Lessons Learned from Creating a Balanced Corpus from Online Data

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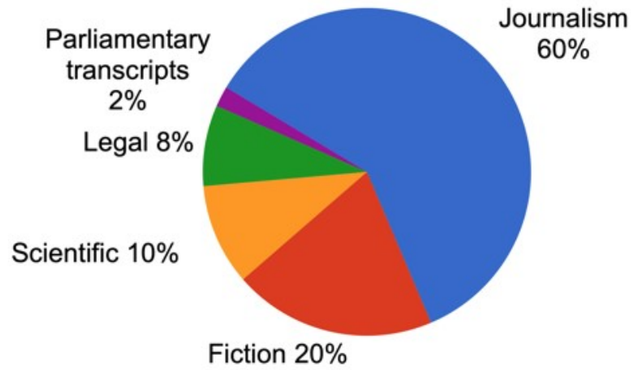
Abstract. Most of the new corpora are created from data obtained from various text holders, which requires cooperation agreements with each of the text holders. Reaching these cooperation agreements is a difficult and time consuming task. Developing a balanced corpus from various online sources do not require agreements with text holders, but it presents many more technical challenges, including text extraction, cleaning and validation.

Corpus Design Principles:

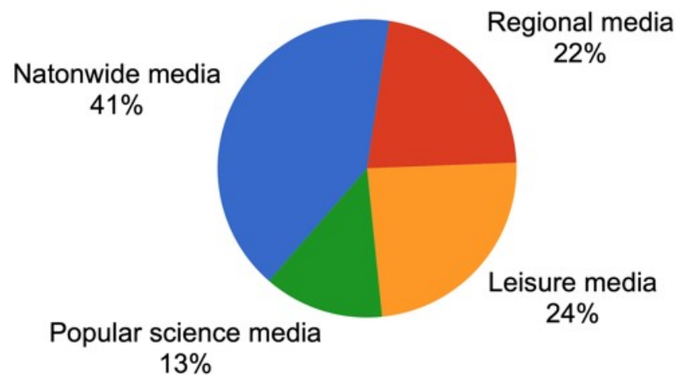
- **General** – the corpus includes sources from different domains, styles, genres, etc.
- **Balanced** – the corpus that aims to cover the variety of existing texts in estimated proportions.
- The corpus represents the **synchronic** state of the language. It covers sources as from the end of the last century until the present.
- **Originality** – the corpus should only contain texts originally written in Latvian. The obvious translations of the different texts into Latvian will not be included in LVK2018.
- The corpus is **representative**, it contains texts from all language styles, major domains and many subdomains.

www.korpuss.lv

Composition of LVK2018



Composition of the Journalism



Text Selection Criteria:

- **Time** – the corpus should contain texts created and published after 1991.
- The corpus should contain **full-text**.
- **Diversity** – texts should cover as wide range of topics as possible. The sample cannot exceed more than 5% and 50 000 words of the particular section of the corpus.
- **Uniqueness** – the corpus sample should be represented in corpus just once.
- **Quality** – samples should only contain clean text written in literary language with appropriate usage of diacritics and punctuation in Latvian. Tables and other non-text parts should be removed.

Latviešu valodas aģentūra