Design and Implementation of a Chatbot for Kurdish Language Speakers Using Chatfuel Platform

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ABSTRACT
Chatbot is a software agent that is used to conduct intelligent conversations between machines and humans. Chatbots are mostly depend on Natural Language Processing (NLP). In this paper, the design and implementation of a chatbot are provided to help Kurdish speakers in using online conversations via texts to find answers instead of direct contact with human agents. The NLP-based software agent is implemented using the Chatfuel platform. Chatfuel uses artificial intelligence to communicate with humans by simulating human conversations through voice commands or texts. The proposed chatbot is tested on an electronic tourist guide that helps visitors to the religious places in the mountainous village of Barzanja that is located in Iraqi Kurdistan. The case study is conducted by using three-hundred questions and answers. One hundred volunteers participated in this study. The participant asks a question and the bot provides an answer if it recognizes the question, otherwise it provides a default answer along with a suggestion of how to use the system properly. The data of these experiment is collected, analyzed, and problems regarding Kurdish language are detected. Designing software agents for processing Kurdish texts faces many challenges. Kurdish texts have not yet been processed using natural language processing (NLP). In addition, Kurdish font disorder and the lack of standardized keyboards and writing styles makes processing Kurdish text difficult. Furthermore, Kurdish language consists of variety of different dialects with different typing styles. In this research, we specifically focus on the design of a software agent for the Central Kurdish (Sorani) dialect. We managed to solve some of the problems related to the Kurdish language and suggest solutions to others.
1. INTRODUCTION

Chatbot is a software agent that is used to conduct friendly intelligent conversation between a machine and human. The chatbot term refers to text conversation, but now growing through other communication means such as voice. Enhanced chatbots can also reply using images, relational links, gallery, video, etc. [1]. The basic conceptual and objective of chatbot creation is that the computer talks in natural language with human in reality, which should be as human as possible. Based on this, the chatbot is built for conversations and usually offers a special idea such as searching the Internet, organizing files on a computer, arranging engagement and appointments, and so on [2].

There are numerous chatbot applications for helping users in finding flights, hotels, travel destinations, and jobs. Chatbot is used in many areas, such as ecommerce, banking, entertainment, health, and Education [3]. Chatbots have many advantages over direct conversations, such as availability, reduced costs, and the enhancement of social experiences. There are many software applications available to create chatbot agents. These applications are simple to implement because they allow users to create chatbots without writing any code, but they also enable professional developers to write codes if necessary. Common examples of AI chatbot platforms are: Chatfuel, Bot Framework, Wit.ai, Manychat, Dialogflow, etc.

We have worked with the chatfuel platform since it is one of the best chatbot engines that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to communicate with human. It simulates human conversation through voice commands or text conversations or both. The focus is on automation and adaptability, from answering questions to collecting data [4]. We use this powerful chatbot builder to create a chatbot as a tourist guide for Barzanja village. Although we focus on Central Kurdish (Sorani) dialect speakers using Kurdish alphabet, which a common writing style in Iraqi Kurdistan, but the proposed chatbot system is capable of enhancing its response whenever a new word or question is entered by the users even if they use different dialect or writing styles.

A case study that consists of three-hundred questions and answers and one hundred participants is conducted.

When we applied this research, some challenges have occurred, such as Kurdish Font disorder, different typing styles, punctuations and non-standardized Kurdish language. We provide solutions to some of the problems related to using Kurdish language in NLP systems and provide suggestion to some other problems.

1.1 Challenge and Problems

The following challenges and problems are related to NLP of the Kurdish language:

1- **Writing Styles Variation**: Kurdish language has several formal writing styles with some unformal styles such as Latin style, English alphabet, Central Kurdish style (Sorani) and Arabic alphabet. For examples, the following words have the same meaning (‘Come’ in English) but have been written using either different words or the same word with different writing styles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kurdish Word</th>
<th>Latin Style</th>
<th>English Alphabet</th>
<th>Central Kurdish Style (Sorani)</th>
<th>Arabic Alphabet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2- **Dialectal Variation**: Kurdish language has different dialects according the area of Kurdistan. Each dialect has its own grammar and vocabulary. Mixing these dialects is problematic when using Kurdish text in NLP based systems such as chatbots.

3- **Orthographic Ambiguity and Inconsistency**: In Kurdish language, vocabulary, grammar and writing styles sometime cause ambiguity and inconsistency that are difficult to determine and classify.

