

COST Action 21167

**Universality, diversity and
idiosyncrasy in language technology**

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COST Action to promote multilinguality

Domain of Natural Language Processing (NLP)

On the theoretical side:

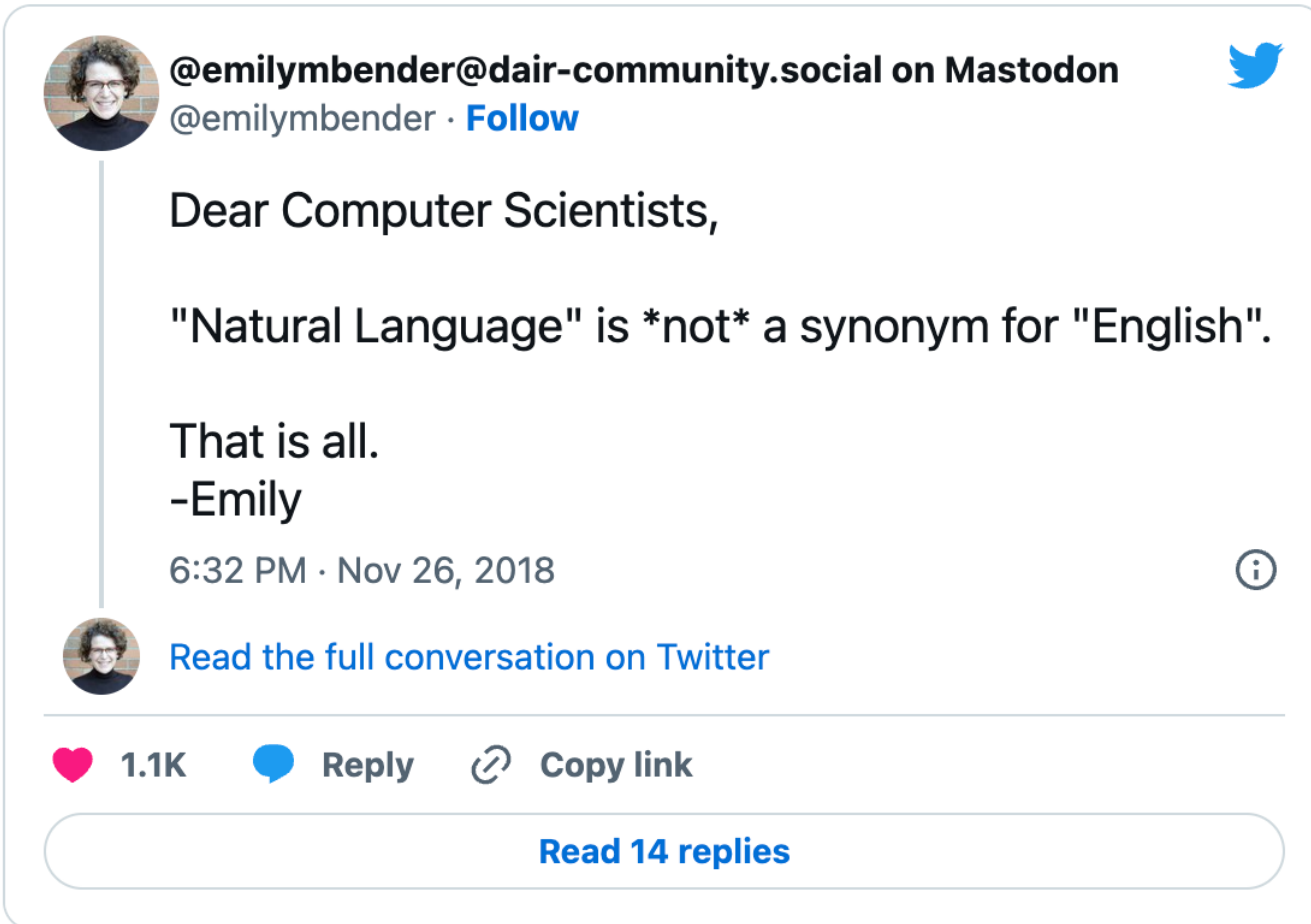
better understanding of language universals

On the practical side:



language resources & tools to cover, in a unified framework, a large number of languages, including low-resourced and endangered ones

Why?


