

LBtrans-Bot: A Latin-to-Balinese Script Transliteration Robotic System based on Noto Sans Balinese Font

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to preserve Balinese script writing knowledge using technological approach. This across-disciplines research (Computer Science and Balinese Language) contributes on the development of a Latin-to-Balinese script transliteration robotic system that was called LBtrans-Bot. LBtrans-Bot can be used as a learning system to give the transliteration knowledge as one aspect of Balinese script writing. LBtrans-Bot was known as the first system that utilize Noto Sans Balinese font and was developed based on the identified seventeen kinds of special words. LBtrans-Bot consists of the transliterator web application, the transceiver console application, and the robotic arm with its GUI controller application. Through the experiment, LBtrans-Bot has been able to write the 34-pixel font size of the Noto Sans Balinese font from HTML 5 canvas that has been setup with additional 10-pixel length of the width and the height of the Balinese script writing area. Its transliterator gave the accuracy result up to 91% testing cases of The Balinese Alphabet writing rules and examples document. This transliterator result outperformed the best result of the known existing transliterator based on Bali Simbar font, i.e. Transliterasi Aksara Bali, that only has accuracy up to 68% cases of the same testing document. In the future work, LBtrans-Bot could be improved by: 1) Accommodating more complex Balinese script with trade off to the limited writing area of robotic system; 2) Enhancing its transliterator by enriching the database consists of words belong to the seventeen kinds of special words, and implementing semantic relation transliteration.

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1. INTRODUCTION

There is a concern about the extinction of the Balinese script writing, as one of the Balinese cultural richness [1] since everyday use of that script has largely been replaced by the Latin alphabet. As Stern [2] said that saving the language can be done by cultural, political, and economic approach, another approach was taken, i.e. technological approach by this across-disciplines research (Computer Science and Balinese Language). This research contributes on the development of a Latin-to-Balinese script transliteration robotic system that was called LBtrans-Bot.

More detail, first contribution is that LBtrans-Bot can be used as a learning system to give the transliteration knowledge [3]-[7] as one aspect of Balinese script writing. Second contribution is that LBtrans-Bot was known as the first system that utilize Noto Sans Balinese font [8] and was developed based

- convert to the string “ᬀ” (*ardhacandra* “n”), “ᬁ” (*candrabindu* “m”), “ᬅ” (*akara* “a”), “ᬆ” (*akara tedung* “ā”), “ᬇ” (*ikara* “i”), “ᬈ” (*ikara tedung* “ī”), “ᬉ” (*ukara* “u”), “ᬐ” (*aikara* “ai”), “ᬑ” (*okara* “o”), “ᬒ” (*okara tedung* “au”), or “ᬏ” (*ekara* “e”)
8. Convert each of the existing consecutive vowel(s) of the **converted-special-vowel(s) string** to the appropriate consecutive vowel(s).

while (“ia”, “iu”, “ii”, “ua”, “uu”, “ui”, or “ue” exists)
convert to “ya”, “iyu”, “iyi”, “uwa”, “uwu”, “uwi”, or “uwe”
 9. Remove each of the existing space(s) of the **converted-consecutive-vowels string**.
 10. Add “h” at the beginning of the **removed-spaces string** that initialized by the vowel to become “h*”. The asterisk sign (“*”) represents one of the vowels, i.e. “a”, “i”, “u”, “e”, “o”, or “æ”.

while (* exists as the initial vowel)
convert to “h*”
 11. Convert each of the existing consonant(s) of the **converted-initial-vowel string** to the appropriate Unicode string of that consonant and *adeg-adeg* (“**;” + “᭄”). The double asterisk sign (“**”) represents appropriate last two digits of Unicode of the related consonant (see Figure 1b).

