loveys et al. (2018) found that manifestations of negative emotions differ between demographic groups. Moreover, Pendse et al. (2019) compared the language used by a majority sample (including posts from users in the US, UK, and Canada) to samples from users in India, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The study revealed that the first group used more clinical language when expressing their mental distress.

Variation of features across cultures The tendency for self-focused attention, often referred to as “I”-language, is considered one of the strongest predictors of depression in language (Mihalcea et al., 2024). However, this association has not been observed in non-Western individuals (Rai et al., 2024), nor in speakers of Chinese (Lyu et al., 2023) or Romanian (Trifu et al., 2024). In addition to the lower levels of self-disclosure on social media among non-Western users, it is essential to consider the morphological differences between languages. Although in English the pronoun “I” serves as a significant indicator of depression, its usage in other languages requires special consideration of linguistic characteristics. For instance, English requires the explicit inclusion of nouns or pronouns as subjects in sentences. In contrast, some languages, such as Chinese and Romanian, are pro-drop languages, allowing the subject of the action to be omitted (Koenenman and Zeijlstra, 2019). This feature may lead to a reduced frequency of the personal pronoun “I” in these languages.

Mental health metaphors Indicators of mental disorders are often displayed through metaphors. Depression is often described as weight, pressure, or darkness, and is often portrayed using containment metaphors (Charteris-Black, 2012). Metaphors are often used by individuals to articulate their experience and psychologists in the therapeutic process (Mould et al., 2010). Mental illness metaphors have been extensively studied in English (Charteris-Black, 2012; Lazard et al., 2016) and have been used to predict mental states (Shi et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2021). With the exception of research in Spanish (Coll-Florit and Climent, 2023),

there is a notable lack of resources to understand metaphors of mental illness in other languages.

It is essential to consider the various cultural and multilingual differences when developing automated methods to predict mental disorders based on language. These differences may explain why many studies have shown that models designed to predict mental illnesses often fail to generalize (Aguirre et al., 2021; Aguirre and Dredze, 2021; Abdelkadir et al., 2024).

8 Research Gaps

In this section, we highlight several research gaps that we hope will be explored in future studies.

Lack of mental health-related data for low-resource languages As presented in Section 5, most data collection in non-English languages are often from mid- and high-resourced languages, with the exception of Cantonese, Norwegian, and Sinhala. Currently, many languages remain under-represented, including high-resourced languages like French and mid-to-high resource languages such as Finnish, Croatian, and Vietnamese. Moreover, there is a lack of data collections for low-resource languages, which may hinder the development of online screening tools for individuals who speak these languages. Although few studies have used automatic translation for building datasets in languages other than English, it cannot accurately capture the cultural nuances of native speakers of the target language (Schoene et al., 2025).

Cross-lingual expressions in underrepresented mental disorders Although there are mental health-related datasets available in non-English data, most of them primarily focus on depression and suicide. Other mental disorders, such as anxiety, OCD, bipolar disorder, and PTSD, are under-represented. To gain a better understanding of how these disorders manifest in the online language, the research community needs more linguistically diverse collections that encompass a wider range of mental disorders. This approach would not only facilitate a broader exploration of mental health expressions in various languages, but also help develop more inclusive and effective online mental health screening tools worldwide.

Multilingual approaches As highlighted in Section 6, most NLP approaches have focused on processing data in a single target language, with multilingual approaches addressing multiple languages

being almost nonexistent. Most existing NLP models developed for mental disorders detection do not support multiple languages effectively, which limits their applicability in multicultural and multilingual settings where mental health issues may manifest differently.

Annotation transparency in mental health data collections Although most of the datasets presented in this paper rely on manual annotation for labeling the data related to mental disorders, it is often unclear who did the annotations. The authors of the research papers should provide specific details about the annotation process, such as whether the annotators are mental health experts or non-experts, if they are native speakers of the target language, and whether they understand the cultural differences in the manifestations of mental disorders. These factors significantly impact the quality and reliability of the data, as understanding cultural nuances is essential in interpreting mental health expressions.

Explainability in multilingual mental health research While many mental health studies in English emphasize the importance of explainable approaches (Yang et al., 2023a; Souto et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2023b), there is a significant opportunity for applying explainable approaches to non-English languages. Currently, few studies have examined model explainability in Bengali (Ghosh et al., 2023) and Thai (Vajrobol et al., 2023). These methods may help in understanding the various manifestations of mental disorders in different languages.

