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# Towards Kyrgyz stop words

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**Abstract.** The concept of stop words introduced by H. P. Lun in the mid-20th century plays a huge role in today's NLP practice. Stop words are used to reduce noisy text data, remove uninformative words, speed up text processing, and minimize the amount of memory required to store data.

The Kyrgyz language is an agglutinative Turkic language for which no scientific study of stop words has been previously published in English. In our study, we combined frequency analysis with rule-based linguistic analysis. First, we found the most frequently

used words, set a threshold, and removed words below the threshold. This way we got a list of the most frequently used words. Then we reduced the list by excluding from the list all words that do not belong to the category of function words of the Kyrgyz language. Finally, we got a list of 50 words that can be considered stop words in the Kyrgyz language. In our analysis, we used a single corpus of sentences collected and posted as an open source project by one of the local broadcasters.

**Keywords:** stop words, Kyrgyz language, frequency analysis, Turkic stop words, NLP

### Introduction

The concept of stop words was firstly introduced by Hans Peter Luhn, the pioneer of computational linguistics, in 1958. His concept of 'stop lists' explained such words as noisy data, which can be neglected (neither indexed nor searchable) by the computational machine. The concept of stop words plays huge role in Natural Language Processing (NLP). As a part of general NLP, the stop words help to remove noisy or irrelevant information from the data, focus on the more meaningful or informative words in the text, speed up the processing time, and reduce the amount of storage needed for storing the data. Removing stop words increase accuracy and efficiency of such NLP techniques, as Topic Modelling, Sentiment Analysis, Information Retrieval, or Feature Selection (Ladani et al. 2020, 466).

Literally, stop words are words that are commonly used in a language but are generally considered to be of little value or significance in the context of text analysis or NLP tasks. Usually such words are removed from texts before any analysis or processing takes place. Here are some examples of stop words in English: *the*, *and*, *or*, *a*, *an*, *of*, *to*, *in*, and *is* (Ladani et al. 2020, 466).

The purpose of this study is to provide a list of stop words adapted for use in the Kyrgyz language. Since the concept of stop words gives a lot of freedom in interpreting and working with them, the list of stop words presented in this article is not universal.

#### 1 Literature review

# 1.1 Rules and strategies for including to stop words

The pattern for stop words' removal, suggesting to remove them before training a model, arises some debates. For instance, there are some works, proposing to remove stop words after model inference (removing stop words after the process of training a model) (Schofield et al. 2017, 435), or even training models without removing stop words (Cordeiro et al. 2004, 137).

The rules for considering words as stop words are derived from the stop words' general meaning:the words that are commonly used but do not carry much meaning in a sentence. The meaning is broad, but there are some general characteristics, which can be taken as stop words' properties (Sadeghi et al. 2014, 479):

- they have little meaning if they are used separately;
- they appear many times in a text;
- they are necessary for the construction of the language;
- they are general words and not particularly used in a certain field;
- they are not used as a search keyword;
- they never form a full sentence when used alone.

Along with this, the numbers (1, 2, 3, etc), emojis, and symbols like (@, #, &, %, \*) have to be considered as stop words. Some texts may contain foreign words, these words can be also considered as stop words (Al-Shargabi et al. 2011, 2). In this study, we automatically exclude these symbols from the stop words' list.

It worth to mention, that there is no definitive list of stop words for any language, and the decision to include a word as a stop word may vary depending on the specific application and context. This is why it's better to follow the general strategy: identify words that do not provide much meaningful information in the context of the certain corpus and can be safely removed without affecting the accuracy of the analysis.

# 1.2 Stop words' identification techniques

Today researchers propose different sophisticated methods for stop words identification: clustering algorithms in machine learning, CF-IDF, the Mutual Information method (MI), methods based on Zipf's Law, TRBS (Kaur et al. 2018, 208). However, even a simple frequency-analysis of word occurrences in a corpus provides better results for the tasks as Information Retrieval: top 10–20 frequent stop words can reduce by 20–30% the size of tokens for processing (Sadeghi et al. 2014, 476).

Along with the above methods, some authors propose to use combinations of different methods. For example, they propose the combination of a statistical model (frequency-analysis), and an information model, where they take any token (stop word) as a signal, and look at how much information or entropy is carried by the signal (Zou et al. 2006, 1012–1013).

One important note is that there is no a universal approach for identifying stop words in a corpus. The best approach depends on the specific characteristics of

the corpus and the language being analyzed. It's often necessary to experiment with different techniques to find the most effective one for aparticular corpus.

### 1.3 Stop words in Turkic languages

Turkic languages are a group of agglutinate languages, spoken by more than 160 million people, including today about thirty languages. The languages of this family include Turkish (72mln), Uzbek (24mln), Azerbaijani (23mln), Kazakh (13mln), Uigur (10.5mln), Tatar (5.4mln), Turkmen (5mln), Kyrgyz (4.4mln), and other languages. Kyrgyz language speakers live in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and China (Xinjiang) (Turkic Languages).