while (“ng”, “ny”, “β”, “ç”, “nn”, “dh”, “ph”, “th”, “tt”, “gh”, “kh”, “ch”, “bh”, “h”, “n”, “c”, “r”, “k”, “j”, “t”, “s”, “w”, “l”, “m”, “g”, “b”, “p”, “j”, or “y” exists)
convert to the string “**;” + “᭄”
 12. Convert each of the existing Unicode string of *adeg-adeg* and the following vowel (“᭄*”) of the **converted-consonant-adeg-adeg string** to the appropriate Unicode string of sign of that following vowel (see Figure 1b). The asterisk sign (“*”) represents one of the following vowels, i.e. “ā”, “ī”, “ī̄”, “ū”, “ū̄”, “ē”, “ai”, “o”, “au”, “æ”, “œ”, or “a”.

while (“᭄*”) exists)
convert to “ᬵ” (*tedung*), “ᬶ” (*ulu*), “ᬷ” (*ulu sari*), “ᬸ” (*suku*), “ᬹ” (*suku ilut*), “ᬾ” (*taling*), “ᬿ” (*taling repa*), “ᭀ” (*taling tedung*), “ᭁ” (*taling repa tedung*), “ᭂ” (*pepet*), “ᭃ” (*pepet tedung*), or “”
 13. Convert each of the remaining vowel(s) of the **converted-adeg-adeg-vowel string** to the appropriate Unicode string of “h” and that remaining vowel (“ᬳ*”). The asterisk sign (“*”) represents one of the remaining vowel, i.e. “a”, “e”, “æ”, or “o”.

while (* exists)
convert to “ᬳ”
where the dollar sign (“\$”) represents the appropriate Unicode string of that remaining vowel, i.e. “”, “ᬾ” (*taling*), “ᭂ” (*pepet*), or “ᭀ” (*taling tedung*).
 14. Convert each of the existing Unicode string of illegal combination of “ra” + “æ”, “ra” + “œ”, “la” + “æ”, or “la” + “œ” (both of their regular and appended form) of the **converted-remaining-vowel string** to the appropriate Unicode string of *ra repa* (“ræ” or “rœ”) or *la lenga* (“læ” or “lœ”), respectively (see Figure 1b).

while (* exists)
convert to \$
where the asterisk sign (“*”) represents the Unicode string of illegal combination, i.e. “ᬭᭂ” (“ra” + “æ”), “ᬭᭃ” (“ra” + “œ”), “ᬮᭂ” (“la” + “æ”), “ᬮᭃ” (“la” + “œ”), “᭄ᬋ” (*adeg-adeg* + “ræ”), “᭄ᬌ” (*adeg-adeg* + “rœ”), “᭄ᬍ” (*adeg-adeg* + “læ”), or “᭄ᬎ” (*adeg-adeg* + “lœ”), and the dollar sign (“\$”) represents the appropriate Unicode string of *ra repa* or *la lenga*, i.e. “ᬋ” (“ræ”), “ᬌ” (“rœ”), “ᬍ” (“læ”), “ᬎ” (“lœ”), “ᬺ” (“ræ” sign), “ᬻ” (“rœ” sign), “ᬼ” (“læ” sign), or “ᬽ” (“lœ” sign).
 15. Convert each of the existing Unicode string of consonants and *adeg-adeg* (“*᭄”) of the **converted-illegal-combination string** to the appropriate Unicode string of sound killer \$ (see Figure 1b).

while (“*᭄”)
convert to \$
where the asterisk sign (“*”) represents the Unicode string of consonants, i.e. “ᬂ” (“ng”), “ᬃ” (“r”), or “ᬄ” (“h”), while the dollar sign (“\$”) represents the appropriate Unicode string of sound killer, i.e. “ᬂ” (*cecek*), “ᬃ” (*surang*), or “ᬄ” (*bisah*).
 16. Convert punctuations of the **converted-sound-killers string** to the appropriate Unicode string, i.e. “᭚” (*section*), “᭛” (*honorific section*), “᭝” (*colon*), “᭞” (*comma*), or “᭟” (*period*).
 17. Render the **converted-punctuations string** to the web application display and generate bitmap image of that string for LBtrans-Bot transceiver.