9 Conclusion

In this paper, we presented a comprehensive review of research for mental disorders detection from multilingual data sourced from social media. We highlight cross-cultural and multilingual differences in mental health expressions and provide a comprehensive list of data collections that can be used to develop multilingual NLP models for online mental health screening. Our focus was on non-English resources, as most previous research has focused on English (Skaik and Inkpen, 2020; Harrigian et al., 2021). Lastly, we presented several gaps in current research that we hope will be addressed in future interdisciplinary studies.

Limitations

Our paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of cross-cultural language differences and the datasets available for developing multilingual NLP models. We included 108 data collections in this study and carefully reviewed each paper cited in our survey. However, it is possible that we may have overlooked some works that do not explicitly mention in their title or abstract that they focus on non-English languages.

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1317	<i>of the Fifth Workshop on Resources and Process-</i>	Chim, Jiayu Song, and Maria Liakata. 2022b. Ident-	1372
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1319	<i>Data from people with various forms of cogni-</i>	In <i>Proc. of ACL</i> , pages 4647–4660.	1374
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1327	<i>XXI International Conference DAMDID/RCDL</i> , page	Faye Beatriz Tumaliuan, Lorelie Grepo, and Eu-	1381
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1330	and Anastasia Ushakova. 2020. <i>Depression detection</i>		
1331	<i>from social media profiles</i> , pages 181–194.	Abdul Hasib Uddin, Durjoy Bapery, and Abu	1385
		Shamim Mohammad Arif. 2019. Depression analy-	1386
1332	Lijing Sun, Yu Luo, et al. 2022. Identification and	sis of bangla social media data using gated recurrent	1387
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		<i>(ICISSET)</i> , pages 408–414. IEEE.	1395
1340	Dai Tang, Tina Chou, Naomi Drucker, Adi Robertson,	Md Zia Uddin, Kim Kristoffer Dysthe, Asbjørn Følstad,	1396
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1342	tale of two languages: strategic self-disclosure via	for prediction of depressive symptoms in a large tex-	1398
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1344	<i>the ACM 2011 conference on Computer supported</i>	34(1):721–744.	1400
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1420	Debasish Bhattacharjee Victor, Jamil Kawsher,	sion detection using posting, behavior, and living	1476
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1431	<i>IEEE Access</i> , 11:128135–128152.	mental health analysis with chatgpt. <i>arXiv preprint</i>	1487
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1433	twitter data for signs of depression in brazil. In <i>Anais</i>	Kailai Yang, Tianlin Zhang, Ziyan Kuang, Qianqian	1489
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1436	Lidong Wang, Yin Zhang, Bin Zhou, Shihua Cao, Key-	dia with large language models. <i>arXiv preprint</i>	1492
1437	ong Hu, and Yunfei Tan. 2024. Automatic depres-	<i>arXiv:2309.13567</i> .	1493
1438	sion prediction via cross-modal attention-based multi-	Tingting Yang, Fei Li, Donghong Ji, Xiaohui Liang,	1494
1439	modal fusion in social networks. <i>Computers and</i>	Tian Xie, Shuwan Tian, Bobo Li, and Peitong Liang.	1495
1440	<i>Electrical Engineering</i> , 118:109413.	2021. Fine-grained depression analysis based on	1496
1441	Siqin Wang, Huan Ning, Xiao Huang, Yunyu Xiao,	chinese micro-blog reviews. <i>Information Processing</i>	1497
1442	Mengxi Zhang, Ellie Fan Yang, Yukio Sadahiro, Yan	<i>& Management</i> , 58(6):102681.	1498
1443	Liu, Zhenlong Li, Tao Hu, et al. 2023. Public surveil-	Xiaoxu Yao, Guang Yu, Xianyun Tian, and Jingyun	1499
1444	lance of social media for suicide using advanced deep	Tang. 2020. Patterns and longitudinal changes in	1500
1445	learning models in japan: time series study from	negative emotions of people with depression on sina	1501
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1447	25:e47225.	Zheng Yao. 2024. A multi-model approach to detec-	1503
1448	Xiaofeng Wang, Shuai Chen, Tao Li, Wanting Li, Yejie	tion of depression in the chinese social media entries.	1504
1449	Zhou, Jie Zheng, Yaoyun Zhang, and Buzhou Tang.	In <i>2024 5th International Seminar on Artificial In-</i>	1505
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1451	croblogs: a corpus and machine learning methods. In	<i>(AINIT)</i> , pages 2148–2151. IEEE.	1507
1452	<i>2019 IEEE International conference on healthcare</i>	Elroi Yoshua and Warih Maharani. 2024. Depression de-	1508
1453	<i>informatics (ICHI)</i> , pages 1–5. IEEE.	tection of users in social-media twitter using decision	1509
1454	Yiding Wang, Zhenyi Wang, Chenghao Li, Yilin Zhang,	tree with word2vec. <i>Inform: Jurnal Ilmiah Bidang</i>	1510
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A Appendix

Table 2: List of Non-English available datasets for mental disorders-related tasks using data posted on online platforms.