Turkic sets of stop words can vary across different dialects and regions of Turkic languages. Additionally, there are variations in the way Turkic languages are written, such as the use of the Cyrillic alphabet in Kazakh and Kyrgyz, or the use of the Latin alphabet in Turkish (Turkic Languages). There are several tools and libraries helping to work with stop words of Turkic languages (stop words-tr library for Turkish, stop words-uz library for Uzbek, etc).

Most of the existing models and methods used to identify stop words, are suitable for European natural language families. However, they can't successfully cover the problem of stop words' identification for agglutinate Turkic language family. In Turkic languages, many stop words are 'masked', and require different techniques for adding to stop lists, such as collocation and bigram methods (Madatov et al. 2022, 1).

Additionally, such libraries, as NLTK and SpaCy, provide options for creating custom lists of stop words. It's important to notice, that lists of stop words are flexible, and might vary depending on specific needs, particular application or project.

# 2 Methodology

In this research, we use a hybrid approach, involving two steps: 1) Frequency-based approach: identification the most common words in a corpus of Kyrgyz sentences with a threshold of 4000 occurrences; 2) Linguistic-based approach: identification words based on their grammatical function (POS identification), then dividing them into content and function words. Finally, we present a list of most frequent function words, as a stop words' list for the Kyrgyz language.

### 2.1 Frequency-based approach

First, we conducted a frequency analysis to determine the distribution of words in Kyrgyz texts. The corpus of Kyrgyz texts of the Kloop media was tokenized and lowercased. Then, using the FreqDist method of the NLTK library, the frequency of words was found. Having received the 200 most common words, we decided to set the frequency threshold at 4000 word occurrences in the corpus. So, we received 165 words to be subsequently analyzed in the next stage. The list of frequencies of Kyrgyz words can be found in the appendix to this article.

### 2.2 Linguistic-based approach

Secondly, we have divided the list of most frequent words into two categories: content and function words. Function words are the class of words playing rather a grammatical role in the text (closed-class words): prepositions, conjunctions, determiners, qualifiers, pronouns, interrogatives, numerals, etc. Content words are the class of semantically richer words, having a greater semantic meaning in the text (open-class words): nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs. (Bell et al. 2009, 92).

The list of words after removing all content words is provided below:

- Conjunctions: менен (menen) 'with', жана (jana) 'and', эми (èmi) 'now', гана (gana) 'only', же (je) 'or', болсо (bolso) 'if so', катары (katary) 'as', эгер (èger) 'if', анткени (antkeni) 'because';
- **Pronouns:**  $a\pi$  (al) 'she/he/it',  $бy\pi$  (bul) 'this', aнын (anyn) 'her/his',  $a\pi ap$  (alar) 'they',  $\theta 3$  (ôz) '-self/own',  $a\pi ap\partial \omega H$  (alardyn) 'their',  $aH\omega$  (any) 'him/her/it', meH (men) 'I/me',  $\delta u3$  (biz) 'we', ae (aga) 'to her/him',  $aH\partial \alpha H$  (andan) 'from her/him',  $ouvo\pi$  (oṣol) 'from her/him', geHuH (ekenin) 'that's/of that', geHuH (buga) 'to this', geHuH (bardyk) '(in) all', geHuH (myndan) 'from this', geHuH (ozù) 'her/him/it-self', geHuH (bizdin) 'our';
- **Prepositions:** боюнча (boûnča) 'by/according', учүн (ùčùn) 'for', да (da) 'too/also', бирок (birok) 'but/however', кийин (kijin) 'after', тууралуу (tuuraluu) 'about', чейин (čejin) 'till/up to', айтымында (ajtymynda) 'according to', дагы (dagy) 'still/again', анда (anda) 'then', карата (karata) 'in relation to', тарабынан (tarabinan) 'by/from', ылайык (ylajyk) 'according (to)', жөнүндө (žônùndô) 'about', бери (beri) 'since', аркылуу (arkyluu) 'through';
- **Numerals:** бир (bir) 'one', эки (èki) 'two', биринчи (birinçi) 'first', үч (üç) 'three', бири (biri) 'one (of)';
- Interjections/Determiners: эле (èle) 'just', ар (ar) 'each'.

There are two significant notes: 1) the main reason why we ended up with a list of only 50 words due to the fact that we set a frequency threshold of 4000 occurrences of a word in a corpus; 2) the English translations of the words above can be seen as different parts of speech depending on the context in which they are used; the same is true for Kyrgyz words: they are assigned one part of speech, but the actual POS depends on the context in which they are used.

