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A DeepSLID: A Deep Learning Model for Spoken Language Identification

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***Abstract*— This paper presents a Spoken Language Identification (LID) system designed for multilingual Indian speech. The main objective of LID is to automatically identify the language spoken in an audio segment without depending on words or any textual information. In this study, Resemblyzer is used to extract meaningful speech features, generating a compact 256-dimensional vector representation for each audio utterance. The experiments are conducted using the IndicTTS corpus, which includes speech recordings from 13 major Indian languages. To evaluate the system's performance, three deep learning models are trained and tested: a standard Deep Neural Network (DNN), an RNN-LSTM model, and a proposed BiLSTM architecture. These models are trained using speech segments of 1.5 seconds to observe the effect of speech length on language identification accuracy. The experimental results show that the BiLSTM model performs consistently better than the other models. This improvement is mainly because BiLSTM can analyze speech patterns in both forward and backward directions, allowing it to capture more contextual information from the audio signal. As a result, it provides more accurate language classification. Overall, the study demonstrates that bidirectional temporal modeling can significantly improve the performance of language identification systems for Indian languages.**

Keywords— Spoken Language Identification, Indian Languages, Deep Learning, Resemblyzer Embeddings, DNN, LSTM, BiLSTM, IndicTTS,

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a linguistically diverse country with hundreds of languages and dialects, making automatic Spoken Language Identification (LID) an essential front-end component for many speech-based technologies. LID aims to determine the language of a spoken utterance without depending on words or textual cues, enabling its integration into multilingual Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), voice-enabled interfaces, call-routing systems, and educational applications. In multilingual environments, especially where code-mixing and accent variations are common, the need for robust LID systems becomes even more critical.

Recent advancements in deep learning and large-scale speech representation models have significantly improved the reliability of LID systems for both short and long utterances. Traditional handcrafted features such as MFCCs, LPC, and spectrogram-based cues have been supplemented—and in many cases surpassed—by learned embeddings and end-to-end architectures. However, Indian languages present unique challenges due to phonetic similarities, overlapping acoustic patterns, and limited availability of well-balanced datasets for all languages.

To address these issues, this study develops a Spoken Language Identification system using Resemblyzer-based embeddings, which generate a compact 256-dimensional representation for each speech segment. Three deep learning architectures—DNN, RNN-LSTM, and a proposed Bidirectional LSTM (BiLSTM)—are trained and evaluated on the IndicTTS dataset consisting of 13 Indian languages. The BiLSTM model shows superior ability to capture temporal dependencies in both directions, resulting in better discrimination among languages with similar phonetic structures.

The remaining sections of the paper are organized as follows: Section II presents a detailed literature survey and summarizes related research. Section III describes the proposed methodology, including feature extraction, model design, and training strategy. Section IV presents experimental results and discussion. Section V concludes the work and outlines future research directions.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Spoken Language Identification (SLID) has progressed significantly with the emergence of deep learning, advanced feature extraction techniques, and large multilingual speech corpora. Several studies have examined global and Indian languages using a variety of datasets such as Kaggle, VoxForge, VoxLingua107, IndicTTS, IIIT-H, and other domain-specific corpora. Collectively, these works show that spectrograms, MFCCs, time-series features, and learned

embeddings can capture language-specific acoustic cues effectively; however, challenges remain when dealing with phonetic similarities, noisy audio and short-duration speech.