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1 A thirteenth century village located in a mountainous area near the city of Sulaimani (Sulaymaniyah) in Iraqi Kurdistan. It is a place for many Islamic and Yarsani shrines and holy sites.
4- **Morphological Richness**: Kurdish words are inflected for a several of features, such as gender, number, person, voices, aspect, etc., that have different formats according to the dialect. For example, the following pair of words have close spellings with totally different meanings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>شیر</th>
<th>Milk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>شیر</td>
<td>Lion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>کول</td>
<td>Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>کول</td>
<td>Blunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5- **Idiomatic Dialogue Expressions**: Since some idiomatic expression in Kurdish language are common, but others are less common, it becomes challenging when replying to a question by the bot. The following two expressions have a close meaning using different words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>بھیاں یا بھیاں</th>
<th>Good Morning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>بھیاں روسنس</td>
<td>Morning of Light</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1. Literature Review

Natural language processing (NLP) is new for Kurdish Language, so it is hard to find NLP works on Kurdish in the literature. Therefore, we review some researches that are close to the Kurdish Language such as the Arabic language.

An artificial intelligent agent chatbot for Kurdish Language has been proposed in [5] by using Artificial Intelligent Markup Language (AIML) on the free and opensource platform Pandorabots with a Facebook account. It can answer queries in Kurdish. This system takes the input in text format, then it displays the results in text and provides accurate and quick answers to users.

Writing style of Arabic language is close to that of Kurdish. In [6], an Arabic chatbot for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is developed based on pattern matching (PM). A new Arabic short text similarity (STS) measure is used to extract facts from user’s responses to match rules in scripted conversation in a particular domain (Science). The researcher proposed the system on grammatical and morphological.

The first chatbot using for an Arabic dialect was presented in [7] exploring each challenge that faces the creation of conversational agents. It uses the Egyptian dialect of the Arabic language. The researchers illustrate several solutions and explain all elements of BOTTA Chatbot. The database of BOTTA is available to all researchers that are working on Arabic chatbots or the languages close to Arabic in their writing styles such as Kurdish, Urdu and Persian.

In the research proposed in [8], several obstacles and challenges that need to be resolved when developing an effective Arabic chatbot is presented. This is important for other languages that use an alphabet close to the Arabic language alphabet.

### 2. The Properties of the Kurdish Language

The Kurdish language is the backbone of this research, so we define and introduce this language, we especially focus on the Central Kurdish (Sorani) branch.

Kurdish (Kurdî, کوردی, Kürdî) language is a branch of Indo-European family of languages. But dialects of Kurdish are members of the Indo-Iranian languages of the northwestern subdivision. The Kurdish language is not dependent language because it has all features of languages such as historical development, continuity, grammatical system and rich living vocabularies [9]. The Kurdish language belongs to the “Median” language or “Proto-Kurdish”. People of Kurdistan speak several dialects of the language. Kurdish language dialects are [10]:

1) Nordic Kurdish dialects, also called Kurmanji and Badinani.
The Kurdish nation is divided among five countries: Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Armenia and Syria. Kurdish literature was written in Arabic, Persian or Turkish, although the Kurdish language, written in Central Kurdish (Soranî) and Kurdish Latin Alphabet script, began to appear in the seventh century AD. Nowadays, Kurdish is written in three different writing styles.

1) The Iraqi and Irani Kurdish are using Central Kurdish alphabet, for example: كوردی.
2) The Kurdish of Turkey and Syria use Kurdish Latin alphabet, for example: کوردی.
3) The Kurdish of Armenia use Cyrillic alphabet, for example: گۆردە.

The letters are 34 but the sounds of Kurdish language are 37 for central Kurdish alphabet, but Kurdish Latin alphabet is 31 letters commonly [11], as show in Table 1. In Sulaimani and Kirkuk, the letter D is often softened to the point of being inaudible. The most prominent example of this case is the present modal prefix "دەد".

In Sulaimani and Kirkuk: دەد= (Standard) دررجوم

In Kurdish language, especially in Sorani dialect, no words begin with "ر", all initial Rs are trilled "ژ"[12] [13]:

2) Central dialects, also called Sorani
3) The Southern Kurdish dialects, also called Pehlewani or “Pahlawanik”.

The other two branches of Kurdish language are Dimilî also called “Zaza” and Hewramî also called Gorani. According some references about linguistic, the southwestern branch of the Indian and Iranian languages of the Lurri (Luri) branch is classified as a sub branch of Kurdish [9].

The Kurdish of Turkey and Syria use Kurdish Latin alphabet, for example: Kurdî.

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The Kurdish of Turkey and Syria use Kurdish Latin alphabet, for example: Kurdî.
The number (ژمەرە) is consisting of cardinal and ordinal number. Finally Verb (فرمان / کەر) is an expresses existence, action, or occurrence. [14] [13] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19]