-- LBtrans-Bot transceiver pseudocode --
 18. Send the bitmap image to the robotic arm by using batch script that call AutoIt script (Figure 5) to run consecutive click command on GUI controller application. This GUI controller communicate to the robotic arm via USB cable or Bluetooth (Figure 2). The whole operation illustration can be seen at the next Figure 7.

Figure 4. LBtrans-Bot algorithm pseudocode

At the core of LBtrans-Bot, its transliterator accuracy was tested by using The Balinese Alphabet writing rules and examples document by Sudewa [19] (Table 1a). Authors' book [22] was also used as a reference. Some of those cases referred to Simpen [23], [24]. Not all of the rules can be tested independently without example (like the appended form of eighteen basic syllables at case 1–18) since provided examples are limited (case 19–25). Table 1b shows provided sentence and its transliteration for the testing case 16th (word boundaries and line break rules) at Table 1a.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

A Latin-to-Balinese script transliteration robotic system based on Noto Sans Balinese font, LBtrans-Bot, has accommodated the seventeen kinds of special words, as the advance exploration of the thirteen kinds of special words [1]. They were handled by LBtrans-Bot transliterator web application where the repository of those words was implemented in the Model (see Figure 2). This seventeen kinds of special words were identified as part of 151 testing cases (were used for accuracy analysis of the transliterator) from The Balinese Alphabet writing rules and examples document by Sudewa [19] (see Table 1). Other than the thirteen kinds of special words from the previous research [1], additional four kinds of special words that were identified on this research, i.e.: 1) The words and their variants (come up due to possibility of different writing of Balinese Letter Ca Laca “cha” using U+1B19, see Figure 1b) that refer to one meaning and should be transliterated the same. For an example: “Chelagi” – “Celagi” (Tamarind fruit); 2) The exception words from the rule about sound killers (*pangangge tengenan*) *cecek* (“ng” using U+1B02, see Figure 1b) or *bisah* (“h” using U+1B04, see Figure 1b) that only appears at the end of a word unless it has the same syllables, e.g. “Cengceng” (musical instrument). For an example: “Angklung” (musical instrument); 3) The words consist of *gantungan* or *gempelan* when a non semi-vowel acts like a semi vowel (the Balinese term is *pluta* that happens very rarely). For an example: “Smerti” (books of Vedha); and 4) The words consist of three consecutive consonants (the term Balinese is *tumpuk telu*) where there is *gantungan* below *gantungan* in their Balinese script. Noto Sans Balinese font does not support that form, so sound killers (*pangangge tengenan*) *adeg-adeg* (using U+1B44, see Figure 1b) can be used even it is not so nice to have it in the middle of a word. For an example: “Tamblang” (a village’s name).

Figure 6 shows an example of the second special words that was loaded from LBtrans-Bot’s repository/database as shown in Figure 2 to the *dictionary* data structure. All of the various words of this example were transliterated to the same Balinese script by looking up to the core word at the *dictionary* data structure. The lookup process has *time complexity* $O(1)$ ignoring of the number of words at that data structure [9].

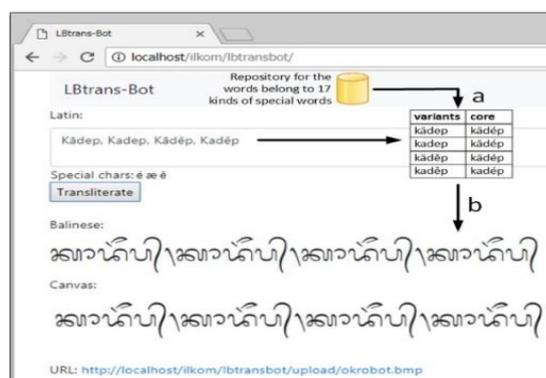


Figure 6. An example of the second kind of special words: a) at the *dictionary* data structure; b) its transliteration result

Figure 7 and Figure 8, each shows an example of LBtrans-Bot process sequence and its drawing. Figure 7 involves several numbered windows (see Figure 2), i.e.:

1. Windows 1 is the LBtrans-Bot transliterator web application that generates bitmap (BMP) file (see Windows 4) of an example of Balinese script (as the result of the transliteration process) and put it at certain folder (see Windows 3). The bitmap file was setup with 34-pixel size of the Noto Sans Balinese font from HTML 5 canvas with additional 10-pixel length of the width and the height of the Balinese script writing area.

