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Challenges and Considerations in Building Language Technologies for Local Languages

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Résumé : The availability of large multilingual pre-trained language models has opened up exciting pathways for developing NLP technologies for languages with scarce resources. In this talk I will summarize some of my group's recent work on the challenges of handling new, unseen languages, as well as general considerations when working with local languages, based on our close collaboration with communities from around the world.

Bio: Antonios Anastasopoulos is an Assistant Professor in Computer Science at George Mason University. He received his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Notre Dame with a dissertation on "NLP for Endangered Languages Documentation" and then did a postdoc at Languages Technologies Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. His research is on natural language processing with a focus on low-resource settings, endangered languages, and cross-lingual learning, and is currently funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the US DoD, Google, Amazon, Meta, and the Virginia Research Investment Fund.