Dataset	Language	Mental disorder	Platform	Annotation Procedure	Label	Dataset Size	Availab.
Almouzi et al. (2019)	Arabic	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure	Binary	89 users, 2.7K posts	UNK
Alghamdi et al. (2020)	Arabic	depression	Online forums	Manual annotation	Binary	20K posts	UNK
Alabdulkreem (2021)	Arabic	depression	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	200 users	UNK
Musleh et al. (2022)	Arabic	depression	Twitter	CES-D and self-disclosure	Binary, DSM-5 symptoms	4.5K posts	UNK
CairoDep (El-Ramly et al., 2021)	Arabic	depression	Twitter, Reddit, Online forums	Keywords, Manual annotation	Binary	2.4K posts	FREE
Almars (2022)	Arabic	depression	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	6.1K posts	UNK
Maghraby and Ali (2022)	Arabic	depression	Twitter	PHQ-9	PHQ-9 symptoms	1.2K posts	FREE
AraDepSu (Hassib et al., 2022)	Arabic	depression, suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Depression, depression with suicidal ideation, or non-depression	20K posts	UNK
Arabic Dep 10,000 (Helmy et al., 2024)	Arabic	depression	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	10K posts	FREE
Al-Haider et al. (2024)	Arabic	OCD	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	8.7K posts	UNK
Baghdadi et al. (2022)	Arabic	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	2K posts	FREE
Abdulsalam et al. (2024)	Arabic	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	5.7K posts	UNK
Al-Musallam and Al-Abdullatif (2022)	Arabic	depression	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	6k posts	UNK
Uddin et al. (2019)	Bengali	depression	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	1.1K posts	FREE
Victor et al. (2020)	Bengali	depression	Facebook, Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	30K posts	UNK
Kabir et al. (2022)	Bengali	depression	Facebook	Manual annotation	Depression severity	5K posts	FREE
Tasnim et al. (2022)	Bengali	depression	Facebook	Manual annotation	Binary	7K posts	UNK
BanglaSPD Islam et al. (2022)	Bengali	suicide	Facebook	Manual annotation	Binary	1.7K posts	UNK
Ghosh et al. (2023)	Bengali	depression	Facebook, Twitter, YouTube	Manual annotation	Binary	15K posts	AUTH
Hoque and Salma (2023)	Bengali	depression	Facebook	Manual annotation	Depression severity	2.5K posts	UNK
BSMDD (Chowdhury et al., 2024)	Bengali	depression	Reddit, Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	28K posts	FREE
von Sperling and Ladeira (2019)	Brazilian Portuguese	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure	Binary	2.9K users	UNK
Mann et al. (2020)	Brazilian Portuguese	depression	Instagram	BDI	Binary	221 users	UNK
Santos et al. (2020)	Brazilian Portuguese	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure	Binary	224 users	UNK
de Carvalho et al. (2020)	Brazilian Portuguese	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Possibly/Strongly concerning, Safe to ignore	2.4K posts	UNK
SetembroBR (Santos et al., 2024)	Brazilian Portuguese	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure	Binary	18.8K users	FREE
Mendes and Caseli (2024)	Brazilian Portuguese	depression symptoms	Facebook	Manual annotation	Depression symptoms	780 posts	UNK
Oliveira et al. (2024)	Brazilian Portuguese	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	3.7K posts	FREE
Gao et al. (2019)	Cantonese	suicide	Youtube	Manual annotation	Binary	5K posts	UNK
Zhang et al. (2014)	Chinese	suicide	Sina Weibo	SPS	SPS score	697 users	UNK
Huang et al. (2015)	Chinese	suicide	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Binary	7.3K posts	UNK
Cheng et al. (2017)	Chinese	suicide	Sina Weibo	Suicide Probability Scale (SPS), DASS-21	Binary	974 users	UNK
Shen et al. (2018)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Self-disclosure	Binary	1.1K users	UNK
Wu et al. (2018)	Chinese	depression	Facebook	CES-D	Binary	1.4K users	UNK
Cao et al. (2019)	Chinese	suicide	Sina Weibo	Manual checking of self-report and/or appartenance to a suicide-related community	Binary	7K users	DUA
Wang et al. (2019)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Depression severity	13.9K users	UNK
Peng et al. (2019)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Binary	387 users	UNK
Huang et al. (2019)	Chinese	suicide	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Binary	18.5K posts	UNK
Li et al. (2020)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Self-disclosure	Binary	1.8K users	FREE