LBtrans-Bot transliterator preferred to translate independently written vowels by using Unicode of Consonants and Dependent vowel signs (Table 3b). Future work may address this issue.

The second kind of failed testing case related to the abbreviation. Three different scheme for Balinese abbreviations [19], i.e.: 1) The one endorsed by the government; 2) The one used by I Wayan Simpen A.B. in his schoolbook [24]; and 3) The one less commonly used, but somehow the shortest one. Case 2.147–2.150 consists of phrase “Bank Pembangunan Daerah Bali” (Development Bank of Bali Province) and all of its three abbreviation schemes. Latin abbreviation of that phrase is “BPD Bali” and its three abbreviation schemes, i.e. “Be Pe De Bali”, “Ba Pe Da Bali”, and “Ba Pa Da Bali” at case 2.148, 2.149, and 2.150, respectively. On all of abbreviations schema there are cariks (comma sign) between syllable and/or word that still cannot be accommodated by LBtrans-Bot transliterator (neither do other algorithms) since there is no smart way to differentiate between this abbreviation phrase with non-abbreviation phrase, except all of these abbreviation phrases were manually put into the database as shown in Figure 2, which are huge in number.

Table 2. Testing Results

Case	Re-sult	Case	Re-sult	Case	Re-sult	Case	Re-sult	Case	Re-sult	Case	Re-sult
1th	1 ✓	27 ✓	53 ✓	7th	79 ✓	105 ✓	131 ✓				
	2 ✓	28 ✓	54 ✓		80 ✓	106 ✓	132 ✓				
	3 ✓	29 ✓	55 ✓		81 ✓	107 ✓	133 ✓				
	4 ✓	30 ✓	56 ✓		82 ✓	108 ✓	134 ✓				
	5 ✓	31 ✓	57 ✓		83 ✓	109 ✓	135 ✓				
	6 ✓	32 ✓	58 ✓	8th	84 ✓	110 ✓	136 ✓				
	7 ✓	33 ✓	59 ✓		85 ✓	111 ✓	137 ✓				
	8 ✓	34 ✓	60 ✓	9th	86 ✓	112 ✓	138 ✓				
	9 ✓	35 ×	61 ✓		87 ✓	113 ✓	139 ✓				
	10 ✓	36 ×	62 ✓	10th	88 ✓	114 ✓	140 ✓				
	11 ✓	37 ×	63 ✓		89 ✓	115 ✓	141 ✓				
	12 ✓	38 ×	64 ✓	11th	90 ✓	116 ✓	142 ✓				
	13 ✓	39 ×	65 ✓		91 ✓	117 ✓	143 ✓				
	14 ✓	40 ×	66 ✓		92 ✓	118 ✓	144 ✓				
	15 ✓	41 ×	67 ✓		93 ✓	119 ✓	145 ✓				
	16 ✓	42 ×	68 ✓		94 ✓	120 ✓	146 ✓				
	17 ✓	43 ×	69 ✓		95 ✓	121 ✓	147 ✓				
	18 ✓	44 ×	70 ✓		96 ✓	122 ✓	148 ×				
	19 ✓	45 ✓	71 ✓		97 ✓	123 ✓	149 ×				
	20 ✓	46 ✓	72 ✓		98 ✓	124 ✓	150 ×				
	21 ✓	47 ✓	73 ✓		99 ✓	125 ✓	151 ✓				
	22 ✓	48 ✓	74 ✓	12th	100 ✓	126 ✓					
	23 ✓	49 ✓	75 ✓		101 ✓	127 ✓					
	24 ✓	50 ✓	76 ✓		102 ✓	128 ✓					
	25 ✓	51 ✓	77 ✓		103 ✓	129 ✓					
2nd	26 ✓	52 ✓	78 ✓		104 ✓	130 ✓					