Table 1: The table of Kurdish letters alphabet, Central Kurdish (Sorani) and Kurdish Latin alphabet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>Sorani</th>
<th>Kurdish Sound</th>
<th>Kurdish Latin alphabet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ن at</td>
<td>/a/</td>
<td>A, a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>د انات</td>
<td>/a/, long a</td>
<td>Batman; kellebab B, b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ب باران دب</td>
<td>/b/</td>
<td>Urdun; dund C, c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>پ پا: بب</td>
<td>/p/</td>
<td>Coman; kic C, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ت تا: هت</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>Dihok; berd D, d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ج جام تاج</td>
<td>/dy/</td>
<td>Erzirrom; bere E, e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>خ چاوا تاخ</td>
<td>/i/</td>
<td>Éwan, pérê É, چ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ح حامیان حامس</td>
<td>/h/</td>
<td>Firat; def F, f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>خ خان تاج</td>
<td>/x/</td>
<td>Ger; deng G, g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>د دام تازاد</td>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>Hewlêr, Ah H, h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>ر رین بیر</td>
<td>/r/</td>
<td>Sirîncik I, یر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>س جانب سیر</td>
<td>Bold /R/</td>
<td>İlg, sîni I, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>ر راسته سیر</td>
<td>/r/</td>
<td>Jawero; kij J, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ژ زیار کیژ</td>
<td>/ʒ/</td>
<td>Kobanê; erk K, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>س ساند کرس</td>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>Laliş; mel L, s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>ش شین ژان</td>
<td>/ʃ/</td>
<td>Melhabad; dem M, m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>ع عبار: ددعی ع</td>
<td>/gh/</td>
<td>Nisêb N, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>ژ ژه: فتا:</td>
<td>/ʒ/</td>
<td>Pawe; esp P, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>ف فیل: ژی</td>
<td>/f/</td>
<td>Oremar; boso O, o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>ق قو: ژی</td>
<td>/q/</td>
<td>Quçan; deq Q, q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>ق قیر: تاق</td>
<td>/Q/</td>
<td>dar R, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>ک کنی: ژی</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>Range; err RR, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>ژ زا: ژی</td>
<td>/ʒ/</td>
<td>Sîne; kras S, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>ل لولا: ژی</td>
<td>/l/</td>
<td>Sengal, baş S, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>خ خوتل: می</td>
<td>Bold /L/</td>
<td>Tirbesipi; kat T, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>م مام تازاد</td>
<td>/m/</td>
<td>Urdun; dund U, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>ن نا: ژی</td>
<td>/n/</td>
<td>Ürmeye, şûtu Ê, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>ه هیو: ژیر</td>
<td>/h/</td>
<td>Vêtnam; bav V, h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>ه هه: ژه</td>
<td>/h/</td>
<td>Wân; nav W, h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>و وان: ژی</td>
<td>/u/</td>
<td>Xaneqin; gonax X, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>د دو: ژی</td>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>Yêrîvan; key Y, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>ز زیو: ژی</td>
<td>/z/</td>
<td>Zaxo; berz Z, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>ژ ژو: ژی</td>
<td>/ʒ/</td>
<td>Zaxo; berz Z, ژ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>ژ ژژ: ژی</td>
<td>Bold /j/</td>
<td>Zaxo; berz Z, ژ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sentences are the largest unit in syntax of Kurdish language that are consisting of above part of speech as (subject, object, adverbial, adjunct, complement and verb).

- Hemin runs
- Hemin and his friends run at the park every day.

In addition to the transitive verb and the non-transitive verb, there is a third type of verb called the connecting verb. The word (or phrase) that accompanies a connecting verb is not an object, but a complement. The subject complement can be a noun, an adjective or a preposition. most common linking verb is "بەتەبە" which is equivalent to “to be” in English.

- چرو لە زانکویە چرو وانەییە چرو لە زانکویە
Table 2: Table of Kurdish language tenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past</td>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>ساده</td>
<td>هاتین خواردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>بکرداری</td>
<td>ده + رگی رابردوو + جیناو (راناو) ی تکاوو ی ده خواردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>تکاوو</td>
<td>هامبودین خواردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conditional</td>
<td>ماجری</td>
<td>بهتینیه بیشتر خواردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>ساده</td>
<td>ده + رگی داواتوو + راناو (رانتاو) ی تکاوو + ی بیشتر خواردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>تکاوو</td>
<td>نوستوین خواردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conditional</td>
<td>ماجری ساده</td>
<td>بیشتر خواردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>بیشتر خواردن</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Perfect</td>
<td>بیشتر خواردن</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Natural Language Processing for Kurdish Language

Natural language processing (NLP) is branch of linguistics, computer science, and artificial intelligence that helps computers understand, interpret and manipulate human language [22]. However, NLP was originally known as Natural Language Understanding (NLU), it is now well understood that although the goal of NLP, NLU is real, it has not yet been achieved. But the main goal of NLP is “to accomplish human-like language processing”. [22] NLP have a challenge to developing a program that understands natural language is a difficult problem. NLP has more application such as: Searching and indexing for large text. Word processor software. Information retrieval. Text categorization using classification. Text summarization software automatically. Question Answering (QA) Applications. [23]

To understand and applied the NLP to Kurdish language, both things are necessary: the first one is Kurdish language component and grammar. The second one is component of NLP that is divided into Natural Language Understanding (NLU) and Natural Language Generation (NLG) [24]. The main techniques of NLP are syntax analysis and semantic analysis:

First – Syntax Analysis: it is referring to the sentences that words arranged in this structure of text and they have grammatical meaning. Also known as parsing. It has more techniques:

Tokenization and pattern matching are an essential operation used to break up a string into words, punctuation marks, numbers and other items. For example:

“Dr. Hawzhin, Mr. Sherko Barznji”, said Kurdistan, introducing us. can be tokenized as in the following, where each token is enclosed in single quotation marks:

‘‘Dr.’ ‘Hawzhin ’ ‘;’ ‘Mr.’ ‘Sherko ‘Barznji’ ‘’’’ ‘,’ ‘said’ ‘Kurdistan ’ ‘;’ ‘introducing’ ‘us’ ’.’

The important task in this step is finding the boundary of words. In Kurdish language, the
boundary of words can determine using the fully separated by space, separated by half – space or be related to each other.

In the first sentence, the *سازِم* بپَرَنامه is two words, if we determine by space separator, but in the second sentence the بپَرَنامهسازِم is one words. The second form is correct but the first form in incorrect.

**Parts of speech (POS):** Another NLP task is speech tagging to identify the part of speech for every word and categorized of words that have same properties of grammatical, for example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kurdish sentence</th>
<th>English sentence</th>
<th>POS Tags</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>هبی یو دروم</td>
<td>School to go</td>
<td>Punctuation Noun Preposition Verb Pronoun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lemmatization** is a common technique to solve words in the form of their dictionary, which requires a detailed dictionary in which the algorithm can search for words and link them to their respective prepositions.

**Stemming:** it is a process to convert from inflected or derivates words to steam, base or root form. commonly, it removes all the suffixes and affixes based on some predefined linguistic rules.

Stemming for Kurdish language classify to verbal stemming and non-verbal steming.  

**Input:** x

For rule in creation_rule_of_verb do

if x == rule do

x' = root of x

if x' is in verb_dict then

add x' to Collection_of_Suggestion

end end end

if Collection_of_Suggestion != empty then

return shortest word in Collection_of_Suggestion as stem

else return x end

Figure 1: Algorithm of verbal stemming in Kurdish language

For Collection_of_Suffix/Collection_of_affix do

For y in Collection_of_Suffix/Collection_of_affix do

if x ends with y then

x' = x[0: (len(x)−len(y))]

if x' is in Lexicon_dictionary then

add x' to candidate_Collection

end end end

if candidate_Collection != empty then

return shortest word in candidate_Collection as stem

else return x end

Figure 2: Algorithm of non-verbal stemming in Kurdish language
**Parsing:** This includes performing grammatical analysis for the sentence provided. The syntactic parser usually receives a sentence containing margins as input and returns a parsed syntax as output.

**Second – Semantic Analysis:** it is referring to the meaning that is sent by text and focus of meaning identification of language. It is the difficult part of NLP that has not yet been fully solved. Some computer technique and algorithms are created to understand and interpretation of words. Common techniques are: Name Entity Recognition (NER) is a most common task in semantic analysis that is extracting entities from text. The entities can be name, place, email address, and more. Natural language generation, This includes using a database to obtain semantic goals and convert them into human language. It is a special technique that is used to convert from plain text to raw structured data.

[25] [26] [24] [23] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31]

4. **CHATBOTS**

The chatbot is a software agent based on artificial intelligence which is used in conversation between users and software robot [2]. This agent can interact with human carefully using NLP as a basic to produce this process [32]. Chatbot is a simulation of human user conversations especially over the Internet, but it is possible to apply it as an offline software for specific purposes, such as travelling guide, education or self-learning of languages [33]. The idea of chatbot belongs to the Alan Turing test [34].

Eliza chatbot is the first agent that was developed by Joseph Weizenbaum in AI Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1966. [35] [36]. Parry is another chat bot that was created by the psychiatrist and computer scientist Kenneth Mark Colby at the department of Psychiatry in Stanford University in 1972 [35]. The chatbot Jabberwacky was created by British developer Rollo Carpenter in 1988. It was intended to simulate a natural human dialogue [1]. In 1992, Dr. Sabaitso chatbot was created by Creative Labs for MS-Dos. In 1994, the term of chatbot was coined. In 1995, ALICE was created by Richard Wallace, which is an acronym for “Artificial Linguistic Internet Computer Entity”. In 2001, Wallace published AIML specifications [2] [37].