Dataset	Language	Mental disorder	Platform	Annotation Procedure	Label	Dataset Size	Availab.
WU3D (Wang et al., 2020)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Depression-related key-words	Binary	32K users	FREE
Yao et al. (2020)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Manual, automatic annotation	Binary	2.7K users	UNK
Yang et al. (2021)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Depression severity	6.1K posts	AUTH
Chiu et al. (2021)	Chinese, English	depression	Instagram	Depression-related key-words	Binary	520 users	UNK
Sun et al. (2022)	Chinese	suicide, depression	Sina Weibo	BDI, SDS, Manual annotation	Binary / Possibly/Strongly concerning, Safe to ignore	203 users, 1.2K posts	UNK
Cai et al. (2023)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Self-disclosure and manual annotation	Binary	23K users	FREE
Li et al. (2023)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Self-disclosure, manual annotation	Binary	4.8K users	UNK
Guo et al. (2023)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Binary	3.1K users	UNK
Wu et al. (2023)	Chinese	suicide	Dcard and PTT	Manual annotation	Risk levels	2K posts	UNK
Lyu et al. (2023)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	CES-D	Binary	789 users	AUTH
Yu et al. (2023)	Chinese	anxiety	Sina Weibo	Self-Rating Anxiety Scale	SAS score	1K users	N/A
Zhu et al. (2024)	Chinese	anxiety	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Binary	6K posts	UNK
Wang et al. (2024)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Binary	14.8K users	AUTH
Yao (2024)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Binary	200 users	AUTH
Zhang et al. (2024)	Chinese	depression	Sina Weibo	Manual annotation	Binary	1.6K users	UNK
Desmet and Hoste (2014)	Dutch	suicide	Online forums	Manual annotation	Fine-grained labels	1.3K posts	UNK
Desmet and Hoste (2018)	Dutch	suicide	Online forums	Manual annotation	Fine-grained labels	10K posts	UNK
Abdelkadir et al. (2024)	English, but from different populations	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure, Manual annotation	Binary	531 users	UNK
Ali et al. (2024)							
Tumaliuan et al. (2024)	Filipino, English	depression	Twitter	PHQ-9	Binary	72 users	AUTH
Astoveza et al. (2018)	Filipino, Taglish	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	2.1K posts	UNK
Cohrdes et al. (2021)	German	depression	Twitter	Automatic annotation for PHQ-8 symptoms	Binary	88K posts	AUTH
SMHD-GER (Zanwar et al., 2023)	German	depression, ADHD, anxiety, bipolar, OCD, PTSD, schizophrenia eating disorders	Reddit	Manual annotation	Labels for multiple disorders	28K posts	DUA
Baskal et al. (2022)	German, Russian, Turkish, English		Reddit, Tumblr	Manual annotation	Binary	3K posts	AUTH
Tabak and Purver (2020)	German, French, Italian, Spanish, English	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure	Binary	5K users	UNK
Hacohen-Kerner et al. (2022)	Hebrew	anorexia	Online forums	Manual annotation	Binary	200 posts	FREE
Agarwal and Dhingra (2021)	Code-Mixed Hindi-English	suicide	Reddit	Subreddit membership	Binary	6.4K posts	FREE
Oyong et al. (2018)	Indonesian	depression	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	55 users	UNK
Yoshua and Maharani (2024)	Indonesian	depression	Twitter	DASS-42	Binary	184 users	UNK
Tsugawa et al. (2015)	Japanese	depression	Twitter	CES-D, BDI	Binary	209 users	UNK
Hiraga (2017)	Japanese	depression	Online blogs	Self-disclosure	Binary	101 users	UNK
Niimi (2021)	Japanese	depression	TOBYO	Blog theme	Binary	901 users	UNK
Wang et al. (2023)	Japanese	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	30K posts	N/A
Lee et al. (2020)	Korean	suicide	Naver Cafe	Membership in a forum	Binary	31K posts	UNK
Park et al. (2020)	Korean	suicide	Online forums	Manual annotation	Risk levels	2.7K posts	AUTH
Kim et al. (2022a)	Korean	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	20K posts, 414 users	UNK
Kim et al. (2022b)	Korean	depression	Online forums	PHQ-9, Manual annotation	PHQ-9 score, PHQ-9 symptoms	60 users, 28K posts	UNK
Jung et al. (2023)	Korean	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	20k posts	UNK
Cha et al. (2022)	Korean, Japanese, English	depression	Twitter, Everytime	Lexicon-based automatic annotation	Binary	26M posts, 22K posts	AUTH
Stamou et al. (2024)	Modern Greek	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure	Binary	78 users	AUTH
Uddin (2022)	Norwegian	depression	Online forums	Manual annotation	Binary	21.8K posts	UNK
Uddin et al. (2022)	Norwegian	depression	Online forums	Manual annotation	Binary	30K posts	UNK
Wolk et al. (2021)	Polish	depression	Facebook, Reddit	Self-disclosure, clinical interview	Binary	262 users	UNK