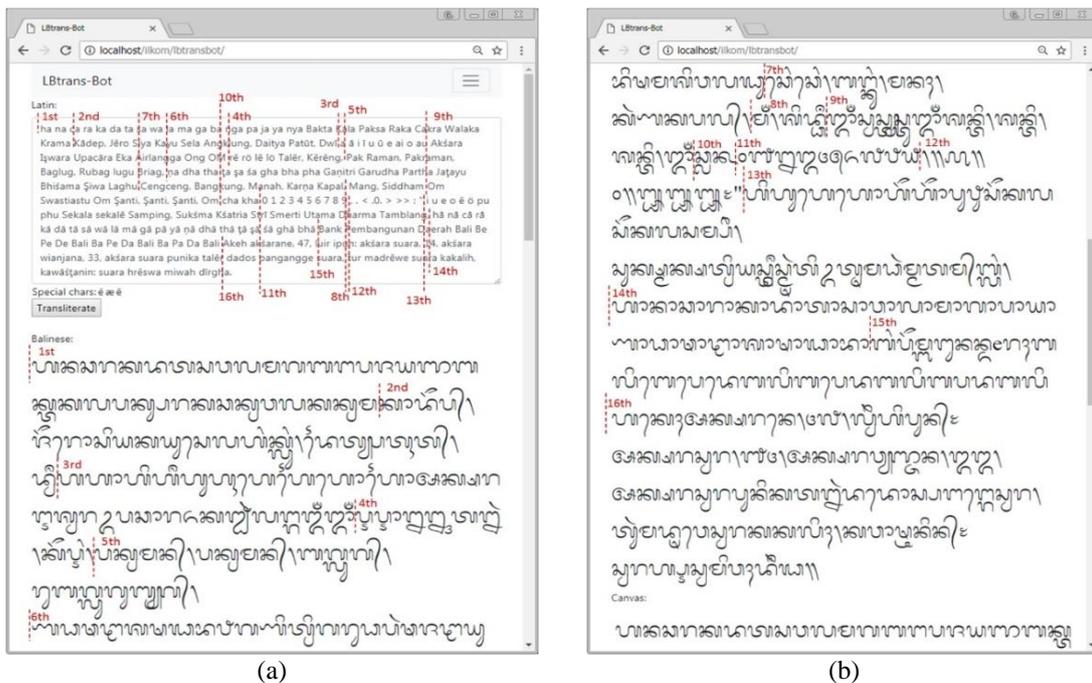


Figure 9. Testing results: a) the 1st – 6th case; b) the 6th – 16th case

Table 3. The Independent Vowels Reference: a) Sudewa; b) Noto Sans Balinese

No	Balinese	Name	Latin	No	Balinese	Name	Latin
1	ꦱ	a kara	a	6	ꦫ	u kara tedong	ū
2	ꦲ	a kara tedong	ā	7	ꦺ	e kara	e
3	ꦲꦶ	i kara	i	8	ꦲꦶꦱꦫꦤ꧀	airsani a	ai
4	ꦲꦸ	i kara tedong	ī	9	ꦺ	o kara	o
5	ꦸ	u kara	u	10	ꦲꦸ	o kara tedong	au

Note: Actually, it is optional to translate independently written vowels by using independent vowel, or syllable ‘ha’ that was combined with dependent vowel sign.

Independent vowels		Consonants	
1B05	BALINESE LETTER AKARA = a	1B33	BALINESE LETTER HA
1B06	BALINESE LETTER AKARA TEDONG = aa	1B35	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN TEDONG = aa
1B07	BALINESE LETTER IKARA = i	1B36	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN ULU = i
1B08	BALINESE LETTER IKARA TEDONG = ii	1B37	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN ULU SARI = ii
1B09	BALINESE LETTER UKARA = u	1B38	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN SUKU = u
1B0A	BALINESE LETTER UKARA TEDONG = uu	1B39	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN SUKU ILUT = uu
1B0F	BALINESE LETTER EKARA = e	1B3E	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN TALING = e
1B10	BALINESE LETTER AIKARA = ai	1B3F	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN TALING REPA = ai
1B11	BALINESE LETTER OKARA = o	1B40	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN TALING TEDONG = o
1B12	BALINESE LETTER OKARA TEDONG = oo	1B41	BALINESE VOWEL SIGN TALING REPA TEDONG = oo