### 3 Results

The list of 50 words presented in the part of *Linguistic-based approach*, can be considered as a list of Kyrgyz stop words, based on the corpus of Kyrgyz sentences from Kloop media. There are other lists of open-source Kyrgyz stop words: 1) the list of Turkish stop words translated into Kyrgyz and taken as a set of Kyrgyz equivalents of stop words (both languages are Turkic); 2) the list of Kyrgyz stop words provided by the SpaCy library. While these lists of Kyrgyz stop words can be used, we have not been able to find any scientific basis or research to clarify the inclusion of these particular words into the lists of Kyrgyz stop words.

### 4 Discussion and conclusion

As it was mentioned above, there are many sophisticated methods that help to define certain sets of stop words. Besides, there are specific strategies, advised for identification of Turkic language stop words. This analysis is carried out on the only corpus of Kyrgyz sentences, collected by the "Kloop" media (2020). It cannot reflect the entire set of Kyrgyz stop words. Other corpora, as the Kyrgyz news Corpus of the Leipzig Corpora Collection (2020), can be analyzed in future as well.

Moreover, in relation to Turkic languages, including Kyrgyz, having rich and diverse affixes' nature, it might be reasonable to widen the 'stop lists' concept, and including **some affixes** into the 'stop lists' (Tukeyev et al. 2020, 4–5). In this method, the morphological analysis should be carried out before removing 'stop words' and 'stop affixes'.

The main purpose of this study is to fill a gap in research in this area. The approach, proposed in this article, is not ideal. Thus, the list of stop words of the Kyrgyz language proposed in this study can be subsequently modified by more sophisticated methods and models. Finally, we have to mention that it is recommended to define stop words for each particular corpus.

#### **Data sources**

- The Kloop Media corpus of Kyrgyz texts https://github.com/kyrgyz-nlp/kloop-corpus
  Transliteration tool (ISO 9 mode) https://www.transliteration.com/transliteration/en/
  kyrgyz/iso-9/
- Kyrgyz stop words by SpaCy. https://github.com/explosion/spaCy/blob/master/spacy/lang/ky/stop\_words.py
- Leipzig Corpora Collection. Kyrgyz news corpus based on material from 2020. https://corpora.uni-leipzig.de?corpusId=kir news 2020
- Turkic Languages. http://www.languagesgulper.com/eng/Turkic.html
- Turkish stop words translated into Kyrgyz. https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/crocuta/kyrgyz-language-stopwords

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## **Appendix**

Index	Kyr	Translit	Eng	Freq
1	менен	menen	with	71302
2	жана	jana	and	59732
3	ал	al	she/he/it	56863
4	деп	dep	saying	44065
5	боюнча	boûnča	by/according	40321
6	бул	bul	this	35208
7	бир	bir	one	33546
8	учүн	ùčùn	for	31914
9	эле	èle	just	26122
10	болгон	bolgon	was/has been	24342
11	да	da	too/also	24247
12	анын	anyn	her/his	22929
13	бирок	birok	but/however	22528
14	эмес	èmes	not	18599
15	болуп	bolup	being	17835
16	кийин	kijin	after	16500
17	жок	žok	no	16133
18	тууралуу	tuuraluu	about	14763
19	чейин	čejin	till/up to	14720
20	керек	kerek	needed	14600
21	бар	bar	have/is	13815
22	алып	alyp	taking	13786
23	алар	alar	they	13069
24	деди	dedi	said/told	12865

Index	Kyr	Translit	Eng	Freq
25	эки	èki	two	12328
26	эми	èmi	now	12269
27	кыргызстандын	kyrgyzstandyn	of Kyrgyzstan	11739
28	θ3	ôz	-self/own	11409
29	алардын	alardyn	their	11090
30	жылдын	žyldyn	of a/the year	10731
31	аны	any	him/her/it	10669
32	жылы	žyly	year	10410
33	жатат	žatat	lies	10379
34	айтымында	ajtymynda	according to	10266
35	дагы	dagy	still/again	10186
36	деген	degen	said/told	10127
37	мен	men	I/me	10005
38	сөз	sôz	word	9916
39	турган	turgan	was standing	9858
40	кыргыз	kyrgyz	Kyrgyz	9808
41	биз	biz	we	9796
42	билдирди	bildirdi	has reported	9694
43	ош	oš	Osh	9688
44	гана	gana	only	9645
45	каршы	karšy	against	9458
46	мамлекеттик	mamlekettik	(belonging to) state	9311
47	башка	baška	other	8684
48	алган	algan	has taken/received	8624
49	жаткан	žatkan	was lying/lied	8580
50	болот	bolot	will be	8481
51	ошондой	ošondoj	the same	8449
52	анда	anda	then	8313
53	жаңы	žaņy	new	8278
54	берген	bergen	has given/gave	8223
55	басма	basma	printed	8166
56	учурда	uçurda	at the moment	8129
57	же	je	or	8076
58	адам	adam	human	7921
59	эч	eç	no-(thing)	7817
60	үй	üy	house	7639
61	башкы	başkı	main	7588
62	кандай	kanday	how	7426
63	ага	aga	to her/him	7258