Dataset	Language	Mental disorder	Platform	Annotation Procedure	Label	Dataset Size	Availab.
Rehmani et al. (2024)	Roman Urdu	depression	Facebook	Manual annotation	Depression severity	3K posts	AUTH
Mohmand et al. (2024)	Roman Urdu	depression	Twitter	Keywords-based annotations + Expert review	Depression severity	25K posts	FREE
Stankevich et al. (2019)	Russian	depression	Vkontakte	BDI	BDI score	531 users	UNK
Narynov et al. (2020)	Russian	depression	Vkontakte	Manual annotation	Binary	34K posts	FREE
Stankevich et al. (2020)	Russian	depression	Vkontakte	BDI	BDI score	1.3K users	UNK
Ignatiev et al. (2022)	Russian	depression	Vkontakte	BDI	Binary	619 users	DUA
Rathnayake and Arachchige (2021)	Sinhala	depression	Twitter, Facebook	Manual annotation	Binary	1K posts	UNK
EmoMent (Atapattu et al., 2022)	Sinhala, English	mental illness	Facebook	Manual annotation	mental illness, sadness, suicidal, anxiety/stress, psychosomatic, other, irrelevant	2.8K posts	AUTH
Herath and Wijayasinghe (2024)	Sinhala	suicide	Facebook	Manual annotation	Binary	300 posts	UNK
Leis et al. (2019)	Spanish	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure, manual annotation	Binary	540 users, 1K posts	FREE
SAD López-Úbeda et al. (2019)	Spanish	anorexia	Twitter	Hashtags	Binary	5.7K posts	FREE
Valeriano et al. (2020)	Spanish	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	2K posts	FREE
Ramírez-Cifuentes et al. (2020)	Spanish	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary	252 users	N/A
Ramírez-Cifuentes et al. (2021)	Spanish	anorexia	Twitter	Manual annotation	Anorexia, control, under treatment, recovered, doubtful	645 users	N/A
Villa-Pérez et al. (2023)	Spanish, English	depression, ADHD, anxiety, ASD, bipolar, eating disorders, OCD, PTSD, schizophrenia	Twitter	Self-disclosure	Labels for multiple disorders	6K users	DUA
MentalRiskES Romero et al. (2024)	Spanish	depression, anxiety, suicide, eating disorders	Telegram	Manual annotation	Binary + suffer + in favour (sf), suffer + against (sa), suffer + other (so) for Depression	1.2K users	AUTH
Cremades et al. (2017)	Spanish, English	suicide	Facebook, Twitter, Blogspot, Reddit, Pinterest	Manual annotation	Binary	97 posts	FREE
Coello-Guilarte et al. (2019)	Spanish, English	depression	Twitter	Self-disclosure	Binary	316 users	FREE
Katchapakirin et al. (2018)	Thai	depression	Facebook	TMHQ	Binary	35 users	UNK
Hemtanon and Kittiphattanabawon (2019)	Thai	depression	Facebook	Manual annotation	Binary	1.5K posts	UNK
Kumnunt and Sornil (2020)	Thai	depression	Pantip	Hashtags	Binary	31K posts	UNK
Hemtanon et al. (2020)	Thai	depression	Facebook	PHQ-9	Binary	160 users	UNK
Wongapitkaseree et al. (2020)	Thai	depression	Facebook	TMHQ	Binary	600 users	UNK
Hämäläinen et al. (2021)	Thai	depression	Online blogs	Manual annotation	Binary	900 posts	FREE
Mahasiriakalayot et al. (2022)	Thai	depression	Twitter	Manual annotation	Depression symptoms	3.1K posts	UNK
Boonyarat et al. (2024)	Thai	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	Binary + 6 emotions	2.4K posts	FREE
Benjachairat et al. (2024)	Thai	suicide	Twitter	Manual annotation	C-SSRS Labels	5.1K posts	AUTH