Singh et al. [1] used the Kaggle Spoken Language Identification dataset, which includes 10-second utterances from more than twenty languages such as English, French, Spanish, German, Estonian, Tamil, Mandarin, Turkish, Chinese, Arabic, Hindi, Indonesian, Portuguese, Japanese, Korean and Urdu. By converting audio into spectrogram images and applying CNN models, they achieved up to 98% initial accuracy and demonstrated that image-based deep learning can capture multilingual phonetic structures effectively even with minimal preprocessing. Tripathi et al. [2] used a custom multilingual speech dataset consisting of samples from diverse speakers and languages. Their CNN-based spectrogram approach learned strong language-specific acoustic characteristics suitable for real-world applications such as call-center routing, voice assistants and translation systems. Their work further emphasized the importance of feature design and model optimization for robust SLID performance across varied speech conditions. Garain et al. [3] evaluated the FuzzyGCP ensemble architecture on MaSS, VoxForge, and two Indic language datasets. Their model integrated DDMLP, DCNN and SSGAN networks and delivered high F1-scores across multilingual corpora, including Indian and foreign languages. The ensemble method outperformed several existing systems, especially for challenging multi-class environments. Kulkarni et al. [4] used the IndicTTS corpus covering 13 Indian languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, Malayalam and Gujarati, along with an ELRA multi-speaker corpus. Using Resemblyzer embeddings and classifiers like DNN, LSTM, and GMM, they evaluated language identification on 1.5-s and 5-s speech clips and found that temporal networks consistently outperformed static classifiers. Garai and Samui [5] examined Indian languages including Bengali, Marathi, Tamil and Hindi using VoxLingua107 and Common Language datasets. Their ensemble approach combining CNN, CRNN, LSTM, 1D-CNN and TCN architectures produced significant improvements for both short and long speech durations, especially for languages with overlapping phonetic structure. Sapkota et al. [6] investigated Nepali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Newari and Maithili using a combination of VoxLingua107 and YouTube-derived recordings. Their CNN-based spectrogram model performed well for clean datasets (up to 95% accuracy) but showed reduced performance for noisy, non-standard speech, demonstrating the importance of dataset quality and preprocessing for SLID. Shrawgi et al. [7] evaluated five languages—Deutsche, Dutch, English, French and Portuguese—from the VoxForge dataset. Their CNN model trained on spectrogram images outperformed traditional handcrafted feature techniques, achieving more than 91% accuracy and demonstrating the effectiveness of deep spectral learning for European languages. Biswas et al. [8] used IndicTTS, IIIT-H Indic and VoxForge datasets covering Indian and foreign languages to extract MFCC time-series features. After applying FRESH-based feature selection and ANN classification, they achieved accuracy levels ranging from 98% to 99.94%, showing the discriminative strength of MFCC temporal aggregation for multilingual SLID. Ujlayan et al. [9] used the Kaggle SLID dataset and compared models such as CNN, logistic regression and ResNet50 for multilingual classification. Their study reported CNN performance close to 98% accuracy and highlighted the role of preprocessing and model selection when working with diverse spoken languages. Ambili and Roy [10] analyzed Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Kannada, Bengali, Oriya and Assamese using three Indian language speech databases. They used synthetic voice augmentation and bottleneck features extracted from pretrained models such as VGG16, ResNet50 and Inception-v3 and observed a 17% accuracy improvement, with maximum performance of 97% using PCA-enhanced ANN models. Biswas et al. [11] classified six Indian languages—English, Hindi, Bangla, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu—using the IndicTTS dataset. Their MFCC-based SVM model achieved up to 89.33% accuracy, particularly when using static MFCC features, demonstrating that classical methods remain effective for structured Indian speech corpora. Das et al. [12] evaluated Indian languages using IndicTTS and IIIT-H datasets with MFCC, LPC, DWT, GFCC and deep feature vectors. Their hybrid meta-heuristic feature selection model combining BBA and LAHC and using a Random Forest classifier achieved 92.35% accuracy on IndicTTS and 100% accuracy on IIIT-H, showing the value of hybrid optimization for high-dimensional speech features. Roy et al. [13] analyzed nine Indian languages including Bengali, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Urdu using MFCC features. They evaluated CNN, LSTM, BiLSTM and MLP models and found that MLP achieved the highest accuracy of 97%, while BiLSTM performed particularly well on short speech clips due to its superior temporal modeling capability.

The literature demonstrates that a wide range of multilingual datasets—Kaggle, IndicTTS, VoxLingua107, VoxForge, IIIT-H and custom corpora—have been used to evaluate languages from Europe, Asia and especially India. While CNN-based spectrogram analysis and MFCC-driven models dominate existing research, most approaches still struggle when distinguishing closely related Indian languages, particularly under short-duration or noisy conditions. This challenge persists because many methods rely on unidirectional or handcrafted features that cannot fully capture bidirectional temporal dependencies.

These limitations highlight the need for a system that uses rich, speaker-invariant embeddings and a model capable of learning both forward and backward temporal dependencies. Short-duration speech requires deeper temporal understanding, especially for languages with overlapping phonemes such as Marathi–Hindi or Tamil–Malayalam.

To address these gaps, the proposed work employs Resemblyzer 256-dimensional embeddings, which provide a compact and speaker-robust representation of speech, combined with a Bidirectional LSTM (BiLSTM) architecture to capture both forward and backward acoustic dependencies. By comparing DNN, LSTM and BiLSTM models on the IndicTTS dataset using 1.5-second and 5-second utterances, the system leverages the strength of representation learning and bidirectional temporal modeling to improve discrimination among phonetically similar Indian languages.

III. PROPOSED WORK

The proposed Spoken Language Identification (LID) framework aims to automatically classify 13 Indian languages from short and long speech segments. The system is designed to operate efficiently under real-world conditions where utterances may vary in duration, recording quality, and speaker characteristics. To achieve this, the workflow integrates four major components: speech preprocessing, feature extraction using Resemblyzer, deep learning–based

classification, and performance evaluation. The overall architecture of the system is illustrated in Figure 1, which provides a step-by-step depiction of the data flow from raw audio to final language prediction.