Index	Kyr	Translit	Eng	Freq
64	андан	andan	from her/him	7220
65	иш	iş	work	7172
66	айтып	aytıp	saying	7017
67	бишкек	bişkek	Bishkek	6998
68	президент	prezident	President	6989
69	kloop	kloop	kloop	6961
70	ошол	oșol	that	6935
71	жол	jol	way	6891
72	келген	kelgen	came	6840
73	болсо	bolso	if (will be) so	6832
74	мүмкүн	mümkün	maybe/perhaps	6806
75	кыргызстан	kırgızstan	Kyrgyzstan	6743
76	көп	köp	a lot/many	6690
77	ар	ar	each	6612
78	мыйзам	mıyzam	law	6591
79	экенин	ekenin	that's	6510
80	сүрөт	süröt	picture	6502
81	биринчи	birinçi	first	6424
82	ama	ata	father	6323
83	мурдагы	murdagı	former	6191
84	башчысы	başçısı	chief/head	6152
85	карата	karata	in relation to	6132
86	кылмыш	kılmış	crime	6116
87	калган	kalgan	remained/other	6097
88	тарабынан	tarabınan	by/from	6079
89	жолу	jolu	way/time	6064
90	укук	ukuk	the right	6040
91	Y <sup>4</sup>	üç	three	5985
92	алуу	aluu	getting/receiving	5984
93	жогорку	jogorku	high	5938
94	миң	miŋ	thousand	5926
95	чек	çek	cheque	5884
96	баш	baş	head	5863
97	кол	kol	hand	5842
98	буга	buga	to this	5807
99	кабыл	kabıl	accept	5797
100	маалымат	maalymat	information	5797
101	бири	biri	one (of)	5776
102	билдирген	bildirgen	reported	5756

Index	Kyr	Translit	Eng	Freq
103	айтты	ajtty	told/said	5739
104	1	1	1	5715
105	эл	èl	people/public	5691
106	катары	katary	as	5653
107	мындай	myndaj	this way/like this	5546
108	күнү	kùnù	day	5479
109	болду	boldu	was/happened	5467
110	сом	som	som	5318
111	дейт	dejt	says	5266
112	каза	kaza	died/death	5246
113	ылайык	ylajyk	according (to)	5203
114	талап	talap	require/demand	5151
115	орун	orun	place/seat	5145
116	улам	ulam	little by little	5142
117	кеткен	ketken	gone	5107
118	болчу	bolču	was	4904
119	өткөн	ôtkôn	the past/passed	4902
120	млн	mln	mln	4889
121	жөнүндө	žônùndô	about	4878
122	бардык	bardyk	(in) all	4878
123	бери	beri	since	4877
124	премьер	prem'er	Prime Minister	4865
125	келип	kelip	come/arrived	4831
126	атамбаев	atambaev	Atambayev	4829
127	коргоо	korgoo	defend/protection	4806
128	чыккан	čykkan	came out/was released	4804
129	5	5	5	4789
130	аралык	aralyk	distant	4784
131	эӊ	èņ	the most	4782
132	кыргызстанда	kyrgyzstanda	in Kyrgyzstan	4771
133	эгер	èger	if	4755
134	10	10	10	4750
135	акча	akča	money	4704
136	берүү	berùù	giving	4689
137	жатышат	žatyšat	(are) lying	4681
138	жыл	žyl	year	4656
139	ичинде	ičinde	inside	4636
140	com	sot	the court	4608
141	ала	ala	take	4571

Index	Kyr	Translit	Eng	Freq
142	азыр	azyr	now	4566
143	милиция	miliciâ	the police	4566
144	нече	neče	few/several	4550
145	киши	kiši	man	4495
146	өзү	ôzù	her/him/it-self	4481
147	чыгып	čygyp	going/letting/coming out	4478
148	атайын	atajyn	specially/on purpose	4459
149	анткени	antkeni	because	4434
150	шайлоо	šajloo	election	4433
151	депутат	deputat	Deputy	4401
152	эмне	èmne	what	4394
153	жардам	žardam	aid/help/assistance	4345
154	мындан	myndan	from this	4344
155	иштеп	ištep	working	4300
156	биздин	bizdin	our	4220
157	шаардык	šaardyk	municipal/urban	4220
158	2	2	2	4193
159	улуттук	uluttuk	national	4178
160	сатып	satyp	buying	4173
161	кызматы	kyzmaty	service	4161
162	жакшы	žakšy	good	4093
163	айткан	ajtkan	told/said	4090
164	кызматкерлери	kyzmatkerleri	service workers/officers	4040
165	аркылуу	arkyluu	through	4033