Natural Language Processing is still very English-centric







A screenshot of a Mastodon post. The post is from the user @emilybender@dair-community.social, who is also known as @emilybender. The post text reads: "Dear Computer Scientists, 'Natural Language' is *not* a synonym for 'English'. That is all. -Emily". The post was made at 6:32 PM on Nov 26, 2018. Below the post, there is a link to "Read the full conversation on Twitter". At the bottom of the post, there are interaction options: a heart icon with "1.1K", a speech bubble icon with "Reply", and a link icon with "Copy link". A button at the bottom of the post says "Read 14 replies".

 @emilybender@dair-community.social on Mastodon 
@emilybender · [Follow](#)

Dear Computer Scientists,
"Natural Language" is **not** a synonym for "English".
That is all.
-Emily

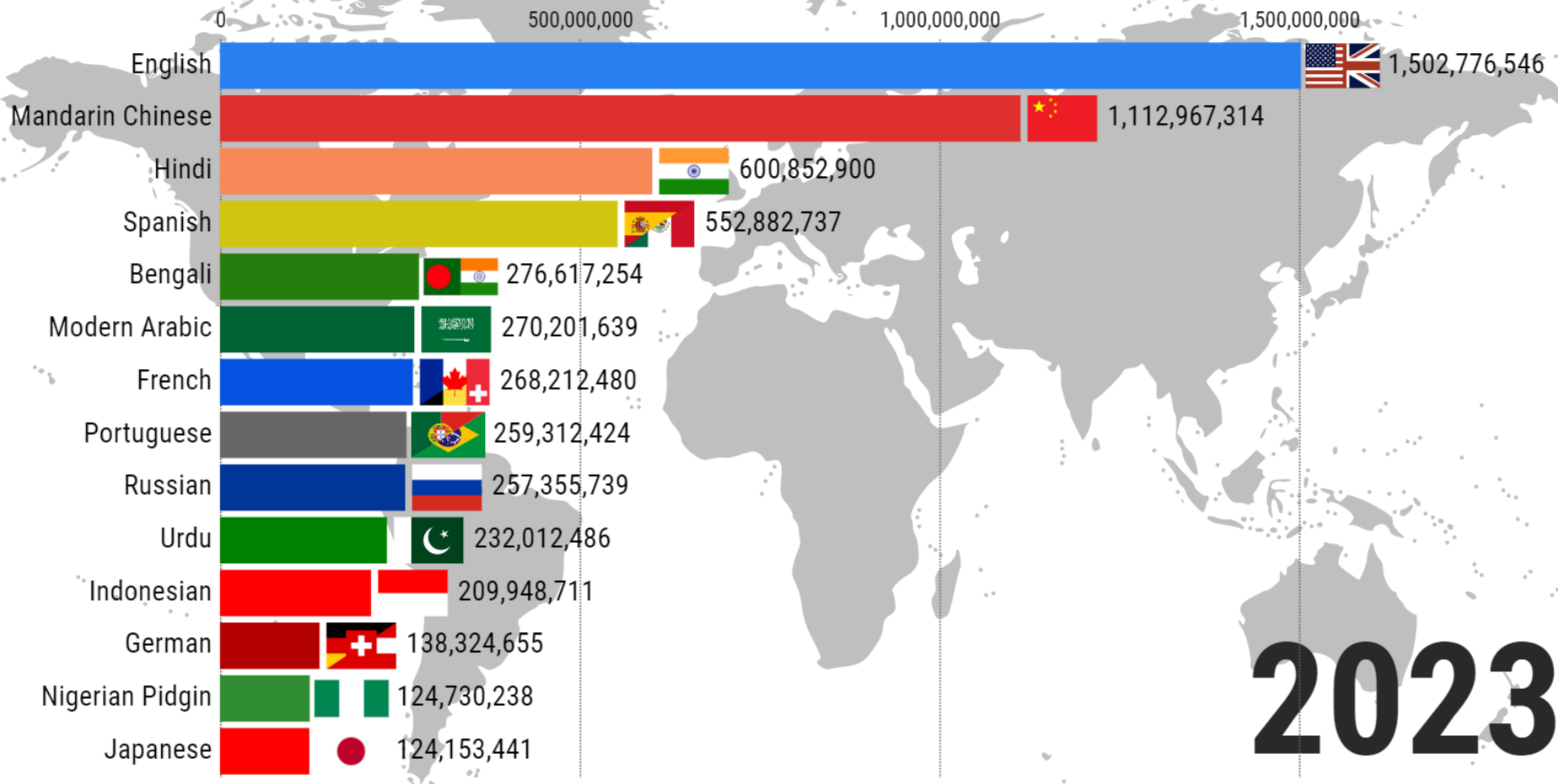
6:32 PM · Nov 26, 2018 

 [Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

 1.1K  Reply  Copy link

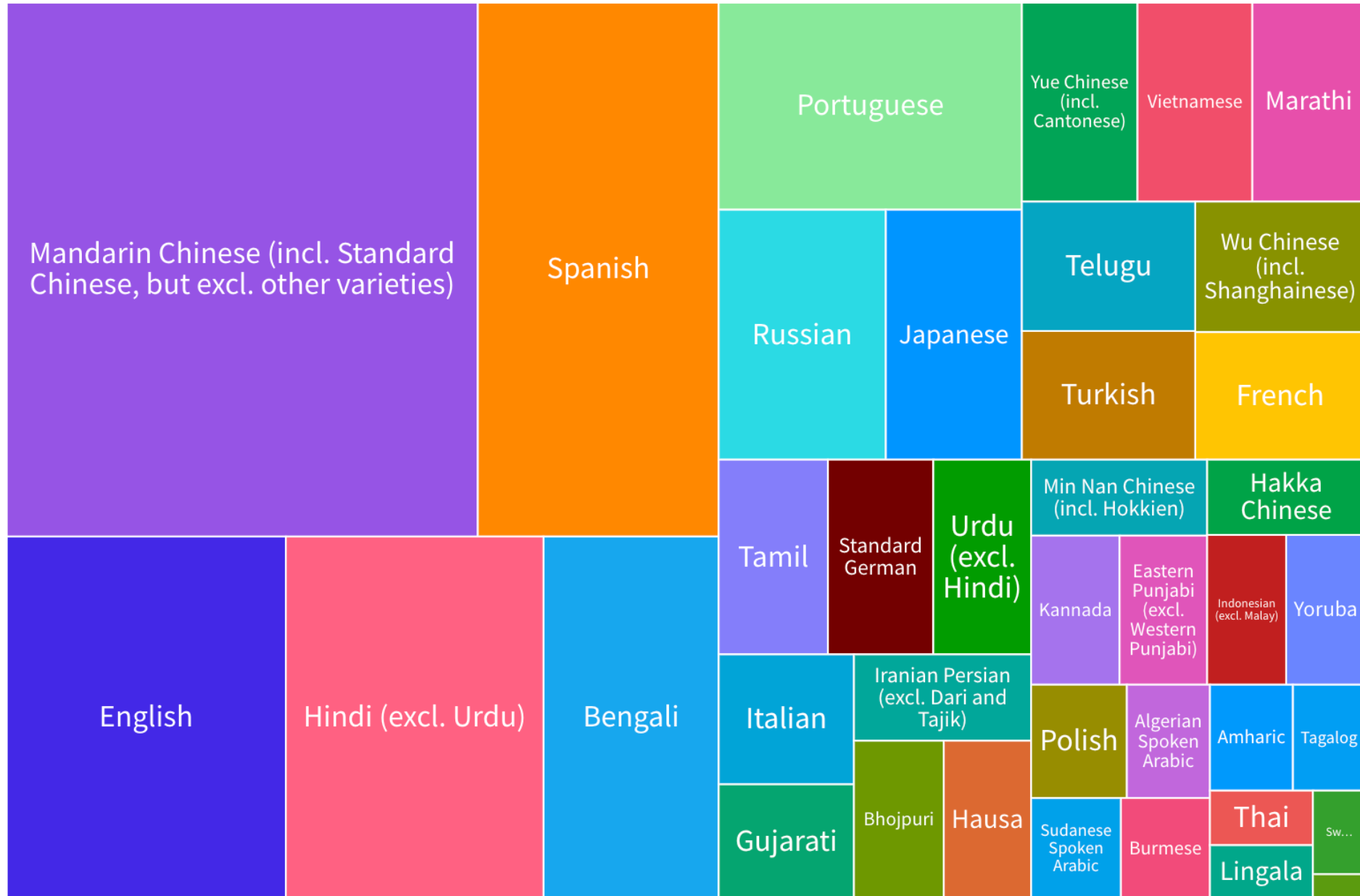
[Read 14 replies](#)