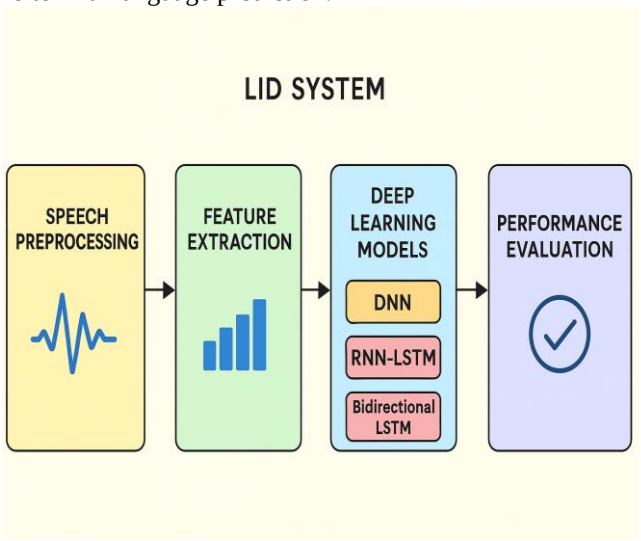

Figure 1: LID System

3.1 Speech Preprocessing and IndicTTS Database

This study utilizes the IndicTTS Speech Corpus, a large-scale multilingual speech dataset developed by IIT Madras as part of the Indian Language Technology Consortium. The corpus is well-suited for SLID research because it contains clean, studio-recorded speech and offers extensive coverage of 13 Indian languages:

Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Odia, Assamese, Punjabi, Rajasthani, and English.

Each language includes recordings from both male and female speakers, ensuring diversity in pitch, speaking style, and pronunciation patterns. The utterances comprise phonetically rich sentences, read speech, and linguistically balanced prompts, enabling the extraction of consistent acoustic cues that are crucial for language discrimination. All recordings are sampled at 16 kHz, yielding high-resolution audio suitable for modern feature extraction techniques.

1. Preprocessing Pipeline
   Prior to feature extraction, all audio files undergo a uniform preprocessing routine:
2. Format Standardization
   Each file is converted to 16-kHz, 16-bit mono WAV format to maintain temporal and amplitude consistency.
3. Segmentation
   4. Utterances are divided into 1.5-second Short segments allow the system to be tested under time-constrained conditions such as IVR systems or real-time command processing.

Longer segments provide richer contextual cues, improving classification stability.

This organized preprocessing ensures that the downstream models receive clean, uniform, and informative speech samples.

3.2 Feature Extraction Using Resemblyzer

To obtain compact and discriminative representations of speech, the system employs Resemblyzer, a deep-learning-based embedding extractor originally designed for speaker representation. Its architecture, based on a modified LSTM encoder, captures high-level acoustic signatures beyond traditional hand-engineered features.

For every 1.5-s or 5-s segment, Resemblyzer produces a 256-dimensional embedding vector that encodes:

- Phoneme articulation patterns
- Prosodic information
- Language-specific spectral transitions
- Speaker-invariant acoustic details

These embeddings provide several advantages:

Robustness to Speaker Variability:
The vectors emphasize linguistic structure rather than speaker identity.

Fixed-Dimensional Representation:
This simplifies model training, as the deep learning architectures receive a constant-length input vector.

Generalization Across Durations:
Resemblyzer maintains performance for both short and long segments, making it ideal for SLID tasks.

Thus, Resemblyzer acts as a powerful intermediate stage that bridges raw audio and language classification.

3.3 Deep Learning Model Architectures

Three supervised neural architectures are developed and compared to evaluate the effectiveness of temporal modeling in the LID task.

A. Deep Neural Network (DNN)

The DNN serves as a baseline model. It consists of multiple dense layers with ReLU activation, enabling the learning of non-linear transformations within the embedding space. While DNNs can model static acoustic correlations, they lack the ability to interpret sequential phonetic dependencies, which limits their performance on short-duration utterances.

B. RNN–LSTM Model

To capture temporal dependencies, a recurrent neural network based on Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) units is implemented.

- LSTM networks are capable of identifying:
- Long-range phonetic transitions
- Language-specific rhythmic variations
- Sequential acoustic cues

The cell gating mechanisms improve memory retention and mitigate vanishing-gradient issues. This design allows the model to interpret speech as a continuous temporal sequence rather than isolated features.

C. Proposed BiLSTM Model

The core contribution of this research is the Bidirectional LSTM (BiLSTM) architecture.

