



Abu-MaTran

AUTOMATIC BUILDING OF MACHINE TRANSLATION

PIAP- GA-2012-324414

D2.2c. Linguistics Olympiad Year 3

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Executive Summary

This deliverable describes the third edition of OLE, the Spanish Chapter of the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL). It corresponds to task T.2.3. (Linguistic Olympiad, Spanish Chapter) within work package 2 (Dissemination and outreach), aiming at the dissemination of the project for different audiences (industrial stakeholders, academia and general public). This task was carried out at the industrial partner, Prompsit Language Engineering, and it was supported during the secondments from Dublin City University at Prompsit from January to April 2016.

| EDITION | REGION | AREA (km ²) | POPULATION | PARTIC. SCHOOLS | PARTIC. STUDENTS (1ST ROUND) |
|---------|--|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 2014 | Province of Alacant/Alicante | 5,817 | 1,855,047 | 21 | 400 |
| 2015 | Valencian Community and Region of Murcia | 34,568 | 6,581,775 | 39 | 650 |
| 2016 | Spain | 505,990 | 46,423,064 | 106 | 570 ³ |

Table 1: Statistics about the last three editions of OLE, the Spanish Chapter of the International Linguistics Olympiad

1 Introduction

Deliverable D2.2a (Toral et al., 2014), which covers the first edition of OLE,¹ the Spanish Chapter of the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL),² introduced the concept of Linguistics Olympiad, the rationale and objectives of this dissemination activity as well as its plan and implementation for the three editions covered in the project (2014, 2015 and 2016).

This deliverable describes the third edition of OLE, following the plan established during the first edition.

2 Plan and Implementation

For the third edition, the activity covered the whole territory of Spain (over 46 million inhabitants, 505,990 km²). This is a substantial increase with respect to the area covered in the second edition (Ramírez et al., 2015), i.e. the Valencian Community (5,111,706 inhabitants, 23,255 km²) and the adjacent region of Murcia (1,470,069 inhabitants, 11,313 km²) together, see table 1.

¹<http://ole.abumatran.eu/>

²<http://www.ioling.org/>

Due to the increased area, we decided also to change the organisative model. In the previous two years we had followed the model of AILO (All Ireland Irish Olympiad⁴), the national Olympiad that inspired ours. The main changes are as follows:

- The first round was limited to 10 students per centre. This was a necessary limitation as otherwise we would not have had the human manpower required to mark all the submissions. We gave teachers materials (for a so-called round 0) so that they could select these 10 students.
- The format of the second round was changed: instead of having the top 70-80 students from the first round moving into one place for one day, we selected the top 10-15 students and brought them to a campus in Sant Vicent del Raspeig (Alacant) where they spent a 3 days get-together attending workshops related to linguistic topics, individual and group tests and free time activities.

Media were contacted at relevant times (e.g. first and second rounds, selection of the Spanish team for the International Olympiad) through press releases and the organisation actively posted news and info to engage centres and interested parties through our Twitter account.⁵ Mentions of the Olympiad in mass media are collected in OLE's website.⁶

2.1 October–December 2015

The Spanish academic year for secondary schools starts in late September and goes until mid or late June. Activities to be carried out during the year are decided after the opening weeks, and thus it is important to let schools know about OLE early.

We contacted around 3,500 second level schools that operate in Spain, both public and private, by the beginning of October 2015. The contact was made by publicly available e-mails with an invitation to participate and register, and further information about the OLE. At the end of the registration

³Participation was limited to a maximum of 10 students per centre, while there was no such limitation during the previous two editions.

⁴<http://adaptcentre.ie/ailo/>

⁵https://twitter.com/ole_ling?lang=en

⁶http://ole.abumatran.eu/?page_id=260

period we had 106 schools registered (compared to 21 in the first edition and 39 in the second).

During this period, contacts between the schools and the organisation team were frequent. We prepared a set of training exercises (round 0) that the teachers could use to select a maximum of 10 students that could then participate in round 1. The exercises were sent to the schools and published in the website.⁷

2.2 January–February 2016

In January we informed the schools about how the first qualifying round had to be carried out involving them as co-organisers (as in the previous edition). Specifically, the first round was carried out remotely in each school that registered to take part in the Olympiad during the week from 18 to 22 January 2016.

The tests⁸ were prepared by the organisers and stored in a secure website. Teachers were given access to that website and told that, while they could do the test during any day of the week, they had to download the test on that same day and submit the answers on that day too (test answers and list of students that took the exam were sent by email or fax).

More than 584 students took part in the first round. The correction of the exams was carried out subsequently and results were sent to the schools by mid February. A final number of top 13 students qualified for the second round.

2.3 March–April 2016

The second round, involving the students that qualified at the first round, was carried out at the Villa Universitaria, a student accommodation facility just outside the campus of the Universitat d'Alacant. This round was held as part of a 4-day get-together (24 to 27 March 2016).

Over those 4 days a range of activities were organised, including talks, training, individual and group tests, and also free time.

Talks included:

⁷Round 0 OLE 2016 at http://ole.abumatran.eu/?page_id=8

⁸Ejercicios 1ª ronda OLE 2016 at http://ole.abumatran.eu/?page_id=8

- The languages of the world and their peculiarities. Mikel L. Forcada (OLE).
- Practical foundations of phonetics. Guillermo Latour (OLE).
- Machine translation and Linguistic Olympiad. Antonio Toral (OLE).
- Languages of India. Ivan Derzhanski (IOL).
- Field linguistics. Polina Pleshak (Russian Linguistics Olympiad).

The team (4 students) that was to represent Spain at IOL was selected according to the individual test, which took place on the last morning of the get-together and lasted 5 hours.

The get-together was closed on its last evening by means of an awards ceremony and the proclamation of the Spanish team for IOL.

2.4 July 2016

July was devoted to the organisation of the participation of the Spanish team at the IOL. The students were accompanied by two of the OLE organisers as team leaders. The top 4 students attended the 2016 edition of the IOL⁹ in Mysore (India) from July 25 to July 29, 2016.

The team leaders participated in the various meetings held by the IOL organisation and it also had meetings with many team leaders from other countries; information gathered in these meetings will help us in the organisation of the next editions of OLE.

One of the students achieved a honorable mention,¹⁰ which is the first award obtained by OLE in the International Linguistics Olympiad.

3 Conclusions

OLE has grown considerably during its third edition: 106 schools registered (compared to 21 in the first edition and 39 in the second, see table 1) The organisation model was adapted to accommodate the growth in participants. In this edition OLE has obtained its first award at the International Linguistics Olympiad.

⁹<http://iol14.plo-in.org/>

¹⁰<http://www.ioling.org/results/Spain/>

A Materials

All the written materials used during the second edition of OLE (brochures, training exercises, first and second round exams, etc.) are available at the Olympiad's website.

References

Gema Ramírez, Míriam Antunes, Mikel L. Forcada, and Antonio Toral. Deliverable D2.2b. Linguistics Olympiad Year 2. Technical report, Abu-MaTran, MSCA-IAPP project PIAP-GA-2012-324414, 2015.

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