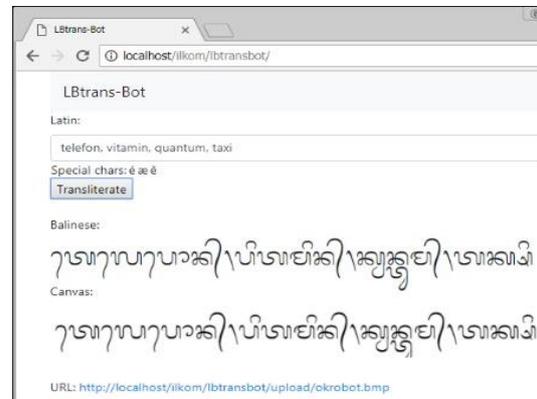
(a)

(b)

On case 2.147, phrase “Bank Pembangunan Daerah Bali” was transliterated correctly. Actually, word “Bank” represents another kind of special words that there is still no research to know the precise list of them [1]. LBtrans-Bot transliterator can handle this kind of special words (see the 5th step of pseudocode at The algorithm section) related to foreign sound transliteration, as shown by Figure 10a [25]. Figure 10b shows foreign words transliteration result. At another aspect of the phrase, word “Pembangunan” and “Daerah” is Indonesian words and since no different in writing vowel “e” for different pronunciation “é” (belong to “e” at “Pembangunan”) and “e” (belong to “e” at “Daerah”), it is become difficult on transliteration. LBtrans-Bot transliterator can handle this by the same mechanism on the previous special words, like word “Jěro” (house) [1]. Case 2.149 is the same as case 2.147 where vowel “e” at phrase “Ba Pe Da Bali” is pronounced as “ě”.

IPA*	Foreign Sound Latin Script	Balinese Language		Example			
		Latin Script	Balinese Script	Foreign Word	Balinese Language		Meaning
					Latin Script	Balinese Script	
[f]	f	p	ꦥ	telefon	telepon	ꦠꦺꦭꦺꦤ꧀	telephone
[v]	v	p	ꦥ	vitamin	pitamin	ꦥꦶꦠꦤꦶꦩ	vitamine
[kw], [k], [q]	q	k	ꦏ	quantum	kuantum	ꦏꦸꦤꦠꦸꦩ	quantum
[x]	x	ks	ꦏꦱ	taxi	taksi	ꦠꦏꦶ	taxi
[z]	z	j	ꦗ				
[z]	z	s	ꦱ				

(a)



(b)

Figure 10. Foreign sounds transliteration: a) the rules; b) the example results

4. CONCLUSION

A Latin-to-Balinese script transliteration robotic system based on Noto Sans Balinese font, LBtrans-Bot, has been developed and has been able to write the 34-pixel font size of the Noto Sans Balinese font from HTML 5 canvas that has been setup with additional 10-pixel length of the width and the height of the Balinese script writing area. Through the comprehensive accuracy analysis, its transliterator web application gave the accuracy result up to 91% (138 of 151) cases of The Balinese Alphabet writing rules and examples document by Sudewa. This transliterator result outperformed the best result of the known existing transliterator based on Bali Simbar font, i.e. Transliterasi Aksara Bali, that only has accuracy up to 68% (103 of 151) cases of the same testing document. In the future work, LBtrans-Bot could be improved by: 1) accommodating more complex Balinese script with trade off to the limited writing area of robotic system; 2)

enhancing its transliterator by enriching the database consists of words belong to the seventeen kinds of special words by using identified those words from the existing Balinese script dictionary from Bali Province government, and implementing semantic relation transliteration.

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