Smarter Child was an intelligent chatbot created in 2001; it has some features such as accessing data quickly and funny personalized conversations [1]. In 2006, the Watson chatbot was created by IBM, it is a question answering system. in 2010, Siri was created by Apple as part of the Apple operating system; it is a text and voice chatbot [1]. In 2012, MITSUKU chatbot was created by Steve Worswick. It uses AIML language to understand the user’s response [38]. In the same year, the Google Now was developed by Google using NLP [39]. The Alexa chatbot was developed in 2015 by Amazon, it is capable to interact with voice and it uses algorithms of NLP to receive sounds, recognize and respond [40]. In the same year, Microsoft Company created Cortana bot for mobile and personal computers that use Windows operating system. [41]. In 2016, social networking site Facebook provided a platform of messenger that allows developers to build a bot for Facebook users [42].

4.1. **Types of Chatbot**

Chatbot classify in some classification to determine chatbot types. Common categorized of chatbot according different parameters are: - The knowledge domains that are categorized based on the knowledge they have access to or the amount of data they receive. The Providing services is another classification of bots are based on the branch of knowledge that deals with the amount of space that people feel it necessary to set between themselves and others In The goal’s classifications, chatbots are categorized based on the early objectives that is aim to achieves.
The processing of input and method of response generations: the categorization of chatbots are according methods that are divides to 2 models: The Rule Based Approach (RBA), the chatbots trains based on predefined set of rules that was trained in the early stages to answer questions. Self – Learning Approach (SLA), the chatbots can learn on their own using the advanced technologies such as AI and Machine Learning. It is divided into:

1- Retrieval-based approach of Chatbots has much easier structure to create bots and provide more predictable result. because it is applying functions on predefined patterns of input and responses that uses heuristic method to deliver suitable response. Now, this approach is very common and more practical.

2- Generative based approach of Chatbots are the hereafter of chatbots that build a smarter chatbot. Unfortunately, it has not wide range to use by developer, because It is now more in laboratories.

If chatbots are about general topic conversation and response properly, it is opened domain chatbots. Otherwise, if chatbots are about specific topic and specialized title, it is closed domain.

4.2. The design techniques of chatbots
The design techniques used by chatbot developers are:

1) Parsing: it is used to analyze and process the input from users by using several functions of NLP, such as Python NLTK tree.
2) Artificial Intelligence Markup Language (AIML): It is the main technique that is used to design chatbots.
3) Chat Script: This is a technique that helps in cases when no matches return from AIML. It makes the best syntax to build a reasonable default answer. It offers a set of features such as variable concepts, facts, and and/or logic operations.
4) Pattern Matching: this technique is about the artificial intelligence that is used to design the chatbots to match the input from users with the database-stored answers and then returning the identical response.
5) SQL and relational Database: A method that has recently been used in Chatbot design to remember Chatbot previous conversations.
6) Markov Chain: Chatbots are used to create responses that are more likely to be useful and therefore more accurate. The Markov chain idea is that there is a probability of occurrence for any letter or word in the same textual dataset.

4.3. AIML – Artificial Intelligence Markup Language
AIML is a standard of artificial intelligence markup language that is a language for artificial intelligent applications creation. It built based on extensible markup language (XML) dialect invented. The AIML is very important to AI software agent, especially natural language software agent development because it use in structure of semantic and syntax as theoretical structure. AIML was developed during 1995 to 2000 by the Alicebot free software community and Dr. Richard S. Wallace, the AIML is created using the techniques of pattern recognition or pattern matching. It is manipulated to natural language modeling for conversation between human and chatbots that use simulation response approach. The main purpose of AIML is the definition of some knowledge that chatbot has.

According the technical of speaking, AIML basic anatomy and structure is tag. Each tag consists of open/start tag and close/end tag as following example:

<TagName>  </TagName>

AIML has some static tag. Category, pattern, and template are three most common important tags. The category tag is used to knowledge unit definition of conversation. The tag of pattern is used to identify the user input and the template tag is used to response to user input.
specifically. The three tags and all AIML tags must be wraps and write between the open/start
AIML tag and close/end
<aiml version = "1.0.1" encoding = "UTF-8">
<category> <pattern>

کەلە وەکو

<template>

کەلە وەکو

</template> </category>

Other common AIML Tags are the following tags:

1-  <random> tag: is used to get random response of same input differently. This tag is used with <li> tag to
carry items of different response:

<random>

<random>

<random>

</random>

2-  <set> and <get> tags: are used with variables. The set tag is used to set value in a variable but get tag is
used to get value from a variable:

<set name = "variable-name">

<get name = "variable-name">

</get>

3-  <that> tag: is used to respond base on the context:

<that>

<that>

</that>

4-  <break> tag: it is used to create line break.

<template> <break/>

<template> <break/>

</template> </category>

5-  Button tags: they are some tags that are used to create a button to apply specific action, see the following:

<button> <text>

<postback>

The text tag is optional that is use to preview a text that appear on the button, but content of postback tag is appear by
chatbot when user click on the name of button. Sometime the developer of chatbot use the URL tag.