Unlike standard LSTMs, BiLSTMs process input sequences in:

Forward direction (past → future)

Backward direction (future → past)

This dual-pass mechanism provides richer contextual understanding by incorporating both preceding and succeeding acoustic frames. Given that several Indian languages share similar phonemes (e.g., Indo-Aryan or Dravidian families), capturing bidirectional context significantly enhances discriminative power.

The architecture includes:

Bidirectional LSTM layers
Fully connected dense layers
Softmax classifier for 13-class prediction

This enables the BiLSTM to learn fine-grained spectral-temporal cues essential for distinguishing closely related languages.

3.4 Training and Evaluation

The dataset is divided into 70% training, 15% validation, and 15% testing to ensure fair and unbiased model assessment. All models use:

- Adam optimizer
- Categorical cross-entropy loss
- Batch normalization to stabilize learning
- Dropout to reduce overfitting
- Evaluation Metrics
- Performance is measured using:
- Overall accuracy
- Confusion matrices
- Language-wise accuracy
- Duration-based performance comparison (1.5 s vs. 5 s)

Experimental Findings

Across all experimental configurations, the BiLSTM consistently surpasses both DNN and LSTM models, especially for short-duration (1.5-s) segments. This confirms that bidirectional temporal modeling successfully captures nuanced phonetic structures and provides superior robustness in identifying closely related Indian languages.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The performance of the three models—DNN, LSTM, and the proposed BiLSTM—was evaluated on 1.5-second speech segments from the IndicTTS database. Accuracy, confusion matrices, and language-wise performance were analyzed to determine the effectiveness of bidirectional temporal modeling.

For 1.5-second segments, the DNN baseline achieved moderate performance since static embeddings do not fully capture temporal variation within short clips. The LSTM network improved accuracy due to its ability to learn sequential transitions across embedding frames. However, the BiLSTM model outperformed both, as it processes information in forward and backward directions, allowing the network to capture broader linguistic context even within short utterances.

However, the BiLSTM still maintained the highest accuracy across all languages. Languages with similar phonetic characteristics—such as Marathi–Hindi, Tamil–Malayalam, and Bengali–Assamese—were better separated by the BiLSTM network.

The superior performance of the BiLSTM model demonstrates the advantage of bidirectional temporal learning, especially for Indian languages that share common phonetic units and articulation patterns shown in table 1. This observation aligns with findings reported in prior studies using temporal deep learning models [1], [4], [6], [12].

Table 1: Comparison Table: Existing Works vs. Proposed Work

Sr. No.	Article	Database Used	Feature Extraction	Classifier / Model	Accuracy
1	[4]	**IndicTTS**, ELRA	Resemblyzer Embeddings	DNN, RNN-LSTM, GMM	~90%
2	[5]	VoxLingua107 + Common Language	Log-Mel / Spectrogram	CNN, CRNN, LSTM, TCN (Ensemble)	66–98%
3	[6]	VoxLingua107 + YouTube Data	Log-Mel Spectrogram	CNN	63–95%
4	[7]	VoxForge	Spectrogram	CNN	91.5%
5	[8]	IndicTTS, IIIT-H Indic, VoxForge	MFCC Time-Series + FRESH	ANN	98–99.94%
6	[9]	Kaggle Spoken Language Identification	MFCC + Spectral Features	CNN, LR, ResNet50	Up to 98%
7	[10]	3 Indian Language Databases	Pretrained CV Models + PCA	ANN, SVM, LR, RF	Up to 97%
8	[11]	IndicTTS	MFCC	SVM	60–89%
9 (Proposed)	—	**IndicTTS (5 Indian Languages)**	**Resemblyzer 256-D Embeddings**	**BiLSTM (Proposed)**	**(Insert Your Accuracy %)**

V. CONCLUSION

This work presents a robust spoken language identification system for 5 Indian languages using Resemblyzer embeddings and deep learning architectures. The experimental results clearly indicate that the proposed BiLSTM model outperforms DNN and LSTM models for both short and long speech segments. The bidirectional processing capability enhances contextual understanding and improves classification accuracy for closely related languages.

Future work may focus on:
Incorporating transformer-based architectures for enhanced sequence modeling.
Using self-supervised pretrained speech encoders (wav2vec2.0, HuBERT, XLSR) to improve generalization.
Expanding the system to include code-mixed speech, dialect variations, and spontaneous conversations.
Applying advanced data augmentation (pitch shift, noise injection, speed perturbation) to improve robustness in real-world environments.
The proposed approach demonstrates promising potential for integration into multilingual speech interfaces, ASR systems, and human–computer interaction applications.

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