The Most Spoken Languages in the World



2023

Most spoken first languages



[<https://statisticsanddata.org/data/the-most-spoken-languages-2023/>]

Team effort



Agata Savary
Paris-Saclay



Dan Zeman
Charles University
Prague



Carlos Ramisch
Aix Marseille



Joakim Nivre
Uppsala University
RISE, Sweden

Recipe for success

Endurance

Modesty

Network/Background

Endurance



Modesty

Take the reviews very seriously

Concrete examples always help

Iterate and improve!

Network/Background

Draw on the expertise of the network you want to build

Look at successful proposals

PARSEME [<https://www.cost.eu/actions/IC1207/>]

Insist on the networking aspect

Evaluation criteria

S&T Excellence

Networking

Impact

Implementation

Evaluation criteria

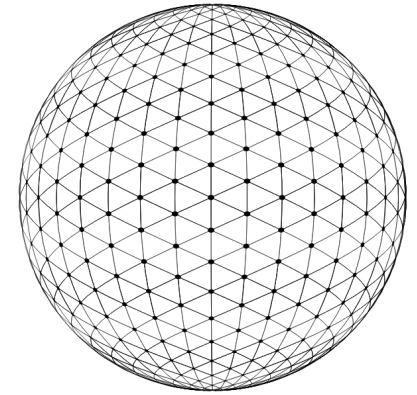
S&T Excellence	Sound/timely challenge Progress beyond state-of-the-art Clear objectives
Networking	Added value to existing efforts Plan to secure expertise Plan to involve Action members
Impact	Impact to society/breakthrough Knowledge creation Plan for dissemination
Implementation	Coherence/effectiveness of work plan

Once awarded

Organizational skills are key!

Need a cat-herder capable of creating vibrant meetings

Added values: network



Most research fields are interdisciplinary

Opportunity to connect with different research groups
and to bring multiple perspectives to a topic

Our case: we can bring together

- experts of languages/dialects (their own or studied)

- technology experts

- experts in other fields (biology, etc.) who are
interested in the question of universality vs. specificity

Added values: promote



Great emphasis on young researchers

Opportunity to promote your own research and to start collaboration with other research groups

Our case:

evaluation campaigns - which will draw attention and interest from the whole NLP community, beyond the COST Action network

training schools to help newcomers

If you join a COST Action, be active!

Engage in one/several working groups

Contact the leader, speak up in meetings

Good luck to all!

Thank you!
Merci !

Dank u !
Danke !