<button>

<url>https://barzanja.com</url>

3 This website URL is not existing in Internet. It is just test to URL tag.

6-  Quick reply tags: these tags are other rich media element with text and postback such as post back button.
The text tag is appeared on the reply response but the post back tag send message to bot. <reply>

<text>مزیروو یاربنە</text>

<postback>Barzanja History</postback>

</reply>

7-  <image> tag: it is a rich media element tag that is used as advanced AIML chatbot implementation to solve
some problem and to chatbot response for user.

<image>barznja.png</image>

8-  <video> tag: this tag is used to allow chatbot to send back video as response:

<video>barzanja.mp4</video>

9-  Card tag: it is used to wrap around other tags to collect all elements such as Image tag, buttons tag, title
tag, sub title tag, text and so on. The result is containing navigation all of rich media elements:

<card>

<image>barznja.png</image>

<title>شارچوگه ینازانی</title>

<subtitle>زیاتە نازانی</subtitle>

<button>

<text>مزیروو یاربنە</text>

<postback>Barzanja History</postback>

</button>

<text>Nawadan و Zanayan</text>

<postback>Zanayan</postback>

This website URL is not existing in Internet.
4.4. Chatbot platforms and construction components

We created a chatbot to experiment the Kurdish language problems with natural language processing techniques, then we suggest solutions to solve these problems. We use chatfuel platform to create a chatbot for Barzanja village that consists of 300 questions and answers to apply this work. There are several software platforms available to create chatbot agents.

Common examples of AI chatbot platforms are: Chatfuel, Bot Framework by Microsoft, Wit.ai, Manychat, Dialogflow, IBM Watson Powered by Neural Network, Botify, Reply.ai, Aivo, Pandorabots, Boost.ai, MobileMonkey [58]. Table 4 compares between three of these platforms [59] [60] [61].

Table 4: This table is differentiation between Microsoft bot, Dialogflow and IBM Watson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developed by Microsoft</th>
<th>Developed by Google</th>
<th>Developed by IBM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It has open source SDK that is used to test the bot before deployment in to the channel.</td>
<td>Inline code and multi-functional intelligent integrations.</td>
<td>Watson offers pre-trained and pre-integrated architecture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is support text, SMS, Video and Speech.</td>
<td>It is support natural language and speech to text conversations.</td>
<td>It is support natural language processing and question-answering system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interact with skype, slack, etc.</td>
<td>Interact with Google, Alexa, etc.</td>
<td>Detect the disease.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5. Chatfuel platform

Chatfuel is one of the best platforms to create chatbots. It provides a WYSIWYG interface that allows users to create chatbots [62] [4]. So, it is a useful and important platform since it provides AI technology to script conversations interactively. Several companies use chatfuel platform, such as Adidas, Uber, TechCrunch, British Airways, Goal.com, Volkswagen, and MTV [3].

Other main properties of the chatfuel platform are: Chatfuel provide templates and prebuilds to create chatbot from. Chatfuel makes chatbots directly by asking users to choose from suggested topics to produce a meaningful conversation. [58] [4]. The design and implementation of bots consist of the following basics and important components:

1) **Automate**: it is an important part to create each bot, consists of the following:
   A- Block: it is the main part of the bot that is used as the base to link the cards. The blocks are like webpage of websites [63], [4].
   B- Cards: it is the block content that include elements such as text, images, galleries, videos, audios, comments, quick replies, attributes, and so on.
   C- Plugin: it is a small program to enhance the bot [58].

2) **Live chat**: It is an important part to monitor active users at the time of chatting.

3) **AI Setup**: This is a special part to enter all possible questions and answers. [63].

The structure of chatfuel is easy for building conversations between human and bot. The user opens the Facebook messenger and then type a phrase or tap a button to start a conversation. The chatfuel engine determine the user’s action and then redirect it to a block or text. Then it replies to the user with a correct or the best nearest answer. Figure 3 illustrates those steps.
5. PROPOSE OF BARZANJA CHATBOT

Barzanja Chatbot is a tourism guide to the religious holy sites in the village of Barzanja for Kurdish language speakers. That we proposed using AIML and Chatfuel as platform. It consists of 300 general and common questions with answers.

5.1. Barzanja chatbot components

The design and implementation of Barzanja Chatbot software agent consists of blocks, cards and AI setup as the main components.

5.1.1. Blocks and Cards

A- Block: We use blocks to prepare answers or to connect them with questions. When a user sends questions, the bot sends to the user these blocks as answers. Other blocks are used for special information that Bot sends to users such as the welcome block; this block appears when a user getting started, while the default answer block is used to reply to a user who sends a question that cannot be recognized by the bot. But block in AIML is a category tag, other all tags are cards that are used between open/start and close/end tag of categories to create component of block such as text, image and video. For example:

```
<category>
  <pattern>پرستشی پیش‌های‌هی‌</pattern>
  <template>می‌گویم با پرستش‌ی یاره‌ها</template>
</category>
```

B- Cards:

Common cards of Barzanja Chatbot is text cards, but sometimes we use cards that represent images, galleries, quick replies and so on. Figure 7 and figure 8 examples for block and block contents (cards) with AIML code.
Figure 6: A quick reply card that appears as a suggestion answer by the chatbot to any users.

The GUI of Welcome Message block and AIML of welcome message is a common block and card in a chatbot as the following:

```xml
<category>
  <pattern>
  # وێﻨﮫ # وﯾﻨﮫ # ﻫﺒﻠﻮوم # ﻫﺒﻠﻮوم # زاﻧﯿﺎرى وێﻨﮫى # ﺑﺮزﻧﺠﮫ # ﺑﮫرزﻧﺠﮫ # ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺠﮫ # ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺠﮫ</pattern>
  <template>
    <carousel>
      <card>
        <text>
          ﺑﮫﺧێرﺑێﯾت <id/>
        </text>
      </card>
      <card>
        <text>
          ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺠﮫ، ﻷ ﺳﮫرﺟﮫم ﺑﺎس و ﺑﺎبﮫﺗﮫﻛﺎﻧﻰ ﺑﮫﺧێرﺑێن ﺑۆ ﻻﭘﮫرەى ﺗﺎﯾﺑﮫت ﺑﮫ ﻣێژووى ﺗﺎﯾﺑﮫت ﺑﮫ ﻣێژووى ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﻷ ﺝۆتﺎى ﺳﮫدەى ﭘێﻧﺟﻰ ﺗﺎ ﺋﯾﻣڕۆ . ﻷ ﻪم ﻻﭘﮫرەﯾﮫ ﻷ ﻧﮫوەﻛﺎﻧﻰ ﺣﺎﺟﻰ ﺑﺎبﺎ ﺷێﺧﻰ ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﻰ ﯾﮫوە ﺑﮫ رێوە دەبرێ .
        </text>
      </card>
      <card>
        <text>
          ﻓرداي زاﻧﺎﻴەى ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﻰ ﯾﮫوە 
        </text>
      </card>
    </carousel>
  </template>
</category>
```

Figure 7: GUI of block and card example

5.1.2. Set Up AI

We use this part of the dashboard to enter 300 questions and possible bot answers to reply to users’ questions.

![Wireframe diagram of general Set up AI and AIML code to Set up AI](image)

Below AIML codes shows a sample question and the bot’s answer.

```xml
<category>
  <pattern>
    ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﭼﯾﮫ؟ # ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﺟﯾﮫ؟ # ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﻷ ﻣێژووى ﺗﺎﯾﺑﮫت ﺑﮫ ﻣێژووى # ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﻷ ﺝۆتﺎى ﺳﮫدەى ﭘێﻧﺟﻰ ﺗﺎ ﺋﯾﻣڕۆ . </pattern>
  <template>
    <random>
      شارۆﭼﻜﮫی ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ 
    </random>
  </template>
</category>
```

```xml
<category>
  <pattern>
    ﻣﻰ ﮔوﻧﺟﺎو ﺑۆ ﭘرﺳﯾﺎرى 
  </pattern>
  <template>
    ﻛۆرەمەدەکان 
  </template>
</category>
```

```xml
<category>
  <pattern>
    ﯾﮫ ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﭼﯾﮫ؟ # ﯾﮫ ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﻣەندەسە # ﯾﮫ ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﺟﯾﮫ؟ # ﯾﮫ ﺑﮫرزەﻧﺟﮫ ﻷ ﻣێژووى 
  </pattern>
  <template>
    ﭘرﺳﯾﺎرى ﺑﮫﻛﺎرھێﻧﮫر 
  </template>
</category>
```
5.1.3. Live Chat
We use this component of the dashboard to see the users that connect to the bot and their conversations.

6. USING AND ANALYZING THE CHATBOT

After creating all parts and components of the Barzanja chatbot with 300 questions and answers, we test the project with 100 volunteer users. The volunteers use Barzanja Chatbot according to the activity diagram illustrated in Figure 9.

![Figure 9: general Activity diagram of chatbot using by users for one cycle](image)

When a user starts a conversation. The system immediately replies by using the welcome message. This welcome message is provided for all users, after that users can start asking questions, for example:

User: سلاو
Chatbot: سەرچاوو، محۆتەن پەنەسین

If the user uses the Kurdish Latin alphabet or English alphabet, the bot cannot understand this message because the system developed for Sorani (Central Kurdish) dialect. So, the bot replies by using the default message:

User question: Sllaw
The Bot answer: ﻟﺒﻮره ﻓﻲ ﺗﺮ ﻣﺒﻴﻨﻴﺎ:
تەکەیە یەکەوتووی سەرەتە، وەتە سەروەی یەکەروویەنەم تێبینییە

Samples of interaction between users and the Barzanja chatbot via questions and answers are shown in Table 5.

7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After using and analyzing the Chatbot, we collect user's information to determine the problems in using the Kurdish language with technology, then we analyze the performance of the bot according to the users' participation and the bot's response. After creating the chatbot agent, we tested with 100 users, the total results of testing users' participation (as shown Figure 11) are:

- %25 uses the English alphabet and Kurdish Latin letters. The first question of user starts with English or Kurdish Latin alphabet, for more clearing, we discuss two examples: For example, first user starts to conversation as: Choni? The second user start to conversation as: Çonî?
- %20 uses the Arabic alphabet letters. The user starts Arabic alphabet to write any question to conversation, for example: ﻟﯚﻧﻰ؟
- %15 uses mixed typing between Arabic, English letter and Kurdish Latin letters. The question of users is mix in the start of conversation to end of conversation, for more clearly see the following example. The user state conversation using Arabic alphabet, after that the bot say: please use Kurdish alphabet. But user use the English alphabet and so on:
• %40 uses the central Kurdish alphabet (Sorani) via Kurdish Unicode keyboard. All users use Kurdish alphabet to start conversation, then continue until the conversation is finish.

Figure 10: pie chart to determine typing style according users
Sometime other problems may occur, especially when using different keyboard alphabets. To solve those problems, we suggest the following solutions:

To solve the problem of using English alphabet and Latin letters:

A- When the user starts the application, the bot suggests downloading and installing the Central Kurdish Keyboard (Sorani Unicode). The Sorani Keyboard shown in Figure 11 can be used by the Chatbot users in case the Operating System they use does not support Kurdish Unicode.

Figure 11: Wireframe of Central Kurdish (Sorani) Keyboard

B- The user can use the English keyboard to type directly Kurdish text. However, some problems may occur, for example, the number of the English letters is 26, while the number of Kurdish letters is 34. In this case we suggest using some symbols and double letters to express the Kurdish letters that do not have corresponding letters in English alphabet. Figure 16 shows the Kurdish letters and their corresponding English single or double letters, or a letter and an apostrophe.
Figure 12: Central Kurdish Keyboard (Sorani Alphabet) to Convert English and Latin alphabet

Table 5: user information about chatting with questions – answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>User questions</th>
<th>Bot answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chro Ahmad</td>
<td>Silaw</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ببڕەوە بەدەریز ؛ Chro ؛ دەگەڕێت به چووڕێی تەر بەرپێست ؟</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>تێبینی: نەکایەی نیژنووسی کوردەی لەوەرەست، وەکە سەرۆیییەی نیژنووسی نام تێبینییە</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>نام کاتەت بەش</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>بەرژێرچە چیه ؟</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barzan</td>
<td>Barznji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barzan</td>
<td>Sلاوو</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>کۆنەکی له شاریازر</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>بەڕەزێکەم بەنەسیئە؟</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>کۆنەکی 62 کێڵۆمارەت له سلێمانیەوە دۆورە</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shano</td>
<td>Barzan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shano</td>
<td>سلاوو</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>کۆنەکی له شاریازر</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>کۆنەکی 62 کێڵۆمارەت له سلێمانیەوە دۆورە</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherzad</td>
<td>Ahmad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherzad</td>
<td>جۆئن ؟</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherzad</td>
<td>بەرژێرچە جیه ؟</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherko</td>
<td>Ahmad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherko</td>
<td>جۆئن ؟</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherko</td>
<td>بەرژێرچە جیه ؟</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsh</td>
<td>Omer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsh</td>
<td>سلاوو</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>کۆنەکی له شاریازر</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>کۆنەکی 62 کێڵۆمارەت له سلێمانیەوە دۆورە</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cwgrafiay</td>
<td>barznja</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ببڕەوە بەدەریز ؛ Arsh ؛ دەگەڕێت به چووڕێی تەر بەرپێست ؛</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>تێبینی: نەکایەی نیژنووسی کوردەی لەوەرەست، وەکە سەڕۆیییەی نیژنووسی نام تێبینییە</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>زنیبارەی جۆکرگەفی</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>سەیەست جۆکرگەفیی بەرژێرچە بە ؛</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>بەئەی</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this research, we create a chatbot to access information about Barzanja Chatbot automatically 24 hours a day without need to any human intervention. We determine some problems in Sorani dialect of the Kurdish language. Such problems include lack of research on Kurdish language with natural language processing (NLP), Kurdish font disorder, lack of standardized keyboards and writing styles, etc. The proposed chatbot was capable of responding to any question asked by a user even if it has not been recorded previously. This is done by suggesting other methods for asking questions or by providing a default answer. This chatbot has been tested on a specific case study but it can be applied to other areas when automated customer support is required 24/7, such areas include healthcare, education, and
businesses. In future, we implement autocorrection to return some words to original words, which improves the performance, enhances the availability of the bot, and reduces mismatching and misunderstanding. In addition, developers can provide answers in Arabic alphabet for users who use Arabic keyboards.

